

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
Testimony of Megan Stewart on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association  
March 5, 2026

Supporting:

**LD 2122 “An Act to Prevent Negative Impacts from Federal Funding Changes to and Fund Eligibility Determinations and Outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”**

Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Megan Stewart, Director of Government Relations at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that represents Maine’s Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine’s CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 100 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties.

We strongly support LD 2122 and thank Speaker Fecteau and the other co-sponsors for bringing this legislation forward. Maine’s CHCs routinely screen patients for food insecurity and connect eligible individuals to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment assistance, helping them apply, renew benefits, or resolve eligibility issues. Many health centers have community health workers who guide patients through the process, making it easier for seniors, families, and individuals with limited English proficiency to access support.

Beyond enrollment, Maine’s CHCs strengthen the impact of SNAP by offering nutrition counseling, chronic disease management, and food as medicine programs. By integrating healthcare with food access support, CHCs improve health outcomes, especially for patients managing conditions like diabetes or heart disease, while reducing barriers to healthy eating for low-income communities.

LD 2122 would provide much-needed grants for community-based organizations to perform outreach activities and establish a contingency fund to ensure that low-income households do not struggle to access food in the event the federal government fails to provide SNAP funding to the state. While the 2025 government shutdown was the first time SNAP benefits were disrupted, LD 2122 would create a safety net so that any future federal funding interruptions do not prevent individuals and families who rely on these benefits from meeting their basic nutritional needs. Additionally, LD 2122 creates an error rate reduction system designed to ensure that the error rate reported to the federal government more accurately reflects actual performance, potentially reducing cuts to federal funding. For these reasons, MPCA strongly supports LD 2122.

On behalf of Maine’s Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [mstewart@mepca.org](mailto:mstewart@mepca.org) with any follow-up questions.

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