

LD 174
**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Ending
Hunger by 2030 Advisory Group**

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and members of the committee I am Penny Jordan, one of the owners of Jordan's Farm in Cape Elizabeth and I am here to testify in favor of LD 174.

I had the privilege of leading the work on the preliminary report and remained involved as a member of the advisory group. Plus Jordan's Farm has worked for over 50 years to address hunger in the our community and the state.

As Maine delves into hunger it is no surprise that we continue to come back to the systemic issues that keep people at or below poverty – education, living wage jobs, cost of housing, cost of childcare and sadly judging those that may need help in life. I read the same issues in reports dating back to the 1960's saying the same things and proposing similar solutions - it's time to take action.

I support the implementation of this plan because it calls out poverty and its inequities, and the need to take action to address the root causes, while at the same time ensuring people's daily nutritional needs are met.

What is different this time, I believe, is that Good Shepherd and the work of so many pantries and other organizations have brought the conversation of food insecurity to the forefront – food insecurity of children, teens, college students, adults, and seniors. In addition, in 2019 the DCED created a strategic plan that includes strategies around education, jobs, childcare, housing and transportation – the same elements that need to be addressed to end hunger. And NOW the recognition that an entity that crosses state departments is needed (elevated to the office of the governor).

I urge the committee to support this plan and its implementation and move the dial on ending hunger (and poverty) in Maine.