

Lisa Savage  
Solon

My name is Lisa Savage and I live in Solon. I was a teacher in central Maine public schools for 25 years before retiring last year. I have witnessed the effect of hunger at home on children and their learning. Young children will blurt out the truth ("My mom has no groceries in the cupboard.") while older children will cover it up out of shame, but many kids are hungry and depend on school for hot meals and snacks. Their families also depend on school food distribution organized by social workers and administrators who regularly collect non-perishable foods and send them home with kids before weekends and vacations. The disruption to this kind of food distribution was the most severe impact of the pandemic back in 2020.

Maine often leads the nation in implementing intelligent and humane policies. We could be the leaders in addressing hunger among children, families, and individuals. Please find the political will to do this. We all know that the resources exist but state government gives tax breaks to mega-wealthy corporations rather than feeding families. Budget are a moral document. Let's get our priorities straight.