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LD 568

Greetings, and thank you for your time. I support LD 5688 - An Act to Provide Funding for the Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives.

I have never known hunger or food insecurity. I can't imagine what it would be like to have to choose between essential needs. But through volunteer time at Preble Street in Portland and MCHPP here in Brunswick, I've learned that all kinds of people in all kinds of situations and times in their lives can experience food challenges for many different reasons.

We as Mainers cannot let our neighbors go hungry at any time, but support is crucial at this time in particular, while so many are still recovering from the effects of the pandemic.

The type of support is also essential. I personally choose to buy foods from local farmers not only because I want my foods to be as fresh and nutritious as possible, but because I want our local farms to grow and be successful so that they can continue to generate nutritious foods.

But according to the Food Research and Action Center, "food insecure and low-income people are especially vulnerable to poor nutrition and obesity."  
([https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/snap\\_and\\_public\\_health.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/snap_and_public_health.pdf))

Maine Harvest Bucks help our Maine neighbors get the nutrition they need by empowering them to buy wholesome local food - and help our local farms at the same time.

With this in mind, please support continuous funding for Maine Harvest Bucks at the \$600,000 per year level. Continuous funding will allow for growth and expansion of the program without any uncertainties or interruption, and ensure that Mainers have equal access to not just food, but -healthy- food. Thank you.