

Testimony of Acadia Ellis, Windham High School
In support of LD 1679

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Acadia Ellis. I am a JMG student at Windham High School. Today I am submitting a testimony in support of LD 1679. I want to thank the bill sponsors for your commitment to addressing childhood hunger in Maine.

I believe school lunches should be free for all students. Going to school and using my brain all day long can be exhausting, and making sure my body is fueled makes the biggest difference in my education. There has been more time than I can count where I have had to text my mom to put money in my school lunch account because it had run out. At one point it had become a weekly thing to the point where I finally just started signing into the account and adding money on my own. This ended up being around \$50 a week; \$50 adds up fast.

Some families are fortunate enough to not have to worry about the money they have to put into these accounts for their children, however some families cannot be that way. School lunches should be free for everyone because with us currently being in a world pandemic money can be a little tight applying it to the necessities to get by.

In conclusion the school meals being free for all is a great way to help so many students.

Thank you,
Acadia Ellis
JMG, Windham High School