

Lynnette Harriman
Limerick

To: Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

My name is Lynnette Harriman and I am a resident of Limerick in York County. I am a retired School Nutrition Director from MSAD #60 in No. Berwick and RSU #57 in Waterboro.

I am writing to you today to ask for your support for LD 1679 An Act to Address Student Hunger through Expanding Access to Free School Meals.

This bill will offer no cost meals to all students during the school day. There is a USDA waiver in place to allow free school meals for all for FY 21 so this bill would be for school year 22

I am a retired School Nutrition Director from MSAD 60 in No. Berwick (30 years there) and MSAD #57 in Waterboro (14 years there).

Over the years I have encountered much hunger in our schools.

I remember at the No. Berwick Elementary Schools the kitchen manager asked me to make sure the breakfast and lunch meals on Monday were as large as possible. She said that kids were really hungry coming in on Monday morning and would eat everything they had available for them. It was sad to think that they had probably not had much to eat over the weekend.

Many people think that because a family is above the Free and Reduced limits that they should be able to provide food for their children---unfortunately that is often not the case. Parents are both working and busy and sometimes food is just not a priority.

No. Berwick has two large employers with Pratt and Whitney and also Hussey Seating---but it was not a guarantee that children had food available to them.

This bill would take away the stigma that so many children have to deal with in the current system of free, reduced and paid category students.

We supply the bus rides, the books, but not food to every student. Why? The availability of food will make a lot of difference in what that child is able to learn each day.

A few dollars worth of food will make our educational dollars go so much further.

I hope you will join me in making sure that all students have no cost meals available to them each day at school.

Sincerely,
Lynnette Harriman

Lynnette Harriman, SNS
Limerick, Maine (York County)
lhconsultingforsnp@gmail.com
(207) 651-2958