

**Testimony of Michelle Huston Student, Philip W Sugg Middle School, Lisbon ME
In Support of LD (LR1396)**

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Michelle Huston. I am a resident of Lisbon and the JMG Specialist at Philip W Sugg Middle School serving Lisbon and Lisbon Falls.

Today, I'm submitting testimony in support of LD (LR1396). I want to thank the bill sponsors for your commitment to addressing childhood hunger in Maine.

Lisbon is a community that has more than 50% free and reduced lunch on a non-Covid Year. In my JMG program I am closer to 75%. I asked my class to write about what a FREE school Breakfast/Lunch means to them. This submission was my winner. It impacts each student differently.

Ian Akers is an 8th Grader at Philip W. Sugg Middle School.

Having free lunch and breakfast at school benefits my family in multiple ways. For instance, My mom saves more money every day by not having to buy breakfast and lunch for four children. When my mom doesn't have to buy lunch for us she can use that money to buy more groceries every week. In the past year sometimes I would skip lunch and not eat all day other than the snack I bring to school. Having free breakfast and lunch my mom doesn't have to worry about me eating in school. I have always done better and focused more in class when I have a full stomach. Having breakfast in the morning fills me until lunch after lunch I have two periods. Eating lunch helps me finish the day.

Ian Akers

Sincerely,

Michelle Huston

Middle School Specialist

Philip W Sugg Middle School

Lisbon ME