

Maureen Tyne
Maine Youth Power
LD 1002

Dear Senator Joe Rafferty and Representative Michael Brennen, and education and cultural affairs committee,

I'm Maureen Tyne, a resident of Orono and a member of Maine Youth Power. I am a junior at Orono High School and have attended public school all my education career. I am here in support of LD 1002: An Act to Require a Lunch Period of at Least 30 minutes for Students and Reduce Food Waste.

As a high schooler attending public school I have firsthand experience with short lunch periods. As of right now, my school's lunch period is 20 minutes long. While this may seem like plenty of time to eat there are many factors to account for. Walking from class to the cafeteria, going to the bathroom and washing hands, waiting for lunch lines or heating food from home, socializing with friends, checking phones, and clearing lunch trays are all small tasks that slowly chip away at one's lunchtime.

As most students participate in after-school activities for numerous hours they need to have a sufficient amount of time to refuel themselves. Students can not learn when hungry. It is most effective for the school systems to lengthen their lunch period.

This also will have the benefit of reduction in food waste. I am a co-president of the Orono High School environmental club and one of our biggest accomplishments is implementing a successful food waste diversion system, otherwise known as our compost system. Every lunch period we divert 20-30 pounds of food a day, throughout four lunch periods we compost 400-600 pounds of food waste a week. That is just in one small middle school and high school. Imagine what that is across the state.

Now imagine Maine students having time to finish their meals to ensure less food waste and more energy for the rest of the day.

As an active young adult from Maine, it's necessary to have at least 30 minutes a lunch period. Support LD1002: An Act to Require a Lunch Period of at Least 30 Minutes for Students and Reduce Food Waste, it is a small change that has numerous positive outcomes for the future of our planet and the next generation of learners.

Thank you for your time,
Maureen tyne