

Christine Greenier  
Full Plates Full Potential  
LD 1183

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and esteemed members of the joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Christine Greenier. I am a retired School Nutrition Director from RSU 22 and currently a consultant with Full Plates Full Potential.

Today I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1183 "An Act to Establish the School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund"

When I was the School Nutrition Director in RSU 22 it was a worry and a struggle to maintain or replace kitchen equipment in our 7 schools. Hiring contracted services to repair equipment was very costly and not something that could be ignored or delayed. Often parts and labor was not available for equipment that was just too old! School Nutrition Programs should not be made to use equipment that is faulty and potentially dangerous. When the only choice was to replace a necessary piece of equipment the cost was insurmountable. Many school districts like mine do not receive any, or minimal appropriation from the district budget. To me, this makes no sense! Feeding children is not an optional benefit. It is critical to the success of the child and the school system to ensure Maine kids' nutritional needs are met. This means that the classroom known as the cafeteria is well equipped to meet this goal.

Please support this bill to ensure that all schools in Maine are equipped to meet the needs of our children. It is not just important, it is critical. Thank you for your time and commitment to Maine's children.

Christine Greenier  
School Nutrition Consultant  
Full Plates Full Potential