

From: Lisa Savage <lsavage3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:02 AM
To: Langlin, Steven
Subject: public comment Committee to Study the Feasibility of Basic Income Security

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

To Committee
to Study the Feasibility of Basic Income Security

I am a resident of Solon who recently retired from 25 years teaching school in central Maine. Basic Income Security would make a huge difference for families and children in my area.

I have taught children who were living in unheated campers with their family in November. I have taught children who were living in a house with no hot water for the entire winter. I have taught children who told me their mom had no snacks in the cupboard. I have taught children who were in their teens and embarrassed for others to know the poverty conditions their caregivers were struggling with.

Poverty is expensive. Managing without the basics means making lots of cost ineffective decisions that middle class people don't have to make, like incurring late fees, disconnection fees, eating poorly, or living without a phone to receive calls from the school.

Poverty severely disrupts childrens' educational opportunities and progress. They are distracted by worries about their parents. Will we get evicted? Will mom be able to fix the car and keep her job? Until children's basic needs are met it is not possible for them to focus on becoming good readers, writers, and mathematicians. They are in survival mode.

It is not in our best interest as a society to leave children to grow up in abject poverty. Please find a way for Maine to lead on this critical issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Savage
Solon

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