

Support for School Meals for All (SB 1581)

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For a long time the majority reason I would attend school in the first place was because I was guaranteed a meal. My mother and father both worked early mornings and I was left to be accountable to make it on the bus, and make it to school so I could get some breakfast or lunch... oh, and learn. I was too young to cook a meal and our cabinets were always bare, this was and is still the reality for many children's households. Survival has and always will come before anything else in life; before learning, before finding purpose, before any kind of mind or muscle connection. I ponder at how successful education systems would be if they were stripped of the free lunches they provide students. I envision academic decline, lack of focus, interest, and attendance. I see this because I would definitely not have had the energy or drive to make it to class if I had known there was no lunch to look forward to and hold me off for the rest of the day, please for the sake of children's lives consider how greatly taking away free lunches would affect us all long term.

Thank you for your time,

Ariana O.

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