



Let's Work Together for Real Reform!

Support LD #1475, An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments in Families Today (*LIFT*)

Mainers have a long history of working together to solve tough problems. We know what real reform should look like. It's pretty basic; **real reform means improving people's lives**. It means making it possible for families to make ends meet and providing **opportunity for a brighter future**.

But too many so-called "reforms" in recent years have turned the idea of reform on its head, harming families and driving them deeper into poverty. In the last five years:

- The percentage of Maine children living in deep poverty has increased at a rate 8 times greater than the national average
- Hunger in Maine is rising, while its falling in the rest of the country
- Maine's overall health ranking dropped from 8th best to 22nd in the U.S.

We all want Maine families to prosper. LIFT starts by ensuring that families can meet their basic needs, then it goes on to break down barriers to work and provide the opportunities so that families can leave poverty behind. LIFT brings the promise of real reform. **Here's what LIFT does:**

- Gives the first TANF cost of living increase in 15 years;
- Provides housing vouchers for families with children at risk of homelessness;
- Helps low-income homeowners reduce heating costs;
- Increases access to post-secondary education through the Parents as Scholars Program;
- Reduces the "welfare cliff";
- Helps families in emergencies by improving the Alternative Aid Program;
- Increases access to affordable child care;
- Establishes an affordable vehicle pilot program for low-income working families;
- Assists adults battling addiction and provides prevention services for at-risk youth;
- Holds government responsible for showing that programs are working to reduce poverty.

Join us to help pass legislation that will bring Real Reform to Maine families and children looking for a brighter future



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