New Hampshire
Council *of* Churches

Feb 7, 2025

NH House Education Funding Committee, Chair Rep Rick Ladd, Vice Chair Rep Walter Spilsbury,
Rep Dan McGuire, Rep, Keith Erf, Rep Jim Kofalt, Rep Riche Colcombe, Rep Daniel Popovici-Muller,
Rep Peter Mehegan, Rep Raymond Peeples, Rep David Luneau, Rep Dick Ames, Rep WayuneBurton,
Rep Sallie Fellows, Rep Hope Damon, Rep Tracy Bricchi, Rep Toni Weinstein

Re: support HB 665

Dear Chairman Ladd and members of the Education Funding Committee,

Th New Hampshire Council of Churches, representing seven denominations and over 300 churches across
the state, strongly supports HB 665 because no child should go hungry, especially in a place of learning.
Our faith traditions teach us to care for the most vulnerable among us, ensuring that children have access
to nutritious meals is a fundamental expression of that commitment. By increasing the income eligibility
for free school meals to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, this bill will provide essential nourishment to
thousands of children who might otherwise go without, helping them focus on their education rather than
their empty stomachs. Research shows that food-insecure children are more likely to struggle with
concentration, experience higher rates of absenteeism, and perform worse on standardized tests compared
to their peers.

Hunger should never be a barrier to learning. When students are well-fed, they are better able to
concentrate, participate, and succeed in school. This small investment in children strengthens
communities across the Granite State for the span of their lives.

> 2 Corinthians 9:6:"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows
> generously will also reap generously."

HB 665 is a compassionate and practical solution that reflects our shared moral responsibility to care for
one another. We urge you to pass HB 665 so that all children in New Hampshire, regardless of their
family's financial situation, have the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

Sincerely,

Lisa D. Beaudoin, Executive Director, NH Council of Churches