

To the Senate Education Committee:

I am writing in full support of S.100, the Farm Fresh School Meals bill.

Over the past few years, I have taught kindergarten and first grade in the towns of Thetford and Bethel, two small rural communities. The families I interact with work hard, but sometimes don't have the resources (including time or money) to send their children to school with filling and nutritious meals. As a result, my students have had trouble concentrating, or would act out. I've always tried to have snacks on hand, but that wasn't always enough. Especially at such a young age, children need access to both breakfast and lunch to really succeed.

During the past year, it's been so helpful to have free meals available to all of my students. Vermont now has the opportunity to make this permanent - to have all children able to get meals with local foods, that support their learning and health.

I encourage the Senate Education Committee to pass the full Farm Fresh School Meals bill.

Sincerely,

Joslyn Banning

First Grade Teacher