



August 23, 2023

Joint Committee on Education  
24 Beacon Street  
Room 511B and 473G  
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Testimony in support of S.310; H.601, An Act to Promote Food Literacy

Dear Chairs Lewis and Garlick, and members of the Committee:

The Campaign for Food Literacy, led by the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative, is pleased to offer this testimony in support of An Act to promote food literacy (S.310; H.601). Expanding food literacy in K - 12 schools in Massachusetts is critical to the health of students, communities, and the environment. These bills will support this work, and we urge you to pass them out of committee.

Though some students learn about the food system in the classroom, cafeteria or school garden, because food literacy is not included in most state frameworks or tested on the MCAS, not every student in Massachusetts has access to high-quality education about the food system.

These bills would help overcome the challenges to implementing food literacy at all schools. They would add food literacy to the list of topics that students should learn about in school. To help teachers implement these new lessons, the bills will ask the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to help identify high quality lessons, provide professional development activities, and enable the funding of a Food Literacy Trust Fund to help schools fund this programming. We urge you to pass An Act to promote food literacy.

The Collaborative is available to provide additional information and connections to practitioners and advocates who can offer specific insights on this legislation, at the pleasure of the Committee. We appreciate the Committee taking up these issues, and urge you to report these bills out favorably. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Brittany Peats  
MA Food System Collaborative  
Boston, MA

The members of the Campaign for Food Literacy:

Allston Brighton Health Collaborative, Boston  
American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, Danvers  
Backyard Growers, Gloucester  
Berkshire Grown, Inc., Great Barrington  
Brockton Parents Initiative/ Let's Make Friends, Brockton  
Change is Simple, Inc., Beverly  
Chicopee FRESH, Chicopee  
ChopChop Family, Natick  
CISA (Community involved in Sustaining Agriculture), South Deerfield  
Common Threads, National  
CommonWealth Kitchen, Boston  
Coonamesett Farm Foundation, Inc. (CFF), East Falmouth  
El Buen Samaritano Food Program Inc., Worcester  
Everett Community Growers, Everett  
Farm Direct Coop, Marblehead  
Farm Education, Inc., Sheffield  
FoodCorps, Statewide  
Friends of Holly Hill Farm, Cohasset  
Gardening The Community, Springfield  
Greenfield Housing Authority, Greenfield  
Groundwork Somerville, Somerville  
Grow Food Northampton, Northampton  
Growing Healthy Garden Program, North Adams  
Growing Places, Leominster  
Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass Inc (CHNA9), Westminster  
Healthy Chelsea, Chelsea  
Healthy Communities Capital Consulting, Cambridge  
Hilltown Community Development Corporation, Chesterfield  
Island Grown Initiative, Tisbury  
Just Roots, Greenfield  
Live & Learn Health Coaching and Nutrition Education, Norfolk  
Lowell Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services, Lowell  
Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND), Needham  
Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Marlborough  
Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance, Attleboro  
Massachusetts Environmental Education Society, Boston  
Massachusetts Envirothon, Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Farm to School, Boston  
Massachusetts Healthy School Lunch Coalition, Malden  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston  
Massachusetts PTA, Lexington  
Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO), Marlboro  
Massachusetts Seafood Collaborative, Boston  
Massachusetts State Grange, Rutland  
MCSM / CFCE, Turners Falls, Montague

Mill City Grows, Lowell  
Moon In The Pond Farm, Sheffield  
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, Beverly  
Northeast Organic Farming Association/Mass Chapter, Springfield  
Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, North Adams  
Project Bread, East Boston  
Regional Environmental Council, Worcester  
Revere CARES Coalition, Revere  
Roots Rising, Pittsfield  
Route 2 Roots Wellness, Taunton  
Salem Food for All, Salem  
Seeds of Solidarity, Orange  
South Shore Permaculture, Norwell  
Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), S. Dartmouth  
STEAMandarin, Bedford  
Sustainable CAPE, Truro  
Sustainable Food & Farming Program, UMass Amherst, Amherst  
Sustainable Nantucket, Nantucket  
Terra Cura Inc., Plymouth  
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield  
The Food Project, Lynn and Boston  
The Food Voice, Cohasset  
The Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston  
The Livestock Institute of Southern New England, Westport  
The Marion Institute, Marion  
The Trustees of Reservations, Boston  
Three Sisters Garden Project, Ipswich  
We Grow Microgreens, Hyde Park  
Worcester County Food Bank, Worcester County  
World Farmers, Lancaster  
Youth School of Liberation, Brockton