

LD 206

January 26, 2023

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Members of the Appropriations Committee

My name is Harold Booth, I live in Hallowell, and I'm a retired state employee, retiring in 1996.

When I was preparing for retirement, I did careful calculations to see whether I could live on my state retirement plus my other source of income – I own a two-family house and rent out an apartment. Part of those calculations involved of relying on the contractual COLA to help me keep up with inflation.

Things were fine for almost 15 years, until in 2011 the legislature, at the urging of the governor, chose to change the parameters of the COLA, reducing its effectiveness, in order to reduce the obligation of the State to provide the promised pension. This was breaking faith with retired state employees.

Over the years since, various legislatures have attempted to redress that wrong, but their efforts have never succeeded in completely undoing the damage done in 2011.

It's been 12 years since that break in faith. I'm hoping that this time, with a nice budget surplus, this legislature will finally undo that unfair action taken in 2011, and restore the COLA to its provisions prior to 2011, and make the retirees damaged by that 2011 action whole.

