

Diane Bailey  
Maine Assoc. of Retirees  
LD 112

February 9, 2023

Senator Michael Tipping, Chair Representative Amy Roeder, Chair Committee on Labor and Housing  
c/o Legislative Information Office 100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 112, An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to provide information and support for LO 112 which would require the State to incrementally pay more toward the retired educator's share of premium for the group health insurance plan.

Presently, a retired educator is required to pay 45% of the monthly premium in addition to paying for Medicare Part B in order to remain a member of the group health plan. This means that for single coverage the total monthly retiree cost is about \$390 or \$4,680 annually. This amount places a substantial financial burden on retired educators who usually live on a fixed income.

Incrementally increasing the State's share toward the monthly premium payment would assist these public service retirees with being able to remain on a group health insurance plan instead of having to move to a private insurance plan due to monetary issues. Additionally, it is my understanding that if the retiree leaves the group insurance plan, he/she may not return to the plan at a later date.

Many dedicated public service employees do not receive adequate wages but believe at retirement they will be somewhat compensated in their retiree insurance benefits. LD 112 does not fully address monthly insurance premium costs but it is a helpful step toward alleviating their financial burden.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Diane M. Bailey Executive Director