



## **Support of LD 70: An Act to Eliminate the Cap on Retirement Benefits for State Employees and Teachers to Which a Cost-of-living Adjustment is Made**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Gay Anne McDonald and I am the Executive Director for the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC).

On behalf of MADSEC, I am providing testimony in support of LD 70.

LD 70 provides that cost-of-living increases for retired state employees and teachers and their beneficiaries apply to a retiree's entire retirement benefit instead of only to the first \$24,186.25 of the retirement benefit and addresses a past decision to cap cost-of-living increases for retirees in the teacher retirement plan. Such a cap, has and continues to have a significant impact on Maine retirees, many of whom are on a fixed income.

With the cost-of-living increasing and pensions eroding causing undue stress on retirees on how to pay for essentials, such as housing, heat, food, medication, etc., it is imperative for the state to support the individuals who have devoted their careers to educating our youth.

Our membership recognizes the commitment from Maine teachers in educating students in our state, and believes that LD 70 offers an opportunity to rectify a past decision and support those who have dedicated their lives to bettering the lives of Maine children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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February 14, 2023