

My dear Honorable Legislators

My Name is Krishan Verma and I have been a resident of Lewiston for the past 50 years. I worked for the State of Maine Department of Developmental and intellectual disabilities for 35 years. I have also had the honor of closing The Pineland Center and placing the people with Disabilities into the community where they are leading daily normal lives. I am now retired and receiving the pension to make ends meet. My wife is still working to assist and fulfill our daily lives with her earnings.

I would like to draw your attention to the pension we retired workers are receiving. Unfortunately, the previous administration chose to first lay off state employees in big numbers "saying state employment was not an employment agency." On the other hand our pension was limited to 3% annual raise for the cost of living, and it was restricted to only a given amount of the benefit. In other words, the 3% raise when applied to the whole amount was only 1% of the whole.. We all know that the current cost of living climbed 11.7% last year.

I would like to request this honorable body of legislators to expand our cost of living adjustment to the full amount now that we have the current budgetary means to do so.

Krishan Verma