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LD 2214

Please continue to work to fund our state employees! I absolutely love my job and am so proud to represent the state and support the children of Maine in my role. I feel like I've found my calling professionally and would love for this to be my employment for the long term! As a young woman in my 30s, I grew up in Maine and want to start a family here. The only piece that gives me pause is the pay here in Maine compared to the benefits and pay I can receive elsewhere.

When initially accepting my job, my supervisor brought me in at the top of my pay scale in order to match the salary I was making in my previous employment. Unfortunately, I am not alone in this experience with low pay and outdated pay scales. Many peers in my state organization have begun to seek employment elsewhere due to low pay. The pay has also greatly impacted recruitment, as multiple times the highest quality candidates have left the candidate pool due to lack of competitive pay. On my own time, I've attempted to recruit qualified peers for some of our consistently understaffed positions, but they are not willing to take the pay cut from the private sector.

With the rising costs of housing and inflation, I am growing concerned that the state pay scale has not and will not keep up with these rising costs or the private sector wages. Although Mills did a nice job including raises in our last contract, it has not addressed the underlying root issue of years of cuts and wage stagnation. Please support LD 2214 to make supplemental allocations for state government expenditures, ensuring that it is financially viable and accessible for a working woman to raise a family without fear of instability in the back of her mind. Thank you for listening and please continue to invest in our public institutions!