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As a retired educator who spent the best earning years of my life in Maine's public schools, I saw many bright and talented young teachers exit the profession because they could not afford to take the financial hit -- for life -- that the current system requires. Attracting and especially retaining high quality teachers is fundamental to achieving strong educational outcomes for students. The Maine legislature should do everything it can to make teaching a career that provides a reasonable standard of living after it has concluded. Full support for retirees' health insurance would be a significant achievement in this regard.