

Ginette Rivard
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LD 210

“Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. My name is Ginette Rivard and I reside in Caribou. I retired in 2016 after nearly 25 years with the Department of Health and Human Services.

I am writing with regard to the MainePERS pensions system and the continued harm from the 2011 LePage Pension Cuts. These cuts have significantly impaired my ability to keep up with the cost of living. The cap on cost-of-living adjustments just does not keep up with the cost of everyday expenses of food, fuel, property taxes and other necessities. In addition, a portion of the retirement benefits I earned while serving the public good is not eligible for this meager COLA.

These two cuts are harmful not just to myself but to my fellow retirees. It also has an impact on our overall state economy. These additional earned benefits would go directly back into our local economy; thus benefiting the greater good.

I urge you to correct these inequities and restore retiree benefits to the harmful cuts of 2011. I thank you for your time and consideration.