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Dear Senators and Representatives,

Many public service retirees were promised during their employment that when they retired and started receiving a pension from MainePERS, their health insurance would be paid at 100%. As many of you know, since we became Medicare eligible at age 65, we have been required to pay for Medicare Part B. The present monthly premium is \$185.00 which continues to increase on an annual basis.

Up until now my tiny Social Security check has just barely covered this expense that a previous governor forced upon us back in 2011.

This is a growing burden on our retirement income which is very low income. This is compounded by the cost of living in Maine these days for groceries, fuel, and everyday living expenses. With the upcoming threat of potentially losing SS and Medicare this is an even greater concern for us at this time. The financial burden of possibly losing our health insurance (in part) is extraordinarily impactful on our future health and financial implications.

The health concerns of retirees can be pretty overwhelming even with health insurance coverage and potentially losing Part B will create significant undue hardships and we plead for the state to make this change now so that we can rest assured of keeping our health insurance coverage whole at the rate of coverage the State promised us throughout our careers.

Thank you for considering sending this to Public hearing next week. I hope you will all support retirees on this matter.