

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Committee on Labor

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 328: An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Retired State Employee's or Retired Teacher's Premium for Medicare Part B Under Medicare Advantage

DATE: March 5, 2025

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and distinguished members of the Committee on Labor. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 700 PreK-12 Principals and Assistant Principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors, and Athletic Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 328. Currently all retired state employees and teachers must pay 100% of the premium for Medicare Part B under Medicare Advantage. If the state were to pick up this cost, it would be much appreciated and necessary for retired state employees and educators who are on a fixed income. Unfortunately, their income doesn't increase as other costs for living have. By having the 132nd Legislature pass LD 328, this would help all the state employees and educators who have given so much to the citizens of Maine.

Currently, people who have paid in enough quarters into social security have part of their Medicare Part B covered. If a retired state employee or teacher receives Maine State Retirement and has paid enough quarters to collect social security, do they get cash in lieu of what the state would cover for them if they did not have social security? Our other concern is the significant cost that will be involved and where that money will come from. If it comes from the General Education budget, that will take away from our public schools, which causes us great concern.

While we do want to have the state help support our retired state employees and teachers by covering the cost of Medicare Part B, we have too many concerns to fully support the bill. For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 328.