

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Committee on Labor,

My name is Grace Leavitt. I am a recently retired educator and reside in Raymond. I am writing in support of LD 900, "An Act to Protect State Retiree Pensions from Inflation".

I am fully aware that there is a high fiscal note for this proposed legislation, and am equally aware that, were it to be supported, the funds would not be there to implement it at this time. Nonetheless, this is an issue that needs to be addressed whenever it might be possible to do so. And thus we will likely continue to ask for these improvements to be made. They are, and have been, needed for quite some time.

As I said, I am just recently retired (after 43 years of teaching, 33 of them in Maine), yet I am already feeling the stress of being on a 'fixed income'. My fellow retired educators have been experiencing this for quite some time. Given that salaries for educators continue not to be what is warranted for those in this critically essential profession, when an educator retires, their pension is also not what they—the people who have dedicated their careers to our students—deserve.

If there is any way to help make progress on this issue, I hope you will do so. I urge you to vote 'ought to pass'. At least that would help demonstrate that you value the hard work that our educators in Maine do every day.

Thank you for the work that you do!

Grace Leavitt  
Raymond, Maine