

Mark Evers
Millinocket
LD 2169

Mark Evers
Millinocket, Maine
February 3, 2026

Testimony in Opposition to LD 2169
Secs. 11, 12, 25 & 26 (MainePERS Workers Compensation Offset)

Dear Members of the Labor Committee. My name is Mark Evers. I live in Millinocket where I worked as a Firefighter/Paramedic for nearly 30 years. I became a MainePERS disabled retiree after I was injured on the job and forced to retire in July of 2022. I'm testifying against LD 2169. I want to focus on Sections 11, 12, 25 and 26, which deal with the MainePERS Workers' Compensation Offset.

As someone who's had to live through offsets and benefits that have been reduced due to the people responsible for your benefits trying to get out of their obligations, I can tell you that it makes life very difficult. It takes you from a point where you can earn the things that you want before disability to being capped off on your income with no way to move forward after a work injury disables you.

Not only are you capped off at a low income, but you have increased expenditures due to medical costs. You no longer have the ability to do the things that you would do for yourself that now require you to hire somebody or rely on family. The financial burden resulting from my injury also caused family problems and stress that is unneeded and unnecessary.

I believe that offsets are just a way for people who were paid for a service to get out of providing the services that they were paid for. I feel it amounts to theft as far as I'm concerned. People don't sign up to become disabled and have their life turned upside down, but organizations such as MainePERS signed up for this. We've paid them to provide a disability retirement benefit. They should be made to fulfill their obligations to the fullest—not divide it up amongst themselves for their own benefit.

MainePERS last remaining disability benefit offset should be repealed. MainePERS should just pay what they agreed to pay, the percentage benefit they were paid to provide those with the misfortune of acquiring a career ending disability. Stop financially punishing those whose disability resulted from a work injury.

I urge the committee to just repeal the Workers Compensation offset in Secs. 12 & 26, but please also add a bill section directing MainePERS to restore current disabled retirees to a full monthly disability benefit without offsets effective January 2026.

Thank you.