

Peter Carrier
Poland
LD 2212

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Peter J. Carrier. I am a retired DHHS Disability Claims Examiner who spent my career serving Maine residents by determining eligibility for MaineCare benefits. Through that work, I helped hundreds of disabled Mainers access critical medical coverage and stability during some of the most difficult times in their lives. Today, I am writing to address the continued harm caused by the 2011 pension cuts enacted under Governor LePage, and to respectfully ask for your support of LD 1003 and LD 328, and for their inclusion in the Governor's Supplemental Budget (LD 2212).

Like many retirees, I am struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising costs for food, housing, utilities, and healthcare. The pension reductions implemented in 2011 permanently reduced the retirement security that many of us planned our futures around. For thousands of current and retired state workers and teachers, these cuts have meant diminished financial stability during a time of life when earning additional income is often not possible.

You have before you the opportunity to correct this long-standing inequity. Funding LD 1003 and LD 328 would provide meaningful relief to retirees who dedicated their careers to public service in Maine.

These bills are not simply budget items — they represent fairness, dignity, and recognition of the service that state workers and teachers provided to Maine communities.

I respectfully ask that you work to help undo the harm caused by the 2011 pension cuts and fully fund LD 1003 and LD 328 as part of the Supplemental Budget (LD 2212).

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued support of Maine's retired public servants.