

Tavis Hasenfus 50 Nobis Point Readfield, ME 04355 (207) 446-0016 Tavis.Hasenfus@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002 (207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

March 9, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Tavis Hasenfus in support of LD 591, An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Premiums for Certain Retired State Employees Before the Labor and Housing Committee

Good afternoon, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Labor and Housing Committee. My name is Tavis Hasenfus, and I represent House District 57, which is the communities of Readfield and Winthrop. I am here before you today in support of LD 591, An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Premiums for Certain Retired State Employees.

This bill was initiated when Senator Hickman and I learned of a constituent who, because she was eligible to receive social security benefits and thereby Medicare under an ex-spouse's work history, was unable to receive the full benefit offered to her through her State of Maine retirement benefits.

Through this bill we are asking this committee to bring equity to this situation by paying the premiums individuals in this situation are forced into paying.

Our constituent is here today and will be able to further explain the situation and why this legislation is necessary.

Thank you for your time and attention.