



TESTIMONY OF THOMAS RECORD
MAINE ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES
IN OPPOSITION TO
PART NN OF LD 2214
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Members of the Committee, my name is Thomas Record. I am Vice President of the Maine Association of Retirees (MAR). MAR is an association of more than 12,000 public service retirees including state retirees, retired educators, and retired employees of participating local districts (PLDs). I speak today in opposition to Part NN of LD 2214.

Part NN proposes to roll back enhancements to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) enacted by this Legislature last year. The roll back will have a direct and negative effect on many public service retirees as well as other senior citizens. The Medicare savings program provides three levels of Medicare Part B premium assistance to seniors below certain income guidelines. Medicare Part B premiums in 2024 are \$174.90 per month (\$2098 annually). Most seniors also must pay Medicare supplement insurance or Medicare Advantage insurance premiums in order to have health insurance.

Part NN proposes to lower the maximum income level an individual may have to qualify for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) from 170% of the federal poverty level (or \$25,602) to 150% of the federal poverty level (or \$22,590). Proportionately similar changes are proposed to the other two assistance tiers. While MAR does not have information on total income levels of all Maine seniors, it is our understanding that more than 19,000 state and educator retirees have pension benefits of less than \$26,000 per year.

The changes you enacted last year, but which have yet to be implemented by the administration, promised improved economic security to thousands of older Mainers on the lower end of the income scale. Please do not undo the good work you did then. Please do not enact section NN of LD 1412. Thank you

Leading the Way for Maine Retirees

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