

Testimony in Support of LD 111, An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance

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

My name is Grace Leavitt, and I live in Raymond. I am recently retired after over 43 years of teaching and six years of serving as President of the Maine Education Association.

Educators, by nature of the work they do, must have a great deal of patience. I can attest to the great deal of patience that educators in Maine have had as they have slowly, ever so gradually, seen the state's share of health insurance for retired educators increase, bit by bit, over many years as it moves towards the goal set years ago of providing 100% of the cost.

LD 111 helps to continue that gradual movement forward.

This may seem like a small amount for the individual, but even this amount does mean a lot to many retired educators. It is also one more way to help with both the recruitment of, and, so importantly, the retention of, qualified people in the profession—knowing that after dedicating their working lives to the students of Maine, they will have more help from the state towards being provided with health insurance when they retire.

I urge you to support LD 111. This will mean so very much to many retired educators in our state, as well as to those who currently are working hard with our students in our schools and look forward to some day being able to retire.

Thank you for your time and your work. And I'm glad to answer any questions.

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