



TESTIMONY OF THOMAS RECORD
ON BEHALF OF THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES
IN SUPPORT OF LD 111, ACT TO INCREASE THE STATE'S SHARE OF RETIRED TEACHERS
HEALTH INSURANCE
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Good morning. My name is Tom Record. I am a resident of Farmingdale and am pleased to provide testimony today in support of LD 111 on behalf of the Maine Association of Retirees (MAR). MAR is a nonprofit association with 11,000 members who are retirees from public service jobs in the State of Maine. Our membership includes retired educators, retired state employees, retirees from participating local districts, retired legislators, and retired judges.

This bill requires the State to incrementally pay a greater share of the cost of retired educators health and accident and sickness insurance. Presently an individual retired educator who is eligible for Medicare is required to pay 40% of the monthly premiums for health insurance as well as his or her Medicare Part B premium. The individual retiree's current 40% share of the health insurance premium is \$147.42 per month or \$1769.04 annually. The current Medicare Part B premium is \$2302.40 per year. So altogether, the Medicare-eligible retiree pays slightly over \$4,000 for their single health coverage.

These premiums represent a substantial financial burden on retired educators, many of whom live on fixed income. Incrementally increasing the State share of the monthly premium payment would assist these public service retirees with the affordability of their group health insurance plan.

Teachers provides extremely valuable services and are not highly paid for what they do during their active years. For many, one of the enticements to entering the teaching profession is the assurance that they will be well taken care of in retirement. LD 111 would be a small step in enhancing the affordability of health insurance which is obviously a critical need for retirees.

We urge the Committee to vote ought to pass on LD 111.

Thank you. I'd be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

Leading the Way for Maine Retirees

157 Capitol Street, Suite 4, Augusta, ME 04330
Telephone Number: (207) 582-1960
1-800-535-6555
(207) 707-1722 FAX

William H. Laubenstein III – *President*
Diane M. Bailey – *Executive Director*
email: MAR@MaineRetirees.org
www.maineretirees.org