

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Committee on Labor. My name is Robyn Egan and I reside in Windham, Maine. I am here today to speak in favor of LD 328 and LD 467.

I began my career with the State of Maine at the Maine Correctional Center in 1982. I believed a state job would provide me with stable wages and good benefits. One benefit was full medical coverage after 25 years of state service. This meant I would not have to pay any medical premiums when I retired. This benefit was very important to me, as I was looking forward to getting married and having a family.

After 37 years of faithful service, I retired from the Department of Corrections. I was eligible for Medicare due to my marital status, but I did not qualify for social security benefits. My retirement plan was my MEPERS pension. Since I was under 65 when I retired the state continued to pay my medical coverage. Prior to my 65th birthday I signed up for my Medicare Aetna Plan. It was at that time I learned I would have to pay out of pocket for my Medicare part B coverage. This monthly cost of \$185 was not one I had budgeted for in my retirement planning. I had understood I earned the benefit of paid health insurance which included the cost of the premiums.

As I understand these bills if passed would mean the state would pay my Medicare premium. This would allow me to use these funds for other needs. I have retired friends and co-workers who are having difficulty paying for food, medical and fuel costs. They could really benefit from this change.

Please take a hard look at LD 328 and LD 467 and work towards making retirees whole.

Thank you for your time.