

Philip Hawes
Portland, Maine

April 22, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 1638

**An Act Regarding Disability Retirement Benefits
under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System**

Good day, Sen. Tipping, Representative Roeder, Sen. Bradstreet, and all the members of the Labor Committee.

My name is Philip Hawes. I am testifying in support of this bill to restore the missing \$900 from my monthly disability benefit and receive my underpaid benefits back to March 2018, about \$75,000. I need my disability benefits now and in the future.

I was a Corrections Officer at Cumberland County Jail for 11 years. In 2017 I was diagnosed with a neurological disorder and found not fit for duty. I had to apply early for the pension benefits that I had paid into. Only with the help of my wife Sue Hawes am I able to negotiate this. I paid for Maine Public Employees Retirement and Social Security. It would be fair and legal for me to receive the pension benefits I and the taxpayers of Cumberland County paid for.

Please vote unanimously Ought to Pass on this bill for the sake of the 51 of us who have been harmed by and suffer from this unfair situation.

Thank you.