



**Testimony of Beth White
Maine Service Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989**

**In Support of LD 2169, An Act to Improve the Public Employees Disability Retirement Program
by Modifying Provisions Controlling the Reduction of Benefits and Clarifying Terminology,
Sponsored by Senator Michael Tipping**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor
1pm Tuesday, February 3, 2026, Cross Building Room 202 and Electronically**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Committee on Labor, I'm Beth White, Director of Politics and Legislation for the Maine Service Employees Association, Local 1989 of the Service Employees International Union. We are a labor union representing over 13,000 Maine workers, including workers across all three branches of state government and retired state employees.

We're here today in support of LD 2169, which would make improvements to the MainePERS disability retirement program by modifying the minimum earnings limitation, the calculated earnings limitation, the substantially gainful activity calculation, and the recoupment of benefit overpayments. I trust that the organizational testimony from MainePERS dives deeper into the technical details of these proposed changes.

We would also like to thank MainePERS for bringing this legislation forward and for reaching out to us ahead of session to explain the changes they are proposing. We believe that making these changes will benefit our members and other MainePERS recipients who are receiving disability retirement in a variety of ways, including by removing disincentives for returning to work, especially state service, while on disability retirement. The changes proposed in this legislation are beneficial to both MainePERS members and the system as a whole.

Please support LD 2169. Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions.