

Gary McGrane
Jay

Good afternoon Senator Rafferty and Representative Sylvester and other esteemed members of the Committee on Labor and Housing: My name is Gary McGrane and I represent 5,500 retired educators across Maine.

I am here today to testify in support of LD 567, An Act to Amend the Penalty for Early Retirement for Certain Members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. For educators the cut to the pension system have had and continues to have a detrimental affect on current and future retirees. It is our belief that LD 567 intends to provide minor relief to educators and other state employees. Many retired early so that they could avail themselves to the states share of the cost of health insurance fearing possible cuts in the states desire to make further budget cut to their retirement benefits. LD 567 attempts to right the wrong to our Maine retired workforce. The change will not make current or future MPER's whole, but attempts to restore a modest amount of what was cut from our former state employees.

Thank you for your time for allowing me to express my support of LD 567.

Respectfully submitted,
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