

LD 1041

To whom it may concern,

To add Mental health workers to the 1998 special plan for retirement will help mental health workers in DDPC, Riverview and state DS crisis teams. I have been working on the Bangor crisis team for about 6 years now and personally retirement seems a long way off and is not something I think too much about personally but there is no I in team as they say. I will say that most of the teams are comprised of great workers who are very knowable but are teams are made up a lot of folks who are 60 plus. We have switched form MANT training to safety care and have seen it is harder physically on our older staff.

Mental health workers and crisis workers put their health and safety every day they come in to work knowingly and willingly. Due to the nature of work many team members encounter physical and mental trauma that never fully goes away.

The unfortunate part of life is that as we age, we get slower. In our field of work quick reaction and some physical aptitude is necessary to maintain our populations and our fellow workers safety. By allowing an earlier retirement we can not only give our mental health workers a much-deserved break but also allow for more younger employees to join out teams and get the firsthand training for fellow workers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Lee

Ds Crisis worker
District 6,7