

L.D. 341

My testimony is in regard to LD 341, An Act to Eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision. I am impacted by this because I worked for 27 years as a police officer in the City of Portland. In addition to that employment I worked part time jobs as well to earn extra income. The part time jobs were a necessity in order to provide for my family. Public sector pay does not compare to pay rates in the private sector. In doing so I've paid into Social Security and will now only receive approximately one-third of my Social Security payments. Those of us impacted by this Windfall Provision are, in essence, being penalized for planning for our retirement.

The job of a police officer is a young person's job and there is a reason why earlier retirement is one of the benefits. Earlier retirement for police officers simply means going on to another job. I know of no police officers who have retired from police work and not worked afterward. The Windfall Provision only impacts those of us in 15 states so it can clearly be eliminated without a significant impact on revenue. My MPERS pension is taxed and my social security is greatly reduced – this becomes one more reason to move out of Maine.