

Robert Jean  
Rockland  
LD 112

My name is Bob Jean from Rockland. I am a retired teacher who taught for 38 years in Rockland Area schools. I am speaking today in support of LD112.

Every month, a hefty chunk of money comes out of my pension check to cover health insurance. The progress we've made with a 55% state contribution is appreciated and helpful but I believe we could do more for our retired teachers.

During my teaching career many of my 2nd and 3rd jobs were in the field of education which means that I paid into Maine State Retirement as opposed to social security. It also means that I don't qualify for 100% Medicare coverage. I am not alone- other retirees face the same situation of monthly health insurance payments.

Combine this with a cost of living adjustment (COLA) that probably won't come close to keeping up with inflation, there is no question that the value of my pension continues to shrink. My level of comfort is decreasing as well.

We need to find solutions. The passage of this bill would point us in the right direction and offer a glimmer of hope.

I thank the members of this committee for your time and your service. Please consider moving forward with LD 112.

Thank you.