

Lois Kilby-Chesley
Durham
LD 70
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To Labor and Housing Committee
From Lois Kilby-Chesley 2/14/2023

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and esteemed members of the Labor and Housing Committee.

My name is Lois Kilby-Chesley, and I am writing to you from my home in Durham, ME.

I am writing in support of LD 70 - An Act to Eliminate the Cap on Retirement Benefits for State Employees and Teachers to Which a Cost-of-living Adjustment Is Made.

This bill fixes an unfair change to state employee and teacher retirement that was made in 2011. The bill will allow a teacher's retirement to increase up to 3% without a monetary cap according to the CPI in any year.

For anyone living outside the restrictions in the current law, they might ask why such a small change is necessary. I will tell you that as a teacher retiree whose finances are affected by even the smallest change - every penny counts.

I consider myself frugal - others might say a cheapskate - and shop carefully, if at all. Yet, the benefits I receive, MEPERS and reduced Social Security due to GPO/WEP, only barely meet the most basic of costs.

I hope that you will find it in your heart to vote in support of LD 70.

Thank you for the work you do for all Maine educators and other residents.