

Members of the Committee on State & Local Government, my name is Zach Wanberg, I live in Gardiner, and I work for the Bureau of Insurance at PFR. I'm writing on my own time in support of LD 1854. Personally, I feel like the state does a fantastic job with providing employees with benefits and livable salaries. However, these metrics are simply outdated. I believe the state cares about employee retention but with salaries severely lacking in terms of what other states pay their employees and inflation paired with cost of living in 2023...it's time to make a change. When employees are compensated based on merit, ability and comparable worth, it's a great sight. The respect alone from receiving pay increases shows a level of commitment by our superiors & legislators that can even transcend the workplace. I believe, to keep workers from leaving the state, morale and productivity to remain high, substantial wage increases are in order. Please pass and fund LD 1854 to close the pay gap.