



**Testimony of Marge Kilkelly on Behalf of
the Maine Council on Aging to the Committee on**

In Favor of LD 467 - An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Part B Premiums for Certain Retired State Employees

In Favor of LD 328 - An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Retired State Employee's or Retired Teacher's Premium for Medicare Part B Under Medicare Advantage

Submitted March 5, 2025

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

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am a Policy Consultant for the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA). The MCOA is a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 140 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in community settings. I am testifying **in Favor of LD 467 and 328**.

I am submitting testimony in favor of both of these bills because the Maine Council on Aging supports creating fairness for State of Maine public retirees. We leave it to the good work of the Committee to create good policy using either of these vehicles.

At the time of hire, a teacher or state employee is assured that they will have the security of knowing that if they retire as an active employee who is receiving health benefits, they will receive the same benefits as a current employee at no charge.

However, there is a loophole in this commitment which is unfair to some retirees.

If a person retires before 65, the state pays the full premium for health insurance. When the person turns 65, assuming they qualify for Medicare, the retiree suddenly has to pay the Part B premiums. The 2025 standard monthly cost of part B is \$185 per month, or \$2,220 per year.

Ironically, this increased cost to the retiree comes at the same time that the cost of that person's health care to the retirement system is decreased because of the Medicare coverage!

The state does pay for a Medicare Part B premium for those employees who continue to work after they become eligible for Medicare.

Finally, the state pays the entire health care premium for several hundred retirees who do not qualify for Medicare themselves or through their spouse.

We believe that closing the loophole that requires some retirees to pay for their Part B coverage while others do not is critical to live in to the commitment that we, as the state of Maine, made to the people that have served in state government or taught in our schools.

I urge you to act in support of fairness and parity as outlined in LD 467 and 328.

Thank you for your consideration.