

# Montana

Retired Educators Association  
AARP's Educator Community

***HEARING TESTIMONY – HB 633***  
***Guaranteed Annual Benefit Adjustment (GABA)***  
***Increase from 1.5% to 2.0%***

**Chair, Rosalie Buzzas**  
**Vice Chairs, Carol Juneau and John Witt**  
**Members of the Appropriations Committee**  
**Room 102 Capitol March 22, 2005**

**My name is Tom Altmaier of Helena. I represent the Montana Retired Educators Association (MREA). I have a total of 25 years as an educator. I was primarily a math and science teacher along with additional assignments as a high school principal and coach.**

**I am here today to ask your support for HB-633.**

**Some time ago the Executive Board of MREA met in Helena. At that time a decision was made that it a *necessity* to ask this legislature for an increase in our GABA from 1.5% to 2.0%.**

**During the 2003 session, the legislature justifiably awarded the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) with a 3% increase. Retired educators were not given this increase. Our membership faces real problems, due to large increases in prescription drugs and energy costs. Our fixed incomes are severely stressed. In fairness, we need to count on your vote for HB-633.**