

**From:** [LAYNE HELENE DANIELSON](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Diesslin](#)  
**Subject:** Education Pension Reform Testimony  
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Greetings:

I am writing today to advocate for the Education Pension Reform. I am currently in my 28th year of teaching in MN public schools. When I started teaching in 1995, I was told by veteran teachers that had the rule of 90 don't worry about it, reform will come before you know it. They truly believed this. At that time, I was 22 and retirement was not in my vision. Now that I have almost 3 decades of teaching, I am deeply concerned about what my future looks like. My wife and I have combined 53 years of teaching experience. Our oldest child is in his junior year of college studying to be a Social Studies teacher. Last fall my wife and both talked to him separately about whether he was sure he wanted to go into this field. He told us we are great teachers and wanted to be like us. Such great praise from our child. We should be excited for him, but instead are apprehensive about how teachers are being taken care of and the future of his teaching career. It is really hard to encourage your own child and others to go into education when TRA has such an unappealing retirement option for current and future teachers. We need to attract new teachers and look out for the current teachers. If teachers are expected to teach until 66 years of age to reach full retirement, who are your future substitute teachers? Currently our school district and all of the others in the state rely heavily on retired teachers to continue to be substitute teachers. If teachers are not retiring until 66, I suspect, there won't be many of them coming back to substitute. We also lost a great number of substitute teachers during covid and are now subbing regularly during our prep. Those of us who taught through the pandemic aged about 10 years over that period. Getting some credit for those covid years would be much appreciated.

The time is now to put a pension plan in place that will be beneficial to those teaching now and to those in the future. I love what I do and take pride in the level of teaching that I bring to my job. Bringing pension reform like 62 or 35 years of teaching would shed light for those of us who have been at this for a long time. A plan in place may help attract future teachers to the profession.

I look forward to seeing the Education Pension Reform continue to be moved forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Layne Danielson

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