

From: [Meghan Fulton](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: HF2222 (Wolgamott); SF1938 (Frentz)
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 1:20:03 PM

Hello Ms. Diesslin,

Please support HF2222 (Wolgamott); SF1938 (Frentz) to improve the currently abysmal pension that educators in the state of Minnesota are facing and address the looming crisis in education.

If the pandemic taught us anything at all, it is the absolutely *crucial* role that schools play in a functional economy and society. Without schools, families must take time off from work - which negatively impacts nearly every aspect of daily life as we know it. Every one of us has experienced and witnessed this over the past several years. We *must* support our schools and our teachers immediately. WE must bolster the profession by making it a more enticing one to enter.

As an educator, I am in my 11th year. In my decade plus of teaching, we have had THREE student teachers for English. This is alarming. There is no one waiting in the wings to teach when our current crop of educators retires, burns out, leaves the profession, etc. Even more concerning, I teach at one of the largest high schools in the state, so if we've only had three student teachers, I imagine smaller schools around the state would have seen even fewer. Currently, there is very little enticement to join our ranks, and very little enticement to stay. This job is hard. We love our kids, but the politicization of schools has created an environment that puts educators on the defensive at every juncture. We also face very real safety concerns, low pay, little respect, increasing workloads, huge class sizes, and now pensions that require teachers to work a decade longer than those who retired last year. It is a scary and disheartening time to teach. Every year, I see teachers, even those nearing retirement, leaving the profession. I worry even more about the alarming shortage of people to take their places.

We are at a precipice here. We must not only support our current teachers with a reasonable and appealing retirement package, but we must also draw qualified, dynamic, and capable new people to the career. Please do your part and vote for the above bills in order to recruit and retain quality educators in Minnesota!

Sincerely,

Meghan Fulton

Prior Lake High School English Teacher

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