LCPR,

Thank you for the privilege of speaking at your last meeting, and thank you for addressing the pension issue this year as an impactful way to invest in the schools, students and teachers in our state.

If other business called you away at last week's meeting's scheduled end time, I hope you have had the opportunity to listen to the testimony of the teachers who spoke on a pension's ability to recruit and retain teachers and actually allow schools to reinvest in early career teachers.

As I have a propensity to talk too much, I did not get to mention last week in my testimony what a bargain pension reform is.

I have not seen the 62/35 bill cost out, but the cost shared for the 60/30 bill as both a one time expense and an ongoing yearly expenditure is a prudent investment in our schools, students and staff. The investment in pension reform will allow Minnesota to retain world-class teachers, who may be looking at more attractive private sector salaries, and it will help fulfill Governor Walz' stated goal of attracting teachers here from other states.

Thank you, again, for making educator pension reform a priority this year.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kocur