

From: [Riley Krusmark](#)
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Hello,

I am Riley Krusmark, an 11th year Special Education Teacher in Goodhue, MN. I am here to tell you my story.

After an undergraduate major change, I decided becoming a special education teacher was the perfect job for me. I began teaching in 2012. I always knew that I wasn't going into teaching for the money. What I hadn't realized was the unfair retirement plan we have for educators that we have in place. Had I known at the time, I would have thought differently about becoming a teacher.

Educators have waited too long for a fair pension plan. Teachers across the state need to be provided with an equitable plan, such as the 62 or 35 bill introduced in the senate. Or the 60 and 30 bill that TRA is proposing.

The last few years have really taken a toll on teachers. While everyone else seems to "move on" from the COVID pandemic, teachers will just begin to pick up the pieces of children who are behind their peers, suffering from mental illness due to loss or their own COVID effects, or the social gaps that are growing due to the lack of interactions with others.

Teachers provide interventions, accommodations, modifications, extra supports, IEPs, and 504s. The number of children needing help is on the rise. When you consider how we are valuing teachers with our current pension plan, I do not personally see reasons to go into the profession.

I fear that if teachers are not taken seriously and offered better benefits, the future of education is in jeopardy.

Please consider supporting teachers and a fair pension plan for educators across the state. Thank you for your time.

Riley Krusmark