

From: [Robert Martin](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Testimonial
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:55:05 AM

Dear Ms. Diesslin,

My name is Robert Martin and I am a 31 year teacher in I.S.D. 181, Brainerd.

My 1st assignment was a 3/4 multiage classroom. My current, and longest assignment, 23 years, has been 6th grade math.

I am writing to support the pension reform plan for many reasons. As a long time educator, I look back on my career with pride knowing that I have positively impacted thousands of students and their families. As a 56 year old, I still come to school everyday knowing that I can be a light of hope for all of my students. These days, so many more students are in need of that hope. Myself, along with all of my colleagues, dedicate every minute of our day to taking care of 10 to 14 year olds the way their parents want to, but sometimes can't.

As I continue to get older, my dedication continues, but my health and mental acuity is starting to be less than optimal.

I want the best person possible in front of students. Younger teachers, ones that can connect with kids, are so vital to good public education. Any incentives, like the promise of a decent retirement, are very crucial.

I am thankful and lucky to have been a public education teacher for this long. I look forward to ending my career with a hope of a fair and equitable retirement. Thank you for all of your work and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Martin

Forestview Middle School Team 6D

Baxter/Brainerd Minnesota