

From: [Steve OToole](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Teacher Pension Reform
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:26:37 PM

Member of the LCPR,

For 30 years, we have answered the call. Through every student crisis, school funding shortfall, political environment, curriculum change, and health crisis we have continued to invest our hearts and souls in our career. We stood fast when families struggled, when schools were shortchanged on funding formulas, when we received zero percent pay increases, and when the nation faced a pandemic. For 30 years we have refused to take to sick days and have spent our nights, weekends, and summers working without pay on behalf of our students. **We represent thousands of teachers who have sacrificed so much for the sake of Minnesota and its children – it is now time for you to stand up and show your respect for our efforts.** Words of praise and sympathies are an easy escape for the legislature; we are looking instead for ACTIONS which represent the invaluable contribution teachers have made to the state of MN. With a budget surplus in excess of 17 BILLION dollars, the state MUST demonstrate that education is truly a cornerstone of its success. With its long history of underfunding the teacher pension system, Minnesota is faced with existential question – will it continue to make excuses and delay its responsibility to create an AVERAGE funding formula by national standards (62 or 35/60 and 30), or will it continue the hypocrisy of touting one of the nation’s top educational systems while simultaneously providing one of the worst overall state teacher pensions? Make no mistake, this is a transformational decision... without an investment in education AND teacher pensions, Minnesota will soon face a significant teaching shortage and the loss of its esteemed position as a leader in education. Consider this carefully as you finalize your plans for adequately funding the teacher pension system– your ACTIONS will dramatically impact the state of education in Minnesota.

We appreciate your work on behalf of teachers!

Respectfully,

Steve O’Toole (30-year 6th grade teacher/varsity football assistant coach)

Jill O’Toole (30-year 4th grade teacher)

Eden Prairie School District