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To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Written testimony March 6th, 2023 LCPR meeting.
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Subject: TRA Tier 2 Reform

March 6th, 2023

Members of the LCPR,

Before you are proposals and bills for TRA Tier 2 benefit improvements. I ask that you evaluate and promote reform through one or a combination of the bills/proposals presented. The TRA 60/30 proposal is my preferred option as I believe it makes us competitive but still promotes a long career in Minnesota.

This option (60/30) paired with reform and reductions to the discounts (penalties) for later start teachers makes it reform that is good and sustainable. The two most important factors in pension payouts are age and service years. Even if a final bill only included fair reductions from age 60 on (refer to my prior emails but forget 55-59) that would go a long way to fixing our system. Maybe set the fair reductions at a more reasonable vesting period for the plan of 10-15 years minimum?

I considered teaching in Wisconsin but decided against it after researching TRA in Minnesota - I knew that there would be penalties in my retirement, so I researched the two states and decided on Minnesota.

Looking back on my research, WI is exactly the same as it was when I looked into it 13 years ago - 57/30 and an amazing reduction chart that is fair, deferment growth, etc. No generational inequity.

Minnesota on the other hand over 13 years... reductions per year have ~doubled, colas have been removed prior to 66, deferment (my backup if I decided I couldn't handle teaching anymore), etc. did we forget that tiers don't have to stop at 2?

Tier 2 is at the whim of a pen every session. I want the security of being able to plan my retirement. We need a rule that you cannot change. We need reductions that you cannot change. It is the right thing to do. I want the security tier 1 has had since 1989 - avoiding all of the changes to tier 2 and planning their dignified retirement. Tier 1 had 3% reductions from 65 (62 with 30 years) in 1989 and they have it today. I had a reduction in 2012 different from 2013, then again in 2018, and I still have a career to go. Yikes!

Make TRA a recruitment tool again.

Reform TRA Tier 2.

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