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To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Public Educators Pension Reform
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Good Morning,

My name is Jennifer Rands and I am an elementary teacher in the Centennial School District. Thank you for trying to fix some poor decisions made from the past. I am sure you are hearing stories from Tier II educators from all over Minnesota. It is disappointing to hear about how teachers are being treated when they have put so much dedication and love into their job working with our students. I am excited that a couple of bills have been written and praying this is the year to fix the Pensions for our Tier II Public Educators. Please fight to honor my peers with an equitable pension that is at or above the national average.

This last spring I had a dear teammate, only a couple years older than me, retire. She is enjoying her retirement and occasionally comes back to substitute in our elementary. I, along with other Tier II teachers, have come to realize that we will have to teach 10 more years than our classmates because we received our teaching positions after the 1989 deadline for Rule of 90. I can't imagine teaching until 66 and missing time with my family as it grows.

My daughter just graduated with an elementary education degree. I did not encourage or discourage her on her decision, but I know that she has teaching in her blood as both her mom and grandma are/were teachers. When she took a teaching job with a nonprofit and is getting paid well over what first year teachers make in public education, I was thrilled for her. I hope she doesn't have to fight to get what she is worth and work until she is 66, like her mom is having to do for our current and future educators in Minnesota.

Please see the seriousness of this for our state and our public educators. This can be a boost to our mental health to help us feel valued. Please fight to honor my peers with an equitable pension that is at or above the national average.

Jennifer Rands
Centennial Educator of 28 years