

**From:** [Lisa Ruehling](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Diesslin](#)  
**Subject:** TRA Pension Reform - URGENT NEED!  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:23:11 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to you as a teacher of 32 years who falls in the Tier II Pension category for teachers. I have served the students, families and community of Jordan, Minnesota for all 32 years.

I would like you to know we depend on you and all those working to make our teachers' retirement in Minnesota equitable for teachers who happen to have started to teach after the Rule of 90 cut off, who are expected to teach an extra 10 years in comparison.

I love teaching and still have the energy it takes to continue to teach now. I will not be able to afford to retire when I am no longer able to teach as effectively, because the penalties are outrageous for retirement before 66 as it stands now.

The normal age of retirement for a teacher was never meant to be 66.

The teaching profession was never meant for people to teach for 44+ years. When I started my education in 1986, I compared other occupations' salaries and benefits and understood that even though our salaries were lower than most occupations, that our Pension was a way to reward us and compensate for the low salary. Then it all ended. Rule of 90 was no longer in effect just months before I graduated with my teaching degree. My friends just one year older than I are preparing to start a life of retirement, which is well deserved, after so many years of giving their all to the students and families they served.

Please fight for Pension Reform for teachers NOW! I have seen more and more teachers leave our profession because they know they can't continue to give like they do in education for the extended 10 years. The Covid years took its toll and we are now asked to continue to do so much more than teach. We will lose more and more teachers if there is not a lowering of the normal retirement age and years of service. We will not attract teachers to Minnesota since our surrounding states offer much better pension options.

Now is the time to make it right. Now is the time to help Minnesota keep the amazing teachers they have in place and draw young people into the profession.

Without reform, you will see many, many teachers leaving the profession and our schools left in shambles.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent need.

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**Lisa Ruehling** | Math Specialist

Jordan Public Schools | [lruehling@isd717.org](mailto:lruehling@isd717.org)

500 Sunset Drive | Jordan, MN | 55352

Direct: 952-492-4324 | Main: 952-492-2332 | Fax: 952-492-4445

[www.jordan.k12.mn.us](http://www.jordan.k12.mn.us) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)



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