

From: [Julie Seiler](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Written testimony - 3.6.23
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:06:18 PM

Greetings, Please find my written testimony on teacher pension reform, specifically SF2222 and HF1938. Thank you, Julie Seiler

March 6, 2023

Honorable Chair Representative Her and Pension Committee Members,

My name is Julie Seiler and this is my second testimony - only this time it is in written form. I recently testified in person on making changes to Tier II members Pension benefits on Feb. 27, 2023.

I am an Education Minnesota member and have served in union roles at all levels of the organization, from local President to Member Rights to Part time Field Staff at the state level.

When the legislature created a two tiered system based on that magical date of July 1, 1989, they created a system of “have’s” and “have not’s”. The “haves” gained superior benefits and the “have nots”, like myself and most other Educators, need to work an additional 10 more years to receive the same benefits.

With SF2222 (Wolgamott) and HF1938 (Frentz); bill - 62 years of age OR 35 years of service in place, this bill would “in essence” replace the Rule of 90 benefits that Tier I Educators receive, for those Educators that began working right out of college. Restoring deferred augmentation is necessary to provide Tier II teachers decisions on when they retire, as it allows for better financial decisions. The COVID credit is HUGE! Allowing 2 months for one month of service is a wonderful acknowledgment of Educators service during the pandemic. Seeing that we were “building the airplane while flying it” during that time, this would be great applause for that time in history.

Minnesota has chronically underfunded Educators pensions for the last few decades. THIS is the legislative session to make the much needed change. All the BIG pieces and players are in place, Educators helped vote in a pro-public education government, Educators moved the TRA board to take action and create a proposal, Educators put forth an Action Item at the representative convention last spring for Education MN to make Pension improvement a priority and the Universe granted Minnesota with a GIANT surplus. THIS IS THE TIME!

By making Pension reform RIGHT for Tier II, you will be attracting and retaining much needed Educators to our great state. If nothing is done this spring, you will see many Educators leave the profession and few signing up to teach in our state - guaranteed. THIS IS A BIG DEAL. Please take action on these bills.

Thank you for allowing my written testimony. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Seiler

Minnesota Public Educator, Year 33 and still going, missed the “Rule of 90 by mere weeks”

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