

Written testimony in support of SF1938/HF2222

March 6, 2023

Dear Pension Committee Members,

My name is Diane Solberg and I have been a teacher in the North Branch Area Public Schools for 31 years. When I joined this profession I heard talk among the more “seasoned teachers” about something called Rule of 90. I knew that I missed it by two years, but I had no idea what that would really mean down the road.

Those of us who narrowly missed the Rule of 90 are now nearing retirement. We are looking to our State Leaders to provide pension reform that is in line with our coworkers who started before 1989, those in other public sector pensions, and similar to teachers in our neighboring states.

Teaching has been a rewarding but extremely demanding career. In recent years the additional pressures of staff shortages, Covid, student mental health, etc. have been more than many in our profession can take. As educators we need your support for our mental well being! I want and need to look forward to a retirement similar to those who were hired just two years before me.

Please support and pass SF 1938 / HF 2222, 62 years of age or 35 years of service, which would bring the much needed pension reform to MN Tier II teachers. Show the educators of this state that you understand the high demands of our jobs and the unfairness of the tiered teacher retirement system that is currently in place. With the State’s current surplus we know that you have the ability to make this reform a reality!

Thank you for your consideration, support, and action on passing meaningful teacher pension reform to attract and retain teachers in Minnesota this legislative session.

Diane Solberg
North Branch ISD138
Proud Teacher for 31+ years