

From: [Jon and Kim Stolski](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Education Pension Reform-Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 10:12:09 PM

Members of the LCPR,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email regarding my teaching career and pension plan. My name is Kim Stolski and I have taught at Baxter Elementary in the Brainerd School District for 31 years. I am the daughter of a career teacher who now enjoys her retirement.

When I began my career in 1991, I was assured by seasoned teachers that the "Rule of 90" would return. As we well know, that has not happened. As a Tier I teacher, my friend and grade level partner will qualify this spring for her full pension. I am thrilled for her to begin enjoying retirement. If we see no change in our plan, I will need to teach and contribute an additional 10 years to receive my full benefit. Though we have the same job and the same responsibilities, I must work a decade longer because I am under the Tier II Pension plan.

I love my job and I want to give the best to my classroom of third graders. They deserve that. However, at 55 years of age, I can feel the demands taking a toll. I cannot imagine staying in the classroom until the age of 66. The covid years have been very stressful for teachers and students. Additional compensation for the pandemic years would show that Minnesota values and sees our educators.

We are a family of teachers. My daughter has chosen to pursue a career in education. I can only hope that we can provide an equitable fair pension for our newest educators and keep them in the field. Please support pension reform for Tier II teachers. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kim Stolski
Third Grade Teacher