

From: [Alison Zak](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Pension Reform
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 12:40:51 PM

Good Afternoon-

Please support HF2222 (Wolgamott); SF1938 (Frentz) to improve the poor pension that Minnesota Teachers are receiving.

Schools are facing a looming crisis. They are the bedrock of society, and should for that reason be marked by the MN Government as PRIORITY ONE. Instead both schools and teachers are attacked and criticized. The Covid Time Period shed new light on the importance that schools play in ALL aspects of society. Without schools, families and businesses are left floundering. It is difficult for parents and caregivers to attend jobs and in some cases, students are not able to receive the nourishment they need to stay healthy. We must boost our school teachers, and show them how crucial their role is to all!

As an educator, I am seeing the effects of the pandemic, and the current lack of support for teachers. Teachers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate. In addition to this, the number of students who are choosing to go into the education field has dropped dramatically during recent years. It is evidenced in applicants for jobs. When I began my career, there used to be thousands of applicants for each Social Studies position (my content area). Now, we are lucky if we have five applicants for a position. Why would young people subject themselves to lower than average pay and poor retirement benefits, when there are better opportunities out there for them?

This job has become "heavy". It is difficult to shoulder all the burdens that teachers are asked to carry. WE LOVE OUR KIDS/STUDENTS! We also love our schools and communities, but teachers need to see that they are valued and respected. We need to prove to Minnesota that hard work, dedication and service are meaningful and impactful. Please do your part and vote for the above bills in order to recruit and retain quality educators here in the great state of Minnesota!

Sincerely,
Alison Zak

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Thank you for all that you do!

Alison Zak

Peer Coach- Prior Lake High School

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