

From: [Jess Frisco](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Written Testimony, April 3rd, 2023 (Amendment H3100.S3162-DE1)
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023 1:13:10 PM

Dear Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement Committee Members,

Thank you for your efforts in working together to rectify our two-tiered educator pension plan in Minnesota. I appreciate your willingness to problem solve this enormous task, and appreciate your support for the bills that are currently being presented and discussed, HF3100 (Her) and SF3162 (Frentz).

I would like to request the following for consideration as you work to correct the gross inequities existing between Tier 1 and Tier 2 MN Educator Pensions.

1. I ask this committee to speak with Governor Walz and request that he dedicate additional funding toward the pension budget, (both one time and ongoing funding), and specifically ask him to address the inequities of Minnesota educator's two tiered pension plan.
2. I ask that the necessary reform increases employer contributions to the TRA fund. Historically in Minnesota, employee contributions have steadily increased, while employer contributions have decreased. Tier 2 educators should not be asked to continually shoulder the inequities of this broken pension system that has existed for over 30 years.
3. I ask ALL legislatures to work together across the isle to make meaningful reform happen THIS session, for the sake of quality public education in Minnesota. Anything less will result in a large amount of highly qualified teachers leaving the profession in our state, either to another employment opportunity, or another state that values it's educators. We will also not be able to recruit highly qualified educators to this state if equitable educator pensions are not a priority in Minnesota.
4. I ask that pension reform for Tier 2 educators includes benefits/penalties for early retirement that are equitable to those provided to Tier 1 educators in Minnesota.

Minnesota Tier 2 educators are asking for AVERAGE pension benefits. As you may be aware, currently, MN Tier 2 educator pensions are FAR from average, and nearly last in the nation. We must do better.

We are asking for the State of Minnesota, as well as our Legislatures to demonstrate respect for our service and dedication to Minnesota students, families and communities. Please work together to make meaningful pension reform happen THIS session. It is not too late. Please do not leave our highly qualified, dedicated, MN educators behind. We are counting on you to make this right.

Respectfully,
Jessica Frisco
Second Career MN Teacher, 18 years
USAF Veteran, 7 years

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In Creativity,
Jess