

**From:** [Kim Motschenbacher](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Diesslin](#)  
**Subject:** Tier II teacher pensions  
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I am writing regarding Tier II Teacher Pensions. I would like to start out by thanking Representative Kaohly Vang Her for her support in fighting for pension reform.

I was hired as a full time speech-language pathologist in 1990 and have been working full time in rural MN since that time. I earned my Master's Degree in Communication Disorders from UW-EC in August of 1990 and headed straight to work. I decided to leave WI and start my career in MN as this had a great reputation for education and taking good care of the dedicated teaching staff.

As of today, I am 56 years old with 33 years of teaching experience. I have worked tirelessly supporting children who have special education needs. I regret not remaining in Wisconsin, as MN does NOT value those of us who were hired after 1989. It is shameful that the "Education State" has one of the lowest teacher pension compensations in the USA. If I retire at age 62 with nearly 40 years of teaching experience, I will be penalized at least 14 percent. This is shameful. I express to all young people going into education, "DO NOT teach in the state of MN." You will be forced to work well past your "passionate" years. You will be burned out and forced to stay if you want to be able to live a decent life after all of your years of dedication. MN does NOT value you.

Our pensions have been obscenely underfunded and our penalties for leaving when we still have a bit of energy to work with the demands of teaching are too stiff. You need to value all teaching staff. We are on the frontlines and have put in our time. We deserve better. Students deserve better by recruiting and retaining the best teachers. They will steer clear of this state because we are talking to them. Don't start teaching in MN, it will not end well.

How very disappointing MN. You are better than this.

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"It is not the world's job to make you happy, it is your job to bring happiness to the world."  
~Michael Bernard Beckwith