

**From:** [Shane Lee](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Diesslin](#)  
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Good afternoon,

I'd like to submit the following as testimony to LCPR at Monday's meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Shane Lee. You've heard from me before. Several times. Currently there are 3 bills in support of pension reform in both the house and senate. My hope was that any of them, or a combination of them would be passed this session. HF 3100 and SF 3162 were taken from TRA's recommendation. The TRA board worked tirelessly to thoroughly cost out their proposal. They considered both employee and employer contribution. They considered the amortization and overall cost of the plan. This was done after long discussions entailing examination of a more than twenty year disparity between tier one and tier two teachers. It was agreed the system is broken and unfair. This isn't new information. Legislators over the years have agreed that in order to right the ship, something drastic would be necessary.

The Governor has allocated a measly sum of money to cover all pensions while boasting an enormous surplus of over 17 billion dollars. He has touted strides in improvement to education programs. Indeed we are glad and grateful. We are however discouraged that there is such a disconnect between what is considered to be education and teachers. Are teachers not the beginning of education? Legislators lament tied hands due to lack of funding. Can they not draft funding bills to be voted on and sent to the Governor for him to consider so we can truly see where the buck stops? He has been silent on teacher pensions. Emails, calls, letters, etc. and no response.

We are more than excited to see the bills in the house and senate. Indeed it's farther than I personally thought we'd be in the beginning. We are still hopeful. Many legislators have spoken for us and fought for us only to be given next to nothing to work with up against the towering task before them. This must be done now. It's time. Those of us who barely missed the rule of 90 and were promised it would return or that at least something could be done are now approaching our later years. We're waiting. 60 and 30 with an NRA of 65 isn't asking for the moon. It's asking for average, for compromise. Please stand strong. Please push the Governor. Let him know we are here and do not intend to let this go. We've done our jobs with pride and excellence and protect and care for our students no matter how we're treated and unfortunately that may be ironically our downfall. It's well known that we always will. If nothing changes though, I'm afraid we'll lose more good teachers and continue to struggle to find any new ones. It is my hope that our continued pleas will not continue to go unheard.

Yours,

Shane A Lee  
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