

From: [SARA MILES](#)
To: [Lisa Diessler](#)
Subject: Submitted Testimony, Apr. 3 LCPR Meeting
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2023 11:42:29 AM

Written testimony in support of SF3162/HF3100 Educator Pension Reform being discussed as part of the Pension Omnibus Finance Bill (TRA)

April 2, 2023

Dear LCPR Committee members,

My name is Sara Miles and I have been a teacher in the Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan Schools for 31+ years. I am counting on this committee, the governor, and all current Minnesota legislators to fix the wrong done to future teachers on July 1, 1989, when the two-tiered pension system was created. The teachers of this state need and deserve meaningful educator pension reform.

I'm 56 years old. Under our current Tier II pension, in order to retire with my full SELF-FUNDED pension benefits, I will have to teach for 10 more years with 41+ years of service. Which in reality is even more because of the maternity leaves that I extended with my 3 children..

Please advocate for significant Pension Reform for Tier II teachers. The inequity and severe penalties have many teachers like myself with 31+ years of service trapped without the ability to retire before 66 yrs old.

This is also a huge deterrent to recruiting future high-quality teachers for the next generation.

It's hard for me to accept that I have recently discouraged my 26-year-old daughter, a year 4 teacher from returning from SC to MN to come home to teach and raise a family. It breaks my heart to tell her it is not in her best interest at this time.

Please make teacher pensions a priority and work to increase the budget allocated for pensions, specifically Tier II teacher pension reform. Please bring Tier II teacher pension up to the national average. Minnesota will not recruit or retain teachers if the pension system is not corrected soon to make Minnesota competitive with neighboring states. NOW is the time to right the wrongs of teacher pension reform!

Please support and pass SF3162 / HF3100, 60 years of age and 30 years of service, which would bring at least some of the much-needed pension reform to Minnesota Tier II teachers. Show the educators of this state that you understand the high demands of our jobs and the unfairness of the tiered teacher retirement system that is currently in place. With the State's current surplus, we know that you have the ability to make this reform a reality!

Thank you for your consideration, support, and action on passing meaningful teacher pension reform to attract and retain teachers in Minnesota during this legislative session.

Sara Miles

ISD196

Proud Teacher for 31+ years