

From: Thomas Murphjy
To: Lisa Diesslin
RE: Written Testimony for TRA Tier 2 Pension Bills
April 2, 2023

LCPR Members,

Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts. Throughout this process it has been very clear to me that fixing the inadequacies of the pensions for Tier 2 teachers is no more than lip service for all of the parties involved that could fix this problem. We are now at crunch time and it is time to STEP UP and DO SOMETHING. It is not the fault of a single Tier 2 teacher that we are in this position at this time. Many Tier 2 teachers should be thinking about retirement as many have put in 30 plus years to this profession. I myself have given 33 dedicated years, and my wife has given 32 to public education in MN. Many of my close teacher friends, who are very close to me in age, were able to retire recently with full benefits(IE: Rule of 90) yet many of us face having to teach another 10 plus years. Please, someone try to explain to me that this is right. There is no logical explanation.

I get it, there is a teacher shortage, there are less people entering the profession. That is not our fault. By making a quality, significant change to teacher pensions perhaps more will enter the profession, or even better yet, we may get back some of the quality people we have lost. Can you imagine the cost of teachers in their mid to late 60s what it will cost the individual districts of Minnesota. They already imply they can not afford us and keeping us until 66 will create a huge burden for the districts of Minnesota.

I could go on and on but I just want to ask one last time - please address this huge problem! Show your support for ALL educators in Minnesota and get this right.

Finally, as a final thought:

I ask the committee consider one final option: -Allow current tier 2 members to OPT in to a tier 1 pension themselves with all of the allocated benefits provided to current tier 1 teachers (rule of 90, NRA 65/NRA 62 with 30 years and 3% protected reductions) -If the tier 2 teacher opts into tier 1 they will be charged the contribution rate required to make the benefit change and the actuarial cost/difference of prior contribution deficiency either through lump sum, additional payroll deductions, or if close to retirement a third option of a TEMPORARY reduction in benefits until they have paid the missing actuarial cost -Members that do not opt in will not be impacted and remain tier 2 This plan would be of NO cost to the state at this time. It would allow educators in TRA to make the decision that best works for them.

Respectfully submitted,
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Career elementary teacher of 33 years
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