

From: [Jon DeMars](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Teacher Pension Testimony for May 4
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 6:55:41 PM

Hello LCPR Board,

I am writing concerning HF3294/SF3314. While these bills are a very small step in the right direction, I will not be satisfied until the Rule of 90 is extended to career teachers. When this school year ends for me on June 9 I will have taught continuously for 33.5 years in Minnesota public schools and will be 56.5 years old. I "missed" the rule of 90 cut off by six months. When I graduated from Hamline University in early May 1989 the rule of 90 was still in place and I was well aware of it. Because I still had to student teach in the fall semester of 1989, I was left behind as one of the "have nots" for the rule of 90.

Many veteran teachers assured me that the rule of 90 would return well before my retirement age. This never happened because of poor decisions by state legislators in the late 1990's and early 2000's when they made COLA increases of 40% and lowered contribution rates for both teachers and school districts. I have colleagues (some of whom are behind me on the seniority list) I have taught with for more than 30 years who have retired under the rule of 90 or will soon. They made it because they subbed or taught part time before June 30, 1989.. One friend subbed for one day of summer school before the cut off and made the rule of 90. I have paid into the system the same amount of dollars and time but can't have what they do. I will need to work about 10 more years, putting money into TRA, in order to earn my full pension. This is not right. Please make pensions equitable for tier II teachers in comparison to what my tier I colleagues already have. We work extremely hard and have earned a fair and comparable pension in relation to our fellow teachers hired before June 30, 1989.

Thank you,
Jon DeMars
Mounds View Public Schools