

From: [Kimberly Husfeldt](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for 5/4
Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:49:12 PM

Hello LCPR members,

I am writing to you to let you know that while I appreciate the work that has gone into HF 3294 and SF 3314, it is just not right. While I know educators are looking for a solution to making their pensions fair, charging the educator a .5% increase is not the answer. The answer: Ask other pension funds in the surrounding states how they are making it work with continuing to have the "Rule of 90" or something better.

Our education system is in a crisis right now in MN. If we do not fund "teachers" we will have no teachers to teach. I am very concerned the legislature is not listening. We don't have enough high-quality teachers to teach and we certainly don't have enough substitute teachers to cover the open classes. Our current teachers are teaching over 50 children at one time when they have to take over for other teachers' absences. This causes burnout and young educators are leaving the profession at an alarming rate.

I am also concerned that the legislature is going to continue mandating laws on our pension, but is not putting any of \$19 Billion dollars into direct pension reform. If the government is serious about their agenda that MN will be the best place to raise kids, you need the BEST teachers. With the current pension, you will not get this. With bills HF 3294 and SF 3314, you will not get this. The state of MN needs to take a hard look at their educator pensions and needs to put specific dollars toward this instead of asking the teachers to do this for them.

If you decide to lower the Normal Retirement Age (NRA) you also need to lower the penalties for retiring earlier. The penalties are what is causing so much stress for older educators. These penalties need to go away, and you need to support career educators like the old "Rule of 90" had. We cannot expect 64-year-old educators to be at the top of their game and having to crawl on the floor with kindergarteners and breaking up fights in the high school. There needs to be some common sense here.

When teachers are asked from legislators, where should this money come from, it is quite frustrating as we don't know the pockets of dollars that are available. However, if we are collecting taxes on cannabis or sports betting, those would be my top two suggestions as we do not know how these new laws may impact adults and children. You may find we need more educational support due to these new laws.

Sincerely and with respect,
Kimberly Husfeldt
MN School Psychologist