

From: [Amy Johnson](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 7:53:52 PM

After I submitted the google form, I sent this to my work email and some colleagues. You can see the timestamp Tuesday May 2nd at 8:46 pm.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amy Johnson <Amy.Johnson@isd624.org>
Date: Tue, May 2, 2023 at 8:46 PM
Subject:
To: Amy Johnson <Amy.Johnson@isd624.org>

I've worked as a school social worker for the last 28 years in the public school system. As a social worker I've been forced to pay into my TRA pension. It wasn't until the last couple of years that I realized the disparity between my pension and my colleagues in Tier I. The large disparity in penalties is not only unfair but changes my ability to retire when I am ready to go. Tier II educators pay in more than their Tier I colleagues and receive significantly less money if retiring before the NRA of 66.

As a school social worker I have had to deal with the ever increasing behavior and mental health issues, substance use, abuse, neglect, pregnancy, suicide, murder and lack of resources to help our students get an education. Getting hit, kicked and injured by the students I care so much about while helping them to develop appropriate skills to function with other students and staff. The cost of hearing the trauma our students deal with has taken its toll. I've watched my colleagues reach out more needing resources for themselves, especially their mental health. The increased anxiety, depression and stress related to their profession have significantly increased. The demands for educators have increased while resources have decreased. I've had staff who has talked about or attempted suicide in part due to the ever increasing demands in their profession. You know, a profession society says is valued and important but the actions and demands on educators shows a different story. We have settled our entire careers for less, and accepted it because we love our students and our profession.

I am asking you all to PLEASE fix the disparity with our pensions. We need your to support with HF3294/SF3314 but also to reduce penalties for the current 62/30 by 2 years (60/30) and grandfathering in every Tier II teacher who retired to get their penalties reduced. NOW is the time to show us we are valued and deserve the pension we funded like our Tier I colleagues.

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