

From: [Mollie A. Haspert](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Jan 11 LCPR Meeting Testimony
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 10:51:12 AM

Chair Her and LCPR Leadership,

I'm writing today, ahead of Thursday's LCPR meeting to testify in favor of passing a favorable educator pension reform bill that makes up for decades of chronic underfunding. I'm asking you to allow career teachers like me the opportunity to retire with dignity, after devoting our entire lives to the education profession.

There is a grassroots group of 19k+ educators who are not going away until pension reform for Tier II educators is realized. Sadly, in the last couple of years we're just learning exactly how bad our pensions are, compared to the pensions of our Tier 1 colleagues. The TRA Board made life altering decisions on the backs of Tier II teachers, that keep us in the classroom 10 years longer than Tier 1 educators or we incur crushing penalties on OUR money. This is unacceptable and unsustainable. Too this pension is mandated. We had no choice but to contribute. And, the penalties if we retire "early?" Outrageous.

I started teaching in 1995 in Minneapolis. 29 years later I'm still here, at the same high school. Teaching today is 100x harder than it was in 1995. We have given decades to this profession. Our days are spent being micromanaged, criticized and disrespected. And our current pension option? Equally disrespectful.

Early on, we were told the Rule of 90 would be back. Today, we are fighting for a fair pension; an equitable pension with our Tier I peers. How did we get here? And why?

Lastly, women make up approximately 75% of the education workforce in MN. To me this looks like a civil rights issue. With police, fire and judges being more male dominated, with undeniably better pensions. It is now OUR time.

I'm asking YOU to do your part in passing a fair and equitable pension for Tier II educators. We're relying on you.

Mollie Haspert
29 year, 52 year old MPS Teacher