

From: [Reid Bordson-Nolle](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Testimony for 2/12 LCPR
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:08:41 PM

Hello,

I would like to share a scenario for people in positions of decision making power to consider in regards to fixing the pension situation for Tier 2 Minnesota teachers. My situation is not unique. Anyone my age who started teaching right out of college has a lot of decisions to make based on the reality in which we find ourselves.

It seems like part of the holdup to something better as a long term pension solution is keeping people in the field for more years - for multiple reasons.

But this is my perspective right now. I am 46 years old with 24 years of teaching under my belt. I started right out of college at age 22. If I was looking at 10-12 more years of service, I could see myself sticking this out through age 56-58 with 34-36 total years of teaching service. Even though the job becomes exponentially more difficult every year, I could see myself sticking with it. However, knowing I might need to grind it out for 20 more years has me thinking about making a career pivot sometime sooner. I won't be teaching my 44th year, turning 66, twenty years from now. There is no way! This doesn't feel anything close to sustainable.

It's got me thinking about a career change sooner than later and will likely push me out earlier than I would be if the pension situation became even remotely similar to that of our neighboring states. With the scenario laid out in front of me at this moment, it feels like a much smarter life-decision to leave teaching soon, with enough time to pivot to a different career in a new field. I'd like to keep teaching and finish out a career that has been very rewarding and has included me helping so many children to learn and grow. Looking at the bigger picture, though, I just don't know if that's the best decision for myself and my family if that means continuing all the way to age 66. When I started in this career 24 years ago, I understood that the previous Pension System came to an end for anyone hired after 1989. It always seemed, however, that people in the field thought a new system would be created that was not so drastically different from the previous one. As it turns out, we are all still waiting, and something needs to be done!

How can we be so far off from what all our neighboring states have for a pension system and timeline in their states for teachers in our state who have dedicated so much of their lives to Minnesota's students?

Sincerely,
Reid Bordson-Nolle
24 Years of Teaching in Minnesota

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Reid Bordson-Nolle