

From: [Sara Dahl-Wyland](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for LCPR 2/12 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7:34:07 AM

Good morning Representative Her and committee,

My name is Sarah Dahl-Wyland. I am 46 years old, I am a resident of District 64A and I have taught high school in Bloomington Public Schools for 24 years. When I started teaching in 1999, I could have never imagined how much more complicated my job and workload would be today compared to then or even compared to 5 years ago. Carrying the weight and workload of a public high school teacher for another 20 years without pension reform is unthinkable to me.

Teaching for 44 years to age 65 or 66 to earn what my own father earned as a fully retired Minnesota public school teacher under the Rule of 90 is also unthinkable to me. It feels like TRA and education leaders in Minnesota believe mid career teachers like myself are trapped, and they would rather keep us trapped in an unfair system to staff classrooms because they know fewer younger people are entering education these days to replace us.

This strategy will backfire, as Gen X teachers like myself are not going to sacrifice the next 20 years of our health and family lives to solve the problems of teacher shortages and an unfair pension system. It will force me to look for something else while delaying drawing my pension. Not solving the pension problems in Minnesota will also add to our difficulty to hire new teachers. It shouldn't have to be like this, and I urge the committee to support true pension reform that brings us in line with surrounding states and the contract that was made with previous generations of teachers like my father. Thank you.