

From: [luis millan](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Pension Reform
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 10:29:42 PM

To the Legislative Committee on Pension Reform,

My name is Luis Millan and I am a teacher at Edina High School. I have been teaching since 1989. This is my 35th year of teaching. I am a "Tier 2" educator.

I am writing to express my concern regarding the penalties imposed on educators under age 62. These penalties are extremely high and are compounded each year for "early" retirement. Because the penalties are extreme and the financial loss of penalties is taken from the employees' own contributions, educators cannot afford to retire.

My membership in TRA was not optional. Teachers are mandated to contribute 7.75% of their paycheck to the TRA. Soon, we will be contributing 8%. Minnesota's contribution is higher than that of surrounding states despite the fact that these states have Rules which allow teachers to retire earlier and with lower penalties. Tier 2 educators have contributed more to the pension system and yet we receive fewer benefits. Also, the majority of the employer contribution (currently 8.75%) is going to fund the Tier 1 pensions. It is not going towards the Tier 2 pensions.

It is time for pension reform and reduction of penalties for retiring before age 62 or 65. Minnesota educators want change. Now is the time.

Thank you,
Luis Millan
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