

From: [Tatiana O'Donnell](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Pension reform
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:40:19 AM

My name is Tatiana O'Donnell and I have been an educator since 1995, currently teaching 5th grade in the Robbinsdale Area School district. I have been teaching for nearly 29 years.

I am writing asking for your support of TRA pension reform for Tier II educators by improving Tier II pension benefits, especially reducing penalties. Minnesota educators deserve a fair pension. We have tried to work with the TRA Board. We have contacted legislators. We have worked hard through COVID. We continue to work with the effects of COVID-including students with extreme mental health issues and students with significant gaps in learning. Those of us hired in 1989 are feeling frustrated, dejected and ignored. Restoring the rights of post July 1, 1989 hires should be a top priority. Teachers who have taught for 30 -35 + years should be able to retire without the heavy penalties that are currently in place. We are contributing more to TRA than any group of educators before us. It is unreasonable to expect people to continue working in classrooms in positions that are physically, emotionally and mentally taxing until we are in our 60s. This job is **not** sustainable for people in their 60s.

I am asking for the following:

- *Increase TRA funding by state/employers
- *Reduce penalties to 3%
- *Create a career rule of 60 and 30
- *Restore deferred augmentation

Thank you for your leadership and for giving this issue the attention it deserves. It is time for serious action. Minnesota educators deserve it.

Respectfully,

Tatiana O'Donnell
Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School
New Hope, MN

--

T. O'Donnell