

From: [Ostergaard, David](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Written testimony, Feb. 12, 2024, LCPR meeting
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:26:56 PM

Ms. Diesslin,

I'm 58 years old and in my 34th year of teaching. I have taught Special Education, Industrial Tech, Math, Physical Education and Health. I have taught elementary, middle school and high school. I have coached football, volleyball, girls and boys basketball and baseball during my teaching career.

I grew up the son of a teacher. We had 5 kids and not a lot of money. I knew I wouldn't get rich being a teacher but I liked working with kids and I felt the early retirement rule of 90 provided was worth the smaller paychecks.

During the first 12 years of my career I had many opportunities to go into the private sector. Each time I would ask my union about the rule of 90 situation and was reassured it was only temporary and would be fixed as soon as we had a "blue trifecta". This has not been the case.

Many of my teaching friends, that started just months before me are now enjoying retirement. Instead of being retired, I have 7 years remaining. If family health history is an indicator, I'll have a year of retirement before I die. I have a 5 year old granddaughter that is my world. It hurts me that I can't be the grampa to go on field trips or volunteer at her school.

COVID took a lot out of me. Workloads have increased and being accessible 24/7 via e-mail and Schoology has taken its toll. Two years ago we had two guns brought into our school. The first was in a backpack I kept tossing to the side in our locker room.

I'm burnt out. I don't have the energy it takes to do the job I'm expecting myself to do. Please do something about the inequitable pensions tier II teachers are forced to take without having any say in the pension decisions that were made in the past.

Thank you for your time,

Dave Ostergaard