

From: [Melinda Wetteland](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: Written Testimony
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:26:48 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Dear Chair Her and LCPR Committee,

My name is Melinda Wetteland and I am a teacher at St Francis Area Schools. I am 51 years old and in my 30th year of teaching high school. These last few years I have been paying close attention to my pension and am devastated by the disparity of the 2 tiers and the pension penalties I would receive if I don't teach until I am 65 years old.

I started teaching at age 22 and it is disheartening to know that I would have to spend 43 years teaching in the classroom to receive full benefits. Because the rule of 90 doesn't exist for me, I would qualify for the rule of **108**. This is NOT acceptable. The following are the realities Tier 2 teachers currently face.

*Regardless of years of service, educators must wait to retire because Tier II educators do not have a Rule.

*Tier II educators are handcuffed to their job given the high retirement age.

*MN is atypical compared to surrounding states. Most states have a career rule. A career rule is common practice in teacher pension system.

When comparing apples to apples of surrounding states, you will see that the other states have a career rule. Please fight for funding to make meaningful reform happen this session. All teachers deserve to retire with dignity.



Sincerely,
Melinda Wetteland
Anoka
Teacher 30 years
St. Francis Area Schools

Sent from my iPhone