

April 13, 2026

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN
State Capitol Building, Room G15

Monica Byron
President

Marty Fridgen
Vice President

Ryan Fiereck
Secretary-Treasurer

Carrie Lucking
Executive Director

Dear members of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement,

On behalf of Education Minnesota, the state's largest union representing over 84,000 educators, we are writing to express our support for S.F. 4860/H.F. 4812.

At Education Minnesota, we believe that securing a sustainable retirement for dedicated educators should be a top priority for this commission. Teacher pensions are no longer the effective tool for recruitment and retention that they once were. As state leaders on this issue, it is crucial that you take action to address this challenge and ensure that teachers receive the financial security they deserve in retirement.

In 2025, the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement passed meaningful improvements to TRA pensions. While we applaud this progress, because St. Paul teachers are in a separate fund, these changes did not affect them. This legislation would provide funding for the SPTRFA pension to increase the COLA to 1.5% and decrease the employee contribution from 9% to 8%.

As one of the state's largest school districts, it is important that St. Paul is able to recruit and retain talented educators. To achieve this, the state must increase investment in SPTRFA pensions by increasing the COLA to 1.5% and decreasing the employee contribution to 8%. It's time the state paid its fair share into teacher pensions, including SPTRFA.


Please support S.F. 4860/H.F. 4812 today.

Sincerely,



Monica Byron, president

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Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. 



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