

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Henry Donnelly <henry.donnelly@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 4:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Henry Donnelly  
**Subject:** Support for Rule of 90 Pension Legislation (2023-H 5092 / 2023-S 86)

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to strongly support the passage of the "Rule of 90" pension legislation, 2023-H 5092 and 2023-S 86.

I have dedicated 28 years of my career as a public computer science teacher/school counselor, helping students prepare for college and their futures. Like many educators, I entered this profession with the understanding that while salaries may not match those in the private sector, the pension system would provide a stable and fair retirement after decades of service. Over time, however—particularly following the 2011 pension changes—that expectation has shifted significantly.

Under current rules, many educators like myself must work until age 67 or meet the "Rule of 95" to retire without penalty. This places a heavy burden on long-serving public employees who have already contributed substantially toward their pensions. In many cases, including my own, we are effectively funding the majority of our own retirement through increased employee contributions.

The proposed "Rule of 90" would provide a reasonable and much-needed adjustment. Allowing retirement at age 60 with 30 years of service restores a level of fairness and flexibility that is currently lacking. It does not force early retirement, but rather gives experienced professionals the option—something that many private sector employees already have through access to retirement funds beginning at age 59½.

From my perspective inside the education system, this change would also help address a growing workforce issue. Schools are facing increasing challenges with recruitment and retention. Younger educators are hesitant to enter a profession where the retirement benefits have been diminished, and experienced educators are staying longer not out of choice, but out of necessity. Providing a more reasonable retirement pathway would make these careers more attractive and help create opportunities for new educators to enter the field.

Additionally, allowing veteran employees the option to retire can create cost-saving opportunities for districts by opening positions at lower starting salaries, while also bringing in fresh talent.

After nearly three decades in public education, I can say with certainty that this legislation is not about early retirement—it is about fairness, sustainability, and respect for public service.

I respectfully urge you to support and advance this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Henry Donnelly - Providence Public Schools