

Chris O'Brien

From: Jillian DeFusco <jdefusco@times2.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 12:36 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Support for Rule of 90 (H-5092)

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Hello,

My name is Jillian DeFusco and I am a proud Providence teacher. I am writing to you today to voice my support for H-5092, which changes the rule of 95 to the rule of 90.

This rule would match what is happening in the private sector. Private sector employees are able to begin considering retirement at 59 1/2. Why can't we?

Yes, there are a number of staff shortages in education for many reasons, including a teacher shortage and also teacher benefits and lower wages. I truly believe that if a retirement package looks attractive, it may be a good first step in closing the teacher shortage. More people will want to come into this profession. Allowing teachers to consider retirement at 59 1/2 looks attractive to new hires.

Also, there are surely many districts that have primarily top step teachers who are continuing to work well past 59 1/2. This is, of course, financially more expensive than hiring newer teachers at a lower step. Districts will be able to have a more balanced budget when making financial decisions for their schools.

The bottom line is, I know many teachers (including myself) who love their job and pour their entire heart and soul into it each day. I would love to see a day where I am able to consider retirement at 59 1/2.

Thank you for your time.

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