

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Public Hearing, Feb 8th

Hello,

My name is Cindy Atkins, I teach and work at Middlebury Union HS in Middlebury, Vermont. I have been working full time for 34 years, all here at MUHS.

I am very disappointed in our government to think that they plan to make cuts to our teacher pension. I have planned for my retirement for years and my plan was based on the pension that I had been promised. I need to work a few more years, even though I qualify for a full pension now, and these changes will only push me to have to work even longer. People who are close to retiring will not have time to make adjustments, these changes will set their retirement plans back.

Teachers work endless hours to try and meet the demands that our society, communities and governments (state and federal) place on them. This proposal is one that shows a true lack of respect for the work that our educators do. The teacher pension plan should not be on the backs of the teachers, there are ways to fund the pension. This is a decision that will have lasting effects on the quality of our educational system here in Vermont. I plead with you to fully fund the pension as Governor Scott has recommended in his budget and to leave the current plan in place.

Sincerely,

Cindy Atkins

MUHS International Baccalaureate DP Coordinator
MUHS DP Chemistry Teacher