

The Honorable Julie Rosen
Chair, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Rosen and Committee Members,

I'm a current State Trooper and veteran of the United States Marine Corps. I am writing to you in the hopes you support SF2614 and HF2690 for military service purchases for MSRS.

Many veterans come into law enforcement later in life due to their time commitment to service to our country as well as going to college after their service. As a result of that we have significantly lower pension amounts compared to other troopers. For instance, I was hired when I was 27 years old. It would be a great financial help to our families if you allow us to purchase our time we served in the uniformed services. I am biased but I believe hiring veterans who are older and hopefully wiser is a great thing for the State Patrol.

Unfortunately, we live in very divided times and I hope you will take this opportunity to show unity for something I hope everyone would agree with and be able to get behind. You will be supporting veterans and law enforcement officers with this legislation.

There was a pension reform bill that passed in 2019 where PERA members/veterans could purchase their military time and my understanding is that it was an oversight not to have included MSRS into that bill.

It's becoming competitive for agencies to hire police officers because many people don't want to do this job anymore. The State Patrol is at a disadvantage in this regard when it comes to veterans who could purchase their service time with PERA.

Thank-you in advance for your consideration of support.

Sincerely,

James Kotten