Resolution
PENSION REFORM AND REPSPECTABLE RETIREMENT

WHEREAS: The state of Minnesota provides pensions to almost a million current and past public employees; and

WHEREAS: Pensions are a crucial tool to reduce poverty among retired Minnesotans across differences in race, gender, educational attainment, and ZIP code; and

WHEREAS: Public workers are represented by several Minnesota AFL-CIO affiliates, including Education Minnesota, AFSCME 65, AFSCME 5, Teamsters 320, and SEIU 284; and

WHEREAS: Pensions and other benefits have historically allowed public employers to be competitive with the private market in hiring and retaining employees; and

WHEREAS: Recent legislation has evidenced renewed interest in Minnesota in ensuring that folks can retire at an earlier age, keeping with the societal changes and pressure workers endure on the job; and

WHEREAS: Prior to 1989, public employees within Minnesota were allowed to retire with dignity and respect at an earlier age based upon their years of service under the "Rule of 90", and have since lost many benefits available in earlier pension plans, while paying a historically high contribution rate; and

WHEREAS: The Legislature has made steps towards improving educator pensions by lowering the normal age of retirement in the Teachers Retirement Association and St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association from age 66 to age 65; and

WHEREAS: It is now up to the 2025-2026 Legislature to ensure public sector workers have equitable access to a respectable retirement; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That Minnesota public-sector workers deserve to retire with dignity with respectable pensions that offer flexibility, reduced penalties and cost of living adjustments; and be it further

RESOLVED: That improving public-sector worker pensions and lowering the retirement age is in the best interest of the communities of Minnesota by ensuring a high-quality workforce; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Minnesota should significantly increase its investment in public pensions.