



Representative Cheryl Youakim
Chair, House Education Policy Committee
591 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

February 12, 2019

Chair Youakim and Committee Members,

On behalf of Minnesota Farm Bureau and its nearly 30,000 members that make up our grassroots, general farm organization, we are writing to express our concern with H.F. 116 which would allow authorizing school districts to renew expiring referendums by action of the school board without a vote by the people residing in the school district.

Minnesota Farm Bureau supports investing in education but it needs to be an open and transparent process that is ultimately decided upon by the voters. Our organization has committed to improving rural communities, especially educational opportunities for our students. However, referendums should come back to the members of the school district for a vote after it expires. We will continue to work with members of the legislature on addressing school funding, but do not feel that H.F. 116, as introduced, is the proper way to advance that goal.

We look forward to continuing conversations with the bill authors and other stakeholders on this issue, but urge the Committee to not move this bill as introduced forward.

Sincerely,

Kevin Paap
President
Minnesota Farm Bureau

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