

House Education Finance Committee,

I am a parent of 3 students who live in St. Michael, a "property poor" community. As a result of where we live, a larger financial burden on taxpayers to fund school operating levies and bond referendums. Our district has failed to pass two separate operating referendums in the past two years.

With no revenue from operating referendums our district has been through many, many millions in budget cuts, eliminating over 70 staff members, academic programs, and services. This has led to a decline in the educational experience for my children and their peers as class sizes reach unsustainable levels.

My husband and I are constantly reevaluating and trying to determine how best to provide our children with the education they deserve despite where they live. We are facing the reality that if we continue to attend the school district where we live they will receive an education inferior to those of their peers throughout the state. As a parent that's a tough pill to swallow.

I encourage you to support HF1271 and HF1396 to work towards allowing every student, regardless of where they live, an equal educational experience.

Elyse Shorez