

Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Taylor Klemmensen, and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

Having this bill made to law would make an incredible difference for our schools—we would be able to save staff members (we lost 70 last year and are looking at additional cuts this year), keep many of our wonderful programs in place, and make future levies much, much more affordable for our community members. St. Michael is a property poor district, which makes the idea of passing a levy very difficult. The impact these dollars could have to relieve some of that financial burden on our taxpayers would be an incredible step in the process of passing levies in the future and retaining our staff and students.

STMA is a wonderful community, and has been so well known for our schools.

My family is new to our district- we moved here specifically for the schools, and will have three little ones in the district. Our oldest daughter will be attending kindergarten next year, and I am concerned about the class sizes in particular, as I am a former kindergarten educator and I know just how much class sizes matter for those little ones! I am also deeply concerned about our staff retention and making sure we are taking care of our teachers, admin, and other staff members. Showing them just how important they are by providing some sort of relief and saving jobs, would absolutely mean the world to them.

I ask that you would please use this as an opportunity to show your support for the students and staff in our district.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote **YES** on HF3224.

Sincerely, Taylor Klemmensen  
St. Michael, MN  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Melissa Altschuland I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

My husband and I chose to move to St Michael 2 years ago because of the incredible school district. We were excited for our 3 boys to be part of this great community and receive stellar education from the wonderful teachers in the district. Since our move, things have changed drastically in the schools due to budget cuts and they will only get worse without your help! Please vote yes for HF4224. Our children need to see school with smaller class sizes, we need to keep advanced classes for children, we need to support special ed services and we must have extracurricular activities such as art programs and sports. All of these things are threatened currently. I want to feel confident going into the next school year. And, I want to ensure we keep these amazing teachers and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,

Melissa Altschul

St Micheal, MN

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

Our names are Matt and Tess Martin and we are asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

Due to budget issues we have recently seen 70 staff members cut, class sizes increase, and programming that is no longer available to our kids. Providing this tax relief would mean a lot to my community as the cost of living (gas, groceries, etc.) continues to increase as do our taxes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,

Matt & Tess Martin  
St. Michael, MN  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Joanna Bugbee and I am asking you to support HF3224, a bill that will provide relief for tax payers and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

Our district is currently struggling with funding and it has had a negative impact on our students (my children) and our educators. Last year our district had to cut 70 talented educators, class sizes are increasing and programming is being cut. Our students deserve better. We have an amazing community and need your help to make sure our students get the education they deserve.

Thank you for your support.

Please vote YES on HF3224.

Best,  
Joanna Bugbee  
St Michael, MN  
St. Michael - Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Sarah and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

My daughter started kindergarten this year. We moved to the STMA school district last year because of the great reviews. What I didn't realize is STMA had to cut 70 teachers last year. This took classroom sizes for Kindergarten from 18 to 26. To make matters worse, we recently had a failed voter approved levy which now puts another 60-70 staff up for cuts next year. They are predicting this will put k-8 classroom sizes between 35-45. After the last two years of COVID, this is the last thing our teachers and students need. Staff is already stretched so thin and this will make it even more difficult for them to connect with their students. Can you imagine 35 kids in Kindergarten with limited help due to cuts? My daughter struggles already and I fear this would have her fall even more behind. She is also part of a reading program which I know could be cut due to funding.

The reason our levy didn't pass is not because our community doesn't value our school district but because of the tax burden that would fall on taxpayers. STMA is one of the least funded school districts in the state and since

we don't have a lot of businesses to help with the tax burden it falls on the residential tax payers. It is a heavy tax burden, for us personally the levy would have added roughly \$1600 to our yearly property taxes. That would have been a 20% increase. That is a lot for our community to be asked to pay.

I will always stand with the great educators/staff/students in the STMA School District. I am asking you to do the same thing, please support HF3224.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Sarah Lenton  
2317 Kester Ave NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Ryan Klemmensen, and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

Having this bill made to law would make an incredible difference for our schools here in St. Michael as well as many schools and communities across the state. As you may be aware our district (St. Michael) is a property poor district, which makes the idea of passing a levy very difficult as the tax burden on individual residents can be significant. The impact these dollars could have to relieve some of that financial burden on our taxpayers would be an incredible step in the process of passing levies in the future and retaining our staff and students.

I ask that you would please use this as an opportunity to show your support for the students and staff in our district by voting YES on HF3224.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Klemmensen

St. Michael, MN  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is JuanMa Salguero and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

Me and my family moved to Albertville two years ago, after renting a townhome in Brooklyn Park for 6 years and saving enough money to purchase our first home. Among the determining factors to choose this location were the glowing reviews that this school district has. I have 3 sons, all under the age of 10, and a girl on the way (we're so excited about that!). I came with the idea of giving just as much (or more) than what I'm getting. I have already volunteered to coach my sons' soccer teams for the local soccer organization (STMA United) and support different programs, such as SOAR Arts (theater) and small business owners.

I was appalled to learn that our district is among the lowest funded, and even more appalled when the levy failed last November. I can't fathom the idea of losing 70 staff members who have been cut (so far), the increasing class sizes (my sons have 26 and 30 classmates, respectively), and programing that might no longer be available, such as the challenge courses for gifted students, which one of my sons is a part of. I love my new house, my new neighborhood and community, and am willing to help as much as possible to make it grow and blossom. But we also need help from our representatives in the government.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,

JuanMa and Lusel Salguero  
Albertville, Minnesota  
St. Michael- Albertville School Distric

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Rose Thunder and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

Our school district has been impacted with budget cuts and we need your help with this bill. 70 staff members who have been cut, the class sizes, and some programs are no longer available. My son is on an IEP and this past trimester he lost two para-professionals from two of his classes. That extra set of eyes and hands were important to his learning but now they are gone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,  
Rose Thunder  
St. Michael, MN  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Trevor Vossen and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

I spent countless hours this past fall at events, stuffing mail boxes, phone banking to try to get our levy passed in St. Michael. We are a very large district in terms of our student body, but we are a very property POOR district. Our TAX capacity for our district is tiny when compared to other districts of our size across the state. We lack the business footprint that other districts of our size have in place which adversely effects our individual tax payers. Where Wayzata, Hopkins, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Maple Grove, Monticello, Elk River, Rogers, Lakeville, etc...can rely on their levy dollars to be spread out across a much larger Taxable area, we cannot. Our individual tax payers are forced to cover a much higher percentage of the levy burden. The per Pupil \$\$ we were asking for was in line with SO many other districts, but the amount each household was due to pay was double to triple other similar districts across the state.

Our once prominent district has been paying the price (50+ teachers let go after last year)more to be let go this year. Way fewer electives and advanced classed offered. So many districts have I-pads/chromebooks for all students. We have ZERO. We are falling behind yet paying has high as anyone in terms of taxes. Please please support HF 3224. I'm a father of 4 girls who deserve the same opportunities in public school as every other kid in the STATE HF3224 will go a long ways in helping property poor districts like STMA. Please help!

Trevor Vossen  
St. Michael Resident  
612-802-5710

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Brian Lenzen and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota. Here in St Michael/Albertville 70 staff members have been cut, the class sizes are getting way too big for our kids, and we had to cut programing that is no longer available for them. All of this has made a huge impact in our school district and especially the kids. This has been a huge tax burden on many of us and with this bill to pass it would be a huge tax relief for my family and the school district. My two sons have many years

left in this school district and we moved here for the academics, which we are saddened they won't have all the necessary classes for them to thrive after high school. Both my boys have talked to my wife and I and said it's getting harder to get that help from the teachers because they are so overwhelmed with so many students in class. It never never was like this.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,

Brian Lenzen

St Michael, MN

St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Ria Grossinger and I am asking for your support if HF3224. This is a bill that would provide much needed relief for the tax payers in my community and provide additional school revenue options across the state. I have watched our district champion this bill because the consequences of not seeing it to fruition would devastate our students, school staff, our district as a whole, and those that live here in STMA. We take a lot of pride in our schools and community in this area and seeing the funding for our school not meet equitable standards and how this impacts our property taxes has been difficult and often feels unfair to the very people who deserve it most: our students. I know as a single mother to four school aged kids that the quality of education here in St. Michael/Albertville is top notch...but so are property taxes. Our students used to have smaller class sizes, reliable and safe bus transportation (now students are being crowded into seats and sometimes even crouching in the aisle), more access to sports and activities, higher quality field trips and school functions, etc. Within the last year, I have witnessed class sizes jumping from 21 students to 36, parent teacher conferences being pared down to a 10 minute meeting and only if necessary in some instances due to a lack of time to accommodate so many students/families, sports and extra curriculars being cut, 70 valuable and cherished staff members being cut which created an instant negative impact on the students, and so much more. The most impactful of these has been the releasing of 70 staff members whom were all very much needed in their positions. This led to overcrowding in classrooms, some teachers having to be moved to teach areas that they never had to previously, teachers being asked to give up their prep time in order to teach another classroom, teachers reporting that the mental and emotional well-being of the staff has diminished drastically to the point of teachers gathering during the moments they can to lend an ear or shoulder to cry on to their fellow teachers who feel overwhelmed, undervalued, unprepared, and downright forgotten. With regards to our property taxes increasing to attempt to fill in the gap, it is

a mounting battle. I can choose to pay for the increasing cost of utilities, gas, groceries, or my property taxes but not all of the above. My kids are established in their schools and within their neighborhood and I dread the day I will have to break the news to them that they are no longer going to be able to attend their schools because we can't afford to live in the district any longer. To compound my frustration is my divorce decree allowing me reprieve from an abusive marriage but requiring me to continue to maintain residence within the district. I know I am not alone in having to carry the burden of maintaining the primary residence for the sake of children of divorce. If I need to hold down 2-3 jobs as I have been to allow my kids to continue living and going to school in our community, I would like their school experience to be of the caliber they had previous to this year and that means we need equal funding. Please pass HF3224. Thank you.

Ria Grossinger  
Office Manager  
(763)497-1515  
riagrossinger@edinarealty.com  
Zachman Group  
Edina Realty

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,  
My name is Melissa Petite and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

We have three daughters in the district (grades 11th, 9th and 5th) who would benefit immensely if this bill passes. In STMA we are almost dead last for funding and have failed to get a voter approved levy passed. My 11th grader would benefit from mental health resources that the district currently can't afford. My 9th grader is at the begging of her high school career and is now facing her two passions of art and theater being cut due to budget and staffing. All three of them are in ridiculously enormous class sizes that is affecting their ability to learn and thrive.

If this bill passes we have a chance to reduce class sizes, offer engaging courses and provide mental health resources. This would also give the STMA community a better chance of getting a levy passed since it would help reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Please print and include my email in member packets.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Petite  
11790 47th Cir Ne  
St Michael, MN 55376  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Brad Cedergren, and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

I am a Retired Combat Veteran, Business Owner, Adjutant of the American Legion Post 567, and a Middle School Football Coach, and have 4 children in the STMA School District. 3 of my children have been in High Potential classes and one in Kindergarten with the potential of being in High Potential classes. All my children are active in youth sports. I also have many friends and neighbors who are employed with the STMA School District. All these programs are at risk of being eliminated along with several jobs within the district. We are already experiencing large class sizes and are possibly looking at even more students per class. Also having 4 children, along with the record rise in inflation, and growing tax burden, has put a lot of pressure on my family just to make ends meet.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,  
Brad Cedergren  
Albertville, MN  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Tomas Stubbe and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota. Me and my wife made the decision to move to the city of St. Michael less than a year ago. We loved the city, the community, and most of all, because of the excellent school district. We have two small children that are just starting school and wanted to pick the best environment for them to grow and succeed. However, just months after moving here we were made aware of the large funding issue facing the STMA school district.

I am extremely concerned with the increased class sizes, and how this will impact my children's education in the future. One of my children also qualifies for special services and is on an Individualized education program (IEP). I am very concerned how the budget/funding issues will impact the quality of resources/services in the future.

If you could please print and share my email in member packets it would be appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,  
Tomas Stubbe

St. Michael, MN  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Sara Fiskum and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota. Me and my husband made the decision to move to the city of St. Michael less than a year ago. We loved the city, the community, and most of all, because of the excellent school district. We have two small children that are just starting school and wanted to pick the best environment for them to grow and succeed. However, just months after moving here we were made aware of the large funding issue facing the STMA school district.

I am extremely concerned with the increased class sizes, and how this will impact my children's education in the future. One of my children also qualifies for special services and is on an Individualized education program (IEP). I am very concerned how the budget/funding issues will impact the quality of resources/services in the future.

If you could please print and share my email in member packets it would be appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,  
Sara Fiskum  
St. Michael, MN  
St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Joel Korte and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota. I reside in St. Michael and have been devastated to see the upcoming consequences in our district, especially as it pertains to loss of staff and increased class sizes.

Please vote yes on HF3224.

Cordially,

Joel Korte  
President // Chase Bliss Audio  
[www.chaseblissaudio.com](http://www.chaseblissaudio.com)

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Cristen Purdy, and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers and additional school revenues options across MN.

My 4th grade daughter has 34 kids in her class, that's insane, how can you expect a teacher to be able to teach all of them well. Teachers have been cut, other staff has been cut and we can't pay our paras, specifically special ed, enough to want to stick around. Arts programs will suffer if we don't get the proper funding we need and deserve. Our district needs these extra programs to provide various options to our kids so they can be well rounded and so we can stay competitive. The tax burden the residential homeowner is expected to carry in our district will tax people out of their homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224

Sincerely,  
Cristen Purdy, MN  
St. Michael-Albertville School District

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Good afternoon,

Today, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts, and pleas for your support of and a YES vote on HF3224. This bill will impact students and families in the St. Michael-Albertville School District, and around the state and provide much needed relief.

Tomorrow, you have the opportunity to correct a wrong that has been happening for far too long.

My husband and I grew up in Hopkins and Minnetonka and moved to St Michael 12 years ago when we started a family. We proudly run a small business in St Michael and have two boys in the STMA school system. One of the main reasons we moved to St Michael was the affordability of housing, the great schools and small-town feel. Our sons are currently in 6th and 4th grade. They participate in baseball, football, band and the arts. They love their teachers and school staff, as do my husband and I.

This last fall, our community, unable to bear the increase in taxes along with the other economic difficulties, failed to pass a levy for our schools.

Further, the cost of an operating levy costs the parents of students across Minnesota very different amounts of money for the same amount of revenue based on the commercial and industrial development in our towns. For example, for a \$1,919 per pupil operating levy, STMA taxpayers would pay \$1,130/year while taxpayers in a neighboring district would pay \$291/year. This is \$839 more for the same amount of revenue.

The Covid-19 impacts to our district have not been small. We have lost AMAZING teachers due to budget cuts already. Now, due to the failed Levy, we will most likely lose many more AMAZING teachers that live, work, and support our community.

The class sizes have increased up to 40% already, straining the time, and resources for every single child in our school district. Every single one.

Now that the Levy has failed, we risk losing Middle School extra curriculums, and arts. This will absolutely be devastating to my kids. My kids, and many others, are struggling mentally with all the craziness of this world right now. They need outlets!

Yet again, the rug will be pulled out from under them, limiting their connections and opportunities to heal.

STMA receives significantly less funding than other school districts in Minnesota. We currently rank 325 out of 327 in Minnesota School Districts in state per pupil revenue. In fact, STMA students receive \$8,073 per pupil unit compared to the state average of \$9,499, which is \$1,426 or 15% less per pupil. This means fewer opportunities for our children including less art, fewer advanced classes, less music, fewer world languages, fewer mental health services, fewer intervention services, and so much more. That is not equitable nor is it fair.

HF3224 has the opportunity to soften these impacts.

Thank you for your time and for advocating for all Minnesota students.

I urge you to take actions to make this right for the children, teachers and families around the state and in STMA!

Respectfully,

Courtney Wiest  
St. Michael, MN  
St. Michael-Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Mary Behn and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

This bill will benefit our district in a multitude of ways including an increase in Local Option Revenue and Long-Term Facility Maintenance district revenue. We are in extreme need of financial support. I have three children attending STMA schools in grade 3, 5, and 7. My third grader is in a class of 33 students due to significant teacher cuts last year. There are so many desks in the room the teacher does not have room

for a rug to gather the kids for morning meetings, stories and other classroom activities. She also is in the high potential program for reading and math and this program is at risk to be eliminated as our district plans to cut another ~1.3 million dollars for the next school year.

My two middle schoolers are also experiencing very high class sizes and it makes it very hard for the teachers to connect with all the kids in the way they deserve. My daughter is in a social studies class with 37 kids. The room is so full of desks it makes it very hard to even move around the room. It is hard to imagine these classes any larger than what they currently are. One of the wonderful offerings at our middle schools is the opportunity for all kids to participate in after school athletics and clubs with a reasonable fee. With the current task of cutting ~1.3 million dollars from the budget this is programming that is at risk for being cut. These kids benefit so much from the after school opportunities and it will be a shame to see them go away.

Our community tried to pass an operating levy this past fall without success. I advocated fiercely for this but it was just too big of an ask for our community with the current situation in our country. Bill HF3224 would provide significant equalization on a voter approved operating levy lessening the burden on our taxpayers. There is discussion to bring a new version of the operating levy to a vote again this fall and this would help voters move to a "yes" vote.

It is unfortunate that our district is near the bottom of the list for per pupil funding in the state of Minnesota. It is starting to negatively impact all of our students and staff. Bill HF3224 would positively impact the STMA School District. Your support of this bill and advocacy to the tax/education committee would be greatly appreciated by the entire community. Our children and their education really are the roots of the success we hope for in our country.

Thank you for your time and considering Bill HF3224.

Sincerely,

Mary Behn  
St. Michael, MN

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Hi,

I'm a homeowner and parent in STMA district and I ask that you encourage all participants voting on HF3224 to vote yes.

We have been personally impacted by reduced teachers and larger class sizes. We hope to see more equitable funding going forward.

Thanks in advance for passing this along to those voting on this bill.

Kathleen Kuhnly

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Denette Moser and I am asking for your support of HF3224, a bill that would provide relief for tax payers, and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

My family moved to STMA for the school district and our children's education, and would like the STMA school district to prosper instead of taking drastic cuts.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HF3224.

Sincerely,

Denette Moser

St. Michael- Albertville School District

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Dear Chair Youakim and Members,

My name is Mark Behn and I am asking for your support of HF3224, which is a bill that would provide relief for taxpayers and additional school revenue options across Minnesota.

I have three children attending STMA ISD 885 schools in grades 3 through 7th. Our previously financially strong district was devastated by added costs and disproportionate funding during the period of COVID-19. The district cut \$4.4 million which included approximately 70 staff members at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. My third grader's class size ballooned from the mid 20s to the low to mid 30s now in the 2021-2022 school year. Class size is directly related to student outcomes. Students can't receive the same quality education in class sizes like this. I highly encourage you to be a substitute teacher for a day or week to fully comprehend the effect of this. Similarly, my two middle schoolers are also experiencing very high class sizes. My daughter is in a social studies class with 37 kids! The room is so full of desks it makes it very hard to even move around the room. This makes it difficult for the teachers to connect with all the kids and ensure they get the instruction they need.

The district proposed an operating levy this past fall to help address the financial situation. I and others advocated fiercely for this, but it was just too big of an ask for our community with the current situation in our country. My family alone would have had to pay nearly \$900 a year for a house that is somewhere in the middle of home values in my community. That is not an insignificant amount for my family. Bill HF3224 would provide significant equalization on a voter approved operating levy lessening the burden

on our taxpayers. There is discussion to bring a new version of the operating levy to a vote again this fall and this would help voters move to a "yes" vote.

Currently, my district is discussing cutting another \$1.3 million and raising the fees for clubs and activities. A program likely to be cut is the math and reading high potential program which my 3rd grader is a part of and thrives in. I'd have to say that the current fee levels are already a significant amount and so increasing this further will create even more inequity in regards to which students can participate based on their family's financial situation.

It is unfortunate that our district is near the bottom of the list for per pupil funding in the state of Minnesota. It is starting to negatively impact all of our students and staff. Bill HF3224 would positively impact the STMA School District, ISD 885. Our children, and especially their education, are the future potential of this state and country. Your support of this bill and advocacy to the tax/education committee would be greatly appreciated by me, my family, and the entire STMA community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote YES on HF3224.

Mark Behn