

Chair Heinert and Committee Members

My name is Leslie Bieber, and I am the Superintendent of Alexander Public School District. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1381, particularly its provision to adjust property tax relief from 75% to 50%.

At the local level, this proposed change has the potential to provide significant benefits to constituents in our district. By reducing the percentage of revenue deducted for property tax relief, our district would be able to rely on fewer mills to fund critical areas such as our capital projects. This adjustment would allow us to redirect dollars to offset the mills previously needed from local taxpayers, reducing the financial burden on our community while still supporting essential school functions.

I have been in Alexander for 12 years now and I have been in construction for all 12 years. It started with teacher housing, our district owns 14 homes that we rent to staff. We renovated the existing building and expanded in 2017. In 2019, the district built a Vo-Ag building. In 2020, we expanded our football program from a 6 man field to a 9 man field. We are currently in our second major expansion of 10 classrooms and more office space.

Specifically, the reduction in property tax reliance would ease the strain on constituents funding our district's construction debt. It would create an opportunity to better manage financial resources, ensuring that the dollars generated within our district are used effectively to meet our community's growing educational and infrastructure needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. I respectfully urge a "Do Pass" recommendation for HB 1381 and would be happy to answer any questions.