

## **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

WHEREAS, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers supports excellence in education for each and every Missouri child and further supports the levels of funding necessary to ensure excellence in education; and

WHEREAS, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers recognizes that property taxes are a key source of funding for education; and

WHEREAS, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers further recognizes that many senior citizens in Missouri are retired and on fixed incomes which causes hardship to some when property taxes are raised by tax levy increases or passage of school bond issues, thus prompting them to vote against needed tax levy and bond issue proposals; and

WHEREAS, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers in no way wishes for Missouri's senior citizens to face hardship through increased tax burden; and

WHEREAS, Missouri has a so-called "circuit breaker" law that gives senior citizens income/property tax credit for some property taxes paid or a portion of the rent paid, based on age and income level, however, the limits in the property tax circuit breaker are low and as such, exclude many senior citizens in need of property tax relief, and

WHEREAS, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers do not want school districts to suffer losses of revenue through any form of tax relief; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers support legislation modifying the limits in the property tax circuit breaker and/or enacting other legislative measures such as property tax freezes or homestead exemptions, so long as reasonable income limits be placed thereupon, so that property tax relief will be available to a greater number of needy senior citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED, That school districts be held harmless against the loss of local funds due to the circuit breaker law or any other tax relief laws such as property tax freezes or homestead exemptions via reimbursement of lost revenues by the state through appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, through its councils and local units educate Missouri's senior citizens as to the existence of Missouri's circuit breaker law so they may take advantage of said law and any tax credit for which they might be eligible.