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I am writing in opposition to the \$80 per year proposed membership dues increase.

Sole practitioners, and attorneys in public service would be disproportionately affected by any dues increase. I am in public service and work for a rural county in northern Michigan. My locality pays my bar dues, and this amount comes out of our department budget, which is of consequence to everyone in my department. There are three attorneys in my office, so this would be an additional \$240 per year out of the budget. For some localities, that may be a minor inconvenience, but for us that is an increase that would cause us to divert from other budgeted expenses. We do not have the luxury of unlimited funds or the ability to generate additional revenue outside of our budget.

According to the 2021 financial report, the Bar had a significant amount of cost savings due to handling events virtually and hybrid, limiting board and staff travel, and finding cost-effective ways to handle events. There's nothing in the financial report that shows any indicator for why dues should be increased. In fact, with the direction that SCAO has gone in encouraging virtual court, the Bar should also consider continuing to adapt its events virtually and hybrid in that manner in order to resolve any shortfall.

With the changes caused by the pandemic and economic changes, attorney morale is low. Finances are tight with costs increasing for those in private practice as well. This is not the time to increase dues. If the bar is struggling to continue their current level of services, they may need to make some tough choices about what is needed and necessary and make cuts accordingly, like many of us have.