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Appropriations Committee: Conservation & Development Subcommittee
Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Testimony regarding Bill 5005 and **Music Haven**

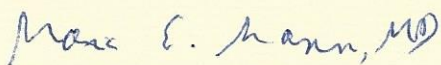
Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative DiMassa, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee:

Last year the children and families of Music Haven advocated for a \$100,000 line item in the FY20 budget, which was secured thanks to the diligence and support of Representative Toni Walker and members of the Appropriation Committee. All of us at Music Haven were devastated to learn that our organization was later completely removed from the budget proposal, a loss that is 15% of our budget and our only projected public support. **As Music Haven's Board President, I strongly urge you to restore the promised funding of \$100,000 for Music Haven and to include an additional \$100,000 for FY21.**

We launched Music Haven 14 years ago to provide 100% free musical instruction, instruments and mentorship to children from New Haven's neediest neighborhoods. Fully 90% of those we serve are children of color and would not otherwise have such an opportunity. Their teachers are six conservatory-trained musicians who also perform and produce school workshops in the New Haven region and beyond. The accomplishments of these young musicians have exceeded our wildest dreams. Music Haven graduates have all headed off to college, where they are successfully pursuing careers ranging from dentistry to arts education and music performance. Music Haven stands out as a unique gem in our state and has become a model for nonprofits throughout the country which promote social justice through music education.

Upon restoring the \$100,000 support to Music Haven, you will be investing in the future of our children and our community, as these funds go to pay a living wage and benefits to our local professional teacher-musicians and staff. Please join us at Music Haven in keeping our promise to these children and help them become tomorrow's leaders.

Respectfully,



Marc E. Mann, MD
Board President, Music Haven