

Testimony regarding Bill 505

I am writing in support of keeping Music Haven's funding for the next year and beyond. I first became aware of Music Haven through the participation of Music Haven students in a Martin Luther King Day celebration at St. Luke's church on Whaley Avenue in New Haven several years ago. I was impressed by the musicianship of the students and their diversity. Later, I donated an instrument to the program and became a volunteer "practice buddy" for a young student learning to play the cello.

The founders and organizers of Music Haven are accomplished young musicians who in addition to teaching also perform as a string quartet and provide excellent free instruction for young students of limited financial means. I saw the instructional program develop from after-school lessons at a New Haven public school to after-school lessons in the current repurposed factory space at Erector Square. The program has expanded in number of students and in range of proficiency as young students have continued into their high school years.

Music Haven is a highly effective program that brings quality classical music instruction to students who, otherwise, might not have it. I continue to support Music Haven through donations and encourage continued state support for this excellent program.

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