

Good Evening,

My name is Lygia Davenport and I am a board member and proud mother of several young musicians at Music Haven. I stand before you today to advocate for continued funding of this amazing program.

Our children are better because of Music Haven, better at dealing with stress, better at focusing in school, better at being consistent even when other things in their lives may not offer the same consistency, Music Haven offers that!

MH is not just music lessons on a sliding scale or scholarship- but a comprehensive, program committed to the development of the whole child, guiding beginners into seasoned musicians by the time they graduate the program- and might I brag- 100% of our graduates have been accepted to college- they value their Music Haven roots and continue to remain committed to MH and MH remains committed to them.

Music Haven is the only organization that offers a completely free “music” program to all of its students, and the value is literally priceless.

Music Haven provides a safe haven for students of various abilities, it is a place where some of our students with learning differences “find themselves.” A place where young musicians build bonds with mentors and develop concentration skills, perseverance, and find calm in their expression of music. These skills last a lifetime.

The teachers are like no others. In their own right they are world class musicians, to our children they are a projection of excellence that is now within their reach. The entire staff is comprised of dedicated adults that care, that offer consistency and genuinely want the children to do well. Familiar faces that greet students with a smile each and every time they arrive.

Music Haven is reputable well-respected organization by not only families and community members but also other organizations as well. Many are willing to partner with us to work together to ensure that our young musicians receive all of the necessities that come with attending an after-school program as a lower income student, such as healthy snacks, yoga lessons and even safe transportation home.

Music Haven is a space where families from different backgrounds gather to cheer each other's children on, where we stand united in support of one another in the name of art, community, and extended family. Music Haven is a place where Families are welcome to partake in the experience of learning with the child- creating stronger bonds.

Music Haven touches lives of whole families and is essential for continuing to produce productive, self-expressing, amazing musicians that make our city, our state, our world a better place, with the gifts Music Haven brings out of its students. Music Haven's work with refugee families bridge people from all over the world through one common language- music.

Music Haven is carpooling with Tetris like moves to fit instruments and kids in the car, silly jokes and lots of laughter, board games and chess tournaments while waiting for lessons,

homework help and peer assistance, growing up together, supporting each other through almost anything.

State funding is an integral component in our program's ability to continue to create and inspire young leaders, young musicians of Connecticut. I urge you to consider continuing to fund Music Haven and the unique experience it offers.

I also invite you to come out and see what makes us unique. Please come to our programs or concerts, come support the youth, the future of Connecticut. I am certain it will make you proud to be a support of these amazing young people. I know I will be there I hope to see some of you as well. Thank you for your time!