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To Whom It May Concern:

The recent state funding cut to Music Haven will significantly impact the ability for this program to continue to function as it does in the community. Once again removing arts programs from children's growth negatively impacts learning coupled with growth and development in later years. The more senses we employ in the learning process the more effective the process becomes - the arts accomplishes this. In the case of the arts we open a life long learning model as well as avenues of enrichment and alternatives from gangs and other negative group/family settings. Most youngsters join gangs do so because they are looking for a place to belong. Joining a music group verses a gang is a win, win! It can be this extreme. Alternative options reduces future costs to the society for those who are not fortunate enough to have this exposure. Perhaps we need to think about long term investments rather than saving next years costs.

I urgently advise you to restore funding cuts to Music Haven - it is an urgent need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Delci Lev