

Testimony for Bill 5005

To all members of the Appropriations Committee:

I write in support of the restoration of funds for the Music Haven program in the FY21 State Budget. It does not seem reasonable why the funding for this highly honored New Haven music program has been eliminated.

There is no other program that comes even close to what Music Haven provides for many inner-city youth in New Haven. The education their students receive is of the highest quality from professional musicians. The experience they gain from practicing and performing together in ensembles is valuable, not only in their musical lives but also in learning to be part of a team — recognized as one of today's most valuable assets.

In addition to the superior music education, Music Haven provides an important “home away from home” as a safe after-school oasis for students from mainly low-income families. While much of the financial burden is carried by supporters of the program with our donations of instruments and dollars, the total cost is more than we can provide. We think it a worthy cause for these children to benefit from such a high level of musicianship — such as many of us were lucky to afford when growing up.

Thus I urge the Committee members to re-evaluate the elimination of \$100,000 for Music Haven and act to restore that amount to the budget so that their program may continue to build upon its current great success.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,
Elise L. Low
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