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Urb. Ana María
Calle 5 C 16
Cabo Rojo, PR 00623
Cell: 787-243-9150

Letter of Support for Bill 5005

APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov

KEEP MUSIC HAVEN'S FUNDING

Honorable Rep. Toni Walker
Appropriations Committee Chair
Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov

Honorable Rep. Michael DiMassa
Appropriations Vice Chair
Michael.Dimassa@cga.ct.gov

Dear Ms. Walker and Mr. DiMassa,

It is with great concern that I write this letter of support regarding the state budget funding cut for the music program **Music Haven** in New Haven, in the amount of \$100,000, amount they have received in years past.

It is unthinkable and a shame that the Appropriations Committee partake in discouraging the young music students from enriching the learning experiences and exploring minds such as my grandson Julian Santana. If I understand it correctly, the New Haven "Promise Zone" has been designated to offer such opportunities to its kids and the community in order to enhance their lives and contributions to a better society.

A music program, as you well know, offers more than just learning music, its all the components of learning that go together in such a program that my grandson and his fellow classmates will be deprived from. Music Haven provides them with unique valuable skills such as discipline, creative and critical thinking, communication and teamwork. Music Haven offers a unique experience and commitment for their students.

Music Haven which is going on its 15 years is a hit in the New Haven community and an accomplishment for many, it even has a waiting list.

Furthermore, have you thought of the profound meaning of its name - **Music Haven** - what a beautiful name! Music transforms minds and hearts and it offers a haven for low income children who are committed to the program from the time they registered to high school graduation. My grandson sign up for a long term commitment program and deserves that opportunity.

Without Music Haven, Julian would not have the opportunity to learn to play the violin and to participate in concerts as a team member, a learning skill that has enhanced his behavior. He doesn't

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deserve that you deny him this opportunity by not funding the program to the most needy population. The fact that Julian was not required to have prior musical knowledge and that no auditions were required, it open the door for this enrichment, otherwise a denied opportunity.

I'm extremely grateful to Music Haven for offering a tuition free program that is enhancing my grandsons life thorough the dynamics of team work and youth positive development. I live in Puerto Rico and I was extremely proud to have seen Julian thru FaceTime playing the violin during the Holiday Concert this past December. It is a unique experience in our family, and as his grandmother, I want to see him reach his best potential.

All kids, irrespective of income should have the possibilities to entertain the idea of doing new things. Julian Santana loves learning how to play the violin, was excited to get on the stage despite stage fear, and felt confident that he could play to his hearts content. Julian loves his classes, and among his peers he is doing something different and extraordinary.

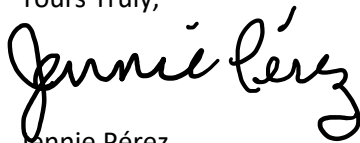
My daughter's words to describe some of the benefits from Music Haven, "Financially it would be too costly for me to pay and this program offered us a wonderful opportunity for Julian to learn how to play a classical instrument as an urban low-income family. They even gifted us symphony tickets and it was our first time going. Who would have thought this little Puerto Rican young boy would be going to the symphony and learning how to play the violin? It would be a great loss to him."

The following website lists some of the benefits that enhances a child's life thru music programs, <https://www.learningliftoff.com/ten-benefits-of-music-education-for-students/>

10 benefits of music education that highlight why it should be an integral part of students' lives— whether inside or outside of school.

1. Language skills, 2) Improved test scores, 3) Self-esteem, 4) Listening skills, 5) Math skills, 6) Brain Development, 7) Relieving stress, 8) Creativity, 9) Helping special needs children, 10) Higher graduation rates.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennie Pérez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the name.

Jennie Pérez