

I am writing in support of Bill 5005. I have been a long-time supporter and contributor to Music Haven and I am very disturbed to find out that the proposed funding for this arts group is being eliminated from the current State of CT budget proposal. Students from Music Haven fill an important part in music education and arts education in the New Haven area. I have also collaborated with these students in their performances with other arts groups in New Haven that are still being funded. The New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Neighborhood Music School, and Schubert Theater are all part of the vibrant arts community in New Haven that are also a part of this funding. Please do not exclude Music Haven from this important source. The funding helps all these arts organizations in New Haven and leaving out this Music Haven program will do real damage to the efforts to reach very underserved parts of this community. All these other organizations rely on a broad level of community involvement and Music Haven has been very successful at reaching students who otherwise would not be receiving this type of music education that strengthens these students in so many ways. It is unconscionable to single out this group this way. I ask you to keep MUSIC HAVEN funding in this bill.

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