

**Jean G. Lamont  
244 Ridgewood Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06517**

**Re: Bill 5005**

February 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a resident of New Haven and Hamden, CT for the past 26 years, actively engaged in education, the arts, and initiatives to promote the welfare of all children in this region. I was Head of School at the Foote School from 1992-2004, a Board member of the International Festival of Arts and Ideas for 12 years, and am an on-going donor to New Haven Reads, Read to Grow, LEAP, Music Haven, and Horizons at Foote where I am currently vice-president of the Board.

I am writing on behalf of Music Haven, an organization making a significant impact on the lives of New Haven students. I have supported Music Haven since its launching as a donor, facilitator for strategic planning, and enthusiastic attendee of concerts and other events featuring the young musicians and the professional musicians who both perform and serve as teachers and mentors. Currently, 76 students participate in Music Haven, receiving an average of 3.5 hours of high-quality instruction per week. Through music, they build community, develop resilience and self-confidence, and experience collective struggle and success.

I understand the \$100,000 that Music Haven had been awarded as a line-item in the 2020 state budget has been eliminated. I fervently hope this funding will be re-instated to ensure the ongoing role this exceptional program plays in the lives of New Haven children and their parents.

Sincerely, Jean Lamont