

February 7, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of CT House Bill 6119. I am a lifelong CT resident who greatly enjoys all forms of art. Early in my career I was a performing ballerina.

As a longtime public school teacher, school administrator and university adjunct professor, I can testify that arts education is critically important in the lives of young people and helps them to identify and develop their talents and skills.

I am now or have been a member of multiple museums, including The New Britain Museum of American Art, The Yale Center for British Art and the American Mural Project in Winsted. I am also a member and a docent of the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme.

I am now or have been a member of multiple theaters as well including The Shubert Theater, Long Wharf Theater, Goodspeed Theater and the related Terris Theater, The Bushnell, Hartford Stage and Theaterworks.

Attending exhibits and performances greatly enhances my life experiences and provides me with thought provoking views of diverse perspectives.

Especially during this time of COVID 19 related closures, it has become abundantly clear that arts related venues deserve and are greatly in need of increased support in order to maintain their facilities, staff and programming. In part, Connecticut is defined by its rich arts culture. Our arts establishments are responsible for attracting visitors to our state and contributing to our economy.

I urge you to advocate for CT House Bill 6199 by voting in its favor. The arts establishments, communities, citizens of CT and visitors to our state will thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
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