



Testimony submitted for the Commerce Committee

Public Hearing February 11, 2021

H.B. No. 6119 An Act Concerning Arts, Culture and Tourism

Senator Hartley, Representative Simmons and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee:

My name is Carrie Dyer and I am a registered voter in the town of Ashford. I am writing this testimony in favor of House Bill Number 6119, An Act Concerning Arts, Culture and Tourism.

As a Board Member of the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, I have gained new insights into the worlds of arts and culture. While the pandemic has had widespread economic impacts on traditional businesses, the arts sector has suffered tremendously. The resources we turn to for mental and physical comfort – the arts, music, performances, creative expression – are in jeopardy of diminishing without our help. This bill would help to prevent further economic injury, address the impact of the shutdown, and accelerate recovery not only of the arts sector, but all of Connecticut.

By redirecting the allocation of room and occupancy tax revenue to the Tourism Fund, you are strengthening this rich and vibrant economic driver for our State and telling our creative and dynamic art and culture leaders that their services matter.

Thank you for your time,
Carrie Dyer