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February 9, 2021

Members of the Connecticut General Assembly  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106-1562

**Re: HB6119 Act Concerning Arts, Culture, and Tourism Funding**

Dear Legislators:

I am writing as the Executive Director for Westport Museum for History & Culture, in support for HB 6119, An Act Concerning Arts, Culture, and Tourism Funding. Like many institutions across the state, Westport Museum has struggled to maintain humanities programs for the public through the pandemic. We cannot continue without major support of the kind that this Bill, if passed, could provide.

The work we do is integral to building community and civic engagement--not just locally but throughout our state. Our programs explore Black History, Indigenous History, Women's History; the history of labor, immigration, manufacturing, fair housing and much more.

We provide the lion's share of this programming free of charge to the public, through our own sweat equity and with the financial support of CT Humanities, without which we could not survive. This has been especially true during the COVID 19 pandemic when our donations have dwindled to historic lows.

The potential increase in funding to maintain current support of the humanities, arts, and tourism sectors during COVID and dramatically increasing support once normal times return is critical to the civic and social health of our state.

Please vote in support of this Bill.

Thank you

Ramin Ganeshram  
Executive Director

