



Consonare Choral Community

Cultivating consonance and building community through choral music in Connecticut.

January 2, 2021

Re: Testimony in support of HB 6119

Dear Legislators:

My name is Sarah Kaufold and I am the artistic director of a small nonprofit arts organization in northeast Connecticut. The pandemic has illuminated the vast deficit as to how the arts are valued in this state. Before the pandemic, we were just barely surviving on revenue from performing opportunities and donations from individuals. However, now that both of those revenue streams are greatly reduced or non-existent as a result of the pandemic, we do not have enough state funding support available to us. As a result, our small arts organization has fallen through the cracks and is struggling to be able to continue to fulfill our mission.

But, increasing the percentage of the hotel and lodging tax that supports the Tourism Fund from 10% to 25% will help prevent further economic injury, address the impact of the shutdown, and accelerate recovery of not only the Arts sector, but all of Connecticut. Renaming the Tourism Fund to the "Arts, Culture, and Tourism" fund more accurately describes its role in providing state funding to all.

Thank you for all your work to ensure the arts not just happen in our state, but thrive and grow.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kaufold
Artistic Director