

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my support the proposed bill H.B. 6119.

I support the bill for the following reasons:

- Increasing the percentage of the hotel and lodging tax that supports the Tourism Fund
- 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. The arts and culture sector is an economic driver for Connecticut and has been hit hard by the pandemic.
- Does not take funding away from another legislative priority because hotel and lodging tax revenue not currently allocated to the tourism fund goes to Connecticut's general fund.
- Does not raise the hotel and lodging tax. It allocates a larger percentage of that tax revenue to the Tourism Fund. Fixing the percentage of the Tourism Fund that is allocated to Tourism at 60% and Arts and Culture at 40% reflects how the fund is allocated now. It does not change how much funding is allocated to each.
- Renaming the Tourism Fund to the Arts, Culture and Tourism fund more accurately describes its role in providing state funding to all three of these sectors.

Thank you!

Chandler

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Chandler Smith | Associate Producer

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