

Dear Member of the General Assembly,

Bill No. 6119 would greatly help the arts when help is desperately needed. The increase in the allocation for the arts in the Tourism Fund would allow the artists of Connecticut to find creative ways to continue and promote their craft during the pandemic. Coming from a musical background myself, I have seen many of my fellow musicians lose their main source of income: performing for audiences. With the closing of performance venues across the state, musicians are no longer able to make money by booking and playing gigs. However with this increase in funding, we could see musicians and other artists transition from in person to online platforms with technology they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford.

Also, by changing the name of the Tourism Fund to the Arts, Culture, and Tourism Fund we would be proudly promoting in the very name of the fund itself why so many people from all over the country visit Connecticut: its thriving artistic community. In cities like New Haven and Hartford we have major institutions like Long Wharf Theatre and the Hart School of Music that draw in performing and teaching artists alike. By changing the name to include them, not only will we be ensuring more government funding for the foreseeable future, but we will finally be recognizing them for their significant contributions to our statewide community and culture.

On these grounds I support and encourage this bill's passage.

Sincerely,

Noah Sonenstein