



**Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum**  
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February 10, 2021

The Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum has been the recipient of numerous competitive grants from Connecticut Humanities over the years. Funds allowed us to create award-winning humanities programming for students and the public, of all ages and throughout the State. Emergency grants allowed us to improve operations and immediately pivot to online content during this COVID-19 crisis. The museum has been able to invest in technology, which was long overdue, supporting staff to work more efficiently in fulfilling our educational mission and serving our community.

**We urge support of HB 6119, An Act Concerning Arts, Culture, and Tourism Funding.**

Not only will this legislation affect our livelihood, HB 6119 will allow the museum to better serve our constituency who have expressed an urgent need for virtual humanities programming in their classrooms and beyond. Even before the pandemic, many remote followers opined they wished they could attend our onsite programming. Some people are reticent to attend a museum in person or are reluctant to read about history, preferring a visually accessible, topical-yet-high-quality distillation of the underlying messages. Videos on aspects of life and related lectures let people throughout the region and beyond to “attend” our events - expanding our reach. And, when things “return to normal,” the public is going to be eager to visit historically-significant sites, like ours. A takeaway of this pandemic is that history is an important lesson for future generations. Visitors from all over the world come to the museum to learn about the American Revolution. Recent archaeology has yielded nearly 200,000 artifacts, including evidence of the earliest encounters between Indigenous Peoples and English settlers in Wethersfield, which promises to have a profound impact on the understanding of early Connecticut history.

Connecticut Humanities is a lifeline for nonprofit assistance during this challenging time and we are so grateful to the staff and board of the Connecticut Humanities for responding to the situation with relief opportunities. Please back HB 6119.

Sincerely,

Joshua Campbell Torrance  
Executive Director