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To the Appropriations Committee:

I write in response to HB 6439, which leaves Music Haven out of this year's state budget. As the Education Director for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, I partner with Music Haven on many projects throughout each season. We bring masterclasses, conductors, and guest artists in to work with Music Haven's students during our year, and most of the members of the organization's Haven Quartet play with us several times a year on our subscription concerts. Furthermore, a number of their students are also intertwined with our organization: as volunteer ushers, interns, or audience members. Both of our organizations focus on providing the greatest access possible to live, classical music for all members of our New Haven community.

Music Haven, simply put, is one of the city's treasures. Anytime that we bring one of our musicians, conductors, or guest artists in, they ALWAYS comment "That was the best part of my week!" after working with Music Haven's students. The environment that the staff creates, as well as the services that they provide, make a massive difference in many young peoples' lives in this city.

Funding from the state is crucial to help keep this amazing organization alive. I strongly urge you to reconsider keeping them out of the state budget.

Thank you,  
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