

To: the Appropriations Committee, Connecticut State Senate

February 19, 2021

From: Cynthia M. Parker, Ph.D.

111 Park Street, 12-D

New Haven, CT

Re: funding for Music Haven that should be re-inserted into the budget deliberations, both now and for future budgets

Music Haven is a proven, successful nonprofit program that increases confidence in public school students by teaching them to play stringed instruments and to perform in ensembles. By mistake, according to Committee Chair Toni Walker, it has been omitted in both last year's budget and again in this current year's deliberations. Please rectify this ongoing mistake. The advantages that accrue to the elementary and secondary school students who enroll in this program (with a waiting list!) are not only cultural and social but also academic in that self-discipline is a major part of their learning.

Some of the ongoing problems with state funding are detailed below.

"As you know, a year ago, we rallied our families and supporters to save Music Haven's state funding, and we were told that we had won! In fact, our victory was reported in the press:

<https://www.newhavenarts.org/arts-paper/articles/arts-army-rallies-to-keep-music-haven-in-state-budget>.

Despite this promise, they never put our funding in the budget. The result is **\$0 for Music Haven** in this year's budget and all budgets into the future. According to legislators who have responded to our questions, **"it was a mistake."** That's also what they told us last year.

DPLEASE! The Appropriations Committee should immediately take appropriate steps to include Music Haven in this year's budget and all future appropriations.

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Parker