

Re: Bill # HB 6439 – Music Haven

February 18, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Music Haven. The Appropriations Committee neglected to include the state funding that was agreed upon to support and save Music Haven. As a parent of an 11-year-old son who has participated in the program for the past year I urge you please correct this wrong. This program has been a lifeline to my son's social emotional well-being during this past year and not only have they provided ongoing virtual lessons they have increased them to 4 times/week giving our son a much-needed outlet.

Thanks to Mr. Patrick, our son's violin instructor, he has grown to enjoy playing the violin. It has been a joy to see and hear my son play the violin as we have seen him learn how to use his instrument and care for it. As a Puerto Rican family living in Fair Haven, you do not traditionally see many of our kids play a classical instrument.

This opportunity has been a blessing to our family. It not only lights us up when he has a recital, but we feel proud of his efforts. Playing the violin has enriched our son and family as we get to enjoy watching him play the violin. We are also learning as a family to appreciate classical music and that has never been something we were introduced to until now.

We have even FaceTime our loved ones to hear and watch him play his violin all the way in Puerto Rico while the students had a recital in an outdoor community park (of course while practicing all the necessary precautions due to COVID-19) and the kids truly enjoyed themselves since it had been months since they saw one another in person. It was a lovely experience and a wonderful time for our family and a welcomed outing since we have limited our outings as a result of the pandemic.

Please think of all the kids and families that will benefit from this program and the lifelong benefits of learning how to play a classical instrument. I have included a link for your perusal regarding an article to keep Music Haven in the state budget from Feb. 2020. We feel honored to be part of this wonderful classical music family and we hope we can continue to have Music Haven for years to come be a part of our community.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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