

**Testimony in response to the Governor's proposed budget: HB-06439**

February 19, 2021

Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106

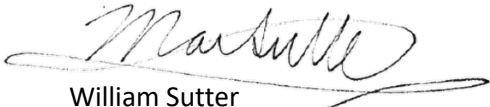
To Co-Chair Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is William Sutter and I am a business owner in New Haven, CT. I urge you to add \$100,000 for Music Haven back into the state's budget, and its exclusion is particularly concerning to me. A musical education encourages creativity and is linked to improved science and math skills, all of which are key ingredients of innovation and help build a generally more prosperous community that can sustain a strong local economy. Music Haven brings the gift of musical education into the lives of children and families that need it most, and to exclude Music Haven's funding from this year's budget is to turn your back on these families.

It occurs to me that this is not the first time that Music Haven was omitted from the state's budget, and in an article (linked below) following last year's omission, you assured the organization that it would not happen again. Please add \$100,000 for Music Haven back into this year's budget.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Sutter", written in black ink. The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

William Sutter  
New Haven, CT