

Academy of Country Music
 American Academy of Teachers of Singing
 American Composers Forum
 American Federation of Musicians
 American Guild of Musical Artists
 American Guild of Organists
 American Harp Society
 American Music Center
 American Orff-Schulwerk Association
 Artists Against Hunger & Poverty
 ASCAP
 BMI
 Chamber Music America
 Chopin Foundation of the United States
 Conductors' Guild
 Country Music Association
 Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity
 Early Music America
 Interlochen Center for the Arts
 International Alliance for Women in Music
 International Association of Jazz Educators
 International Federation of Festival Organizations
 International Music Products Association (NAMM)
 Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity
 Music & Entertainment Industry Educators Association
 Music Critics Association of North America
 MENC: The National Association for Music Education
 Music Performance Fund
 Music Publishers Association of the United States
 Music Teachers National Association
 National Academy of Popular Music
 National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences
 National Association of Negro Musicians
 National Association of Recording Merchandisers
 National Association of Teachers of Singing
 National Federation of Music Clubs
 National Flute Association
 National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts
 National Guild of Piano Teachers/
 American College of Musicians
 National Music Publishers' Association
 National Opera Association
 Recording Industry Association of America
 SESAC
 Sigma Alpha Iota
 The Songwriters Guild of America

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To: The Members of Congress
 From: The Board of Directors of the National Music Council
 Date: April 1, 2008

The members of the National Music Council, who together represent some one million individual members of the greater U.S. music community, are unified in our commitment to support music education because we know the many benefits that a rich and varied arts education brings to the development of all young Americans. We have all, individually and collectively, seen the immense positive impact that music education has on the social, physical, and intellectual development of students. We have all watched with growing interest the explosion of research that backs up our long-held belief in the essential importance of music and arts education. And we have all shared in the pleasure of seeing more and more recognition by the public and educational decision-makers of the key role that music education must play in our schools and in our society.

In light of this, we ask your commitment for the following legislative recommendations during the upcoming reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

- Retaining music and the arts as core academic subjects of learning - a designation given to the arts in the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Requiring annual state reports on student access to core academic subjects.
- Improving national data collection and research in arts education.
- Reauthorizing the arts in education programs of the U.S. Department of Education.

Thank you so much for your consideration of these important goals, which will benefit not only our children, but will ultimately increase the creative output of American composers and musicians to the betterment of not only the social fabric of the United States, but also the economy.