

April 13, 2010



Dear Member of Congress:

I write to you on behalf of Music for All, a proud National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2010. Music for All is one of the largest and most influential national music education organizations in support of active music making, combining educational programming with awareness campaigns and advocacy. Over 100,000 student musicians participate in our programming each year with over 300,000 people in attendance at our student performance opportunities. As we celebrate 35 years of history in 2010, we are proud to represent over 1.25 million alumni of our programming.

Music for All is also committed to expanding the role of music and the arts in education. Without the life skills, creativity, and imagination developed through arts education, we are preparing future generations for failure in the global economy. Working with national authorities and other non-profit organizations, Music for All invests resources and personnel in advocacy and public outreach efforts to support the role of music and the arts in a well-rounded education.

Unfortunately, each day more schools across our nation face difficult and far-reaching budget and program cuts in education. Policy makers frequently cut art and music curriculum and programs they view as secondary. In fact, as U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan pointed out in an August 2009 letter to education leaders, "The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) defines arts as a core subject, and the arts play a significant role in children's development and learning process."

We must work harder than ever to educate leaders of the importance of music and arts education as part of a well-rounded curriculum. We strongly ask your support in the following to ensure that music and art education is a part of every child's well into the future:

- Advocate for music and arts education as a key component of academic and lifetime success for young people in the global economy.
- Continue to embrace the arts as an essential curricular component of every school's academic program.
- Support the improvement of the national collection of data and research in the arts education.
- Support the educational value of arts education for every child – so that **NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND.**

On behalf of the over one million alumni and supporters of Music for All programming, we thank you for your thoughtful support of arts education for all.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Scott McCormick", written over a horizontal line.

L. Scott McCormick
President and CEO