



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
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 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 13, 2010

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 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We urge you to help strengthen music and arts in schools and throughout the country by:

- Retaining the arts as a core academic subject of learning
- Requiring annual state reports on student access for core academic subjects, including music. Collecting data and reporting on the status of arts education and other core academic subjects at the state level is crucial to ensure equitable access to comprehensive education for all students.
- Improving national data collection and research in arts education. The National Assessment of Educational Progress and the Fast Response Survey System must be strengthened by systematically including the arts in studies conducted on the state of education, practices that improve academic achievement, and the effectiveness of Federal and other education programs.

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.

Founded in 1940 and chartered by the 84th Congress in 1956, the National Music Council is in a unique position to assist in providing you with any documentation or information that might serve you. We offer our collective expertise and our gratitude for your support.