

**Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** Gloria Budz <gbudz@cpsed.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:22 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Bill

Good afternoon. My name is Gloria Budz. I live in Warwick, RI and I teach Visual Arts at the middle school level in Cranston, RI. I have been teaching for thirty-four years. I have seen it all. It is sad how many hours students spend in front of screens, albeit a computer, television or phone. It is a problem how many children spend countless hours on TikTok, like that is going to secure a career in their future. Aside from these issues, their MENTAL HEALTH is suffering. There is such a disconnect to the world at large.

The arts are not just fun or fluff classes and they should never be treated that way. They are an integral part of a child's life from the first time they scribble with a crayon or bounce up and down to music they hear. The arts give children of all ages a voice and a means to express themselves. The arts are an outlet for pent up emotions, the good, the bad and the ugly.

I am writing to ask you to approve moving H-7020, the Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Act to the full house and recommend its passage.

Every child deserves a full and comprehensive arts education from Pre-K to seniors in high school. The Basic Education Plan requires it.

Changes that have been made have made it difficult if not impossible for high school students to fit the arts into their schedules. How many vocational schools don't even offer it? So students have to choose, once again.

The bill should not be a burden as it would be coordinated by the RIDE Arts Education Curriculum Coordinator, Caroyne Bennett.

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