

**Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** Steve Johnson <sjohnsonbass@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:23 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill H-7020

My name is Steve Johnson. I live in Coventry, RI and teach music for the Coventry Public School system. I am writing to ask that you APPROVE moving H-7020, Transparency in arts education access and proficiency act, to the full house and recommend its passage.

The students of RI need this bill to raise the status of Arts Education to its rightful place as a major curricular academic subject that every child must study for a full comprehensive education, and to ensure districts are truly working towards following The Arts Proficiency mandates of the BEP and recently updated HS Graduation Requirements.

My entire career, arts teachers have had to fight to justify their own existence amidst constant budget cuts and blatant disregard for arts as a core subject. This bill helps to add to the credibility of arts education to educational leaders. I support this bill and implore you to move it forward.

Sincerely,

Steve Johnson  
24 Read Ave  
Coventry, RI 02816