



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon, Chair  
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chair Bissaillon and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I support for Senate Bill 2073, *An Act Relating to Taxation – Property Exempt*. If enacted, this legislation would exempt the real and tangible personal property of Community MusicWorks.

Community MusicWorks is a Providence-based nonprofit that provides music education and performance opportunities to young people and families. Both locally and nationally recognized, CMW received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award in 2010, and they have continued their exemplary work since.

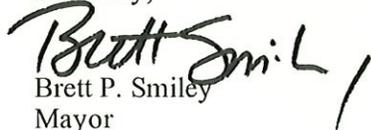
CMW primarily serves children and families in some of the lowest income neighborhoods in Rhode Island, with a majority of students identifying as being part of communities of color. For many of these families, access to high quality arts education can be financially out of reach. By reducing the cost barriers associated with arts opportunities, CMW ensures that participation is based on interest, not income.

Guided by its mission to use music education and performance to create a community to transform the lives of participants, CMW builds lasting relationships between children, families, and musicians. Participants receive musical instruments free of charge and participate in a range of activities, including music lessons, workshops, and studio classes. The organization's model, rooted in their commitment to social justice, emphasizes musicianship that connects artistry and community service.

Exempting Community MusicWorks' property would reduce an operational burden and free up much needed resources that can be used to provide programming to children and families.

I thank Senator Bell for sponsoring Senate Bill 2073 and respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of this legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Brett P. Smiley  
Mayor