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June 26, 2017

The Honorable Josh Newman
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: Support

Location: Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports,
Tourism, & Internet Media Committee

Re: SB 503 (Newman) Personal contributions: voluntary contributions: minimum contributions: Keep Arts in Schools Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund (As Amended May 9, 2017)

Dear Senator Newman:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education I am writing to express our support for SB 503 (Newman), legislation that would extend the Keep Arts in Schools Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund on the tax form for an additional seven years, from January 1, 2018 until January 1, 2025.

The bill maintains the existing requirements for the program, including the annual reporting by September 1st of each year to determine eligibility for the following year but changes the minimum contribution requirements to *equal to \$0 for any fund appearing on the return for the 2016 taxable year that has a minimum contribution amount requirement for the 2017 calendar year in order for the fund to continue to appear on the return for the 2017 taxable year.*

The fund supports the efforts of the California Arts Council, which has a longstanding commitment to support arts education in California's public schools and provides grants to enable teaching artists to bring their skill and experience into the lives of students, to help enable them to receive the full benefit of their arts.

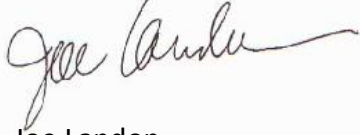
We strongly support the ongoing effectiveness of the Arts Council and believe that their efforts will continue to increase access to beneficial learning experiences for our students.

The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fifth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's quality education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's abundance of arts and culture experts

to advocate for quality visual and performing arts instruction for all students. By collaborating effectively with the state's leading education and parent engagement agencies and providing an anchor for policy expertise at the state and local levels, the Alliance is the leader in promoting the arts in schools and enriching the lives of children, families and communities.

Please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Landon", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Joe Landon
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Michael Martinez, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Ms. Dana Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, &
Internet Media Committee
Ms. Barbara Gausewitz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
California Alliance for Arts Education