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April 26, 2017

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

Position: Support

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

**Re: SB 503 (Newman) Personal income taxes: Keep Arts in Schools Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund (As Amended March 20, 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 all the existing requirements for the program, including the annual reporting by September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to determine eligibility for the following year and the minimum contribution requirements (\$250,000) adjusted for inflation annually.

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  
Mr. Robert Ingenito, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Ms. Chantele Denny, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate  
California Alliance for Arts Education