



February 26, 2009

The Honorable Mike Davis
Member of the California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: SUPPORT

Location: Rules Committee

RE: ACR 26 (Davis) Arts Education Month March 2009

Dear Assembly Member Davis:

California Arts Advocates (CAA) represents artists, arts organizations, and Californians who support the arts. Its membership is a broad spectrum of budget sizes, arts disciplines, diverse cultures, audiences and regions. Its membership also includes artists, teachers and parent volunteers who serve California's six million school children.

On behalf of its members, arts stakeholders and the families they serve, CAA thanks you for introducing ACR 26 and supports its passage. Effective arts education is one of the most important long-term issues and opportunities facing the arts world and California. Because of Proposition 13, we have already lost a generation of school children who have never experienced the arts academically or through live performance. Thankfully, since 2005, all students entering the University of California and the California State University are required to satisfy the visual and performing arts admission requirement by completing an appropriate course in dance, music, theatre, or the visual arts in high school. The historic arts education funding in 2006 and continued in 2007 has made a profound impact in that all California school children, not just some, learn about arts and music.

To succeed in today's economy of ideas, students must master the use of words, images, sounds and motion to communicate. The arts provide the skills and knowledge students need to develop the creativity and determination necessary to succeed in today's global information age. ACR 26 shines a spotlight on the importance of arts education by proclaiming March 2009 Arts Education Month. CAA urges your colleagues to support this resolution.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call our legislative advocate, Ms. Kathryn Lynch at (916) 443-0202. Thank you for your commitment to arts in education and a better, more creative California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Cullen Caretto", written in a cursive style.

Lisa Cullen Caretto
Board Member

cc: The Honorable Ted Lieu, Chair, Assembly Rules Committee
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
California Arts Advocate Board Members

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