

LD 669

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Culture Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of HP 438, An Act to Create the Public Art Fund. Visual Art and Performance Art including dance, music, and theater, need support now more than ever as school and municipal budgets whittle away arts funding. Beyond providing beauty, historical remembrance, provoking thought and discourse, or challenging one's perceptions and preconceived notions, art is what makes a civilized society civilized. It creates connection between people and can help reconnect people to themselves.

So many Mainers, especially young people and the elderly, are experiencing feelings of overwhelm, isolation, and depression. The arts can be a 100% pharmaceutical-free way to help alleviate some of these issues for people. Put simply, art brings joy. Please pass this Act so that all Mainers may experience a bit more joy in these challenging times.

Rebecca Zafonte, Public School Employee Westbrook ME