

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Kansen Chu
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: **SUPPORT**

Location: Assembly Rules Committee

Re: HR 87 (Chu) Relative to Arts Education Month (As Introduced March 12, 2018)

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education, I am writing to express support for HR 87, a measure that declares March 2018 to be Arts Education Month. This bill encourages elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts and urges all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality school arts programs for children and youth.

Research shows that the arts are a critical link in student success. Arts education is linked to higher test scores across all subjects, as well as lower dropout rates. It fosters creativity and imagination, hallmarks of careers in the 21st century. Beyond the classroom, the arts are shown to nurture collaboration and civic engagement in young people.

This measure will help to raise awareness among state, county and local elected officials about the essential value of arts education in our schools.

The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fourth 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,



Joe Landon
Executive Director

cc: Assembly Rules Committee
Speaker's Office of Research and Floor Analysis
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
California Alliance for Arts Education