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May 29, 2018

The Honorable Ben Allen  
California State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: **SUPPORT**

Location: Senate Floor

**Re: SB 933 (Allen) Visual and performing arts education: grant program (As Amended May 25, 2018)**

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education, I am writing to express our support for SB 933, legislation you have authored that would establish the “Arts For Every Student Incentive Grant Program.” We consider this legislation to be a bold, innovative response to our current educational system, in which students from underserved districts have significantly less access to arts education than students from more affluent areas.

This legislation would provide selected school districts with a “jump start” in arts education funding, enabling them to better fulfill the language of California Education Code which requires that every student shall receive arts education as part of a complete high quality education.

Arts education speaks directly to the creative potential of every student and gives them the opportunity to develop the skills essential for the workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century—including innovation, problem solving, collaboration, and perseverance.

In addition, the arts significantly reduce truancy and rising drop out rates, by providing a pathway for students who might otherwise be disengaged from school by connecting them to their own unique talents and perceptions.

The creative industries in California account for 1 out of every 10 jobs in California, and provide \$273 billion annually to our state’s economy. Arts education will prepare our students to find meaningful occupations within that sector of the workforce.

Access to arts education instruction should not be determined by where a student happens to live. Every student deserves the benefits of arts education. SB 933 honors the promise of our education code by helping to ensure that the arts are a part of the education that every student shall receive.

*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,

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

Joe Landon  
Executive Director

cc: Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office  
Mr. Brandon Darnell, Consultant, Senate Education Committee  
Ms. Roger Mackensen, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
California State Senate  
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate  
California Alliance for Arts Education