



March 17, 2008

State Senator Darrell Steinberg
State Capitol – Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Steinberg:

On behalf of the Deterding Arts Resource Team (DART), we respectfully ask for you to oppose Assembly Bill 624.

DART is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1981 by Deterding Elementary School parents on the principle that art and music education is important to the development of a well-rounded child.

In the early 1980's when budget cuts eliminated many arts and music programs for schools in the San Juan Unified School District, a group of committed parents and dedicated school staff formed a non-profit to ensure that the thriving art and music programs would not discontinue. Twenty-five years later, we still experience a tight budget environment, and DART, with private money, seeks to make sure that music and art remain an important part of our strong academic reputation.

That's why we oppose Assembly Bill 624. Non-profits and charities are part of the community safety net – particularly for local governments – filling in with vital social and educational programs such as providing students with vocal and instrumental music programs or art history lessons or theatrical performance. The importance of DART grows in times of local government funding shortfalls.

The best way to strengthen support for traditionally underserved communities at this vital time is to facilitate and welcome additional charitable activity in California – not create unnecessary barriers such as Assembly Bill 624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jane Boxer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mary Jane Boxer
President - Deterding Arts Resource Team