



# MUSIC EDUCATION

---

## POLICY ROUNDTABLE

September 28, 2023

Representative Kay Granger  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Robert Aderholt  
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chair Aderholt:

On behalf of the Music Education Policy Roundtable and other partner organizations, we strongly urge you to oppose the funding cuts to vital education programs proposed in the House Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHSSSE) appropriations bill. If enacted, this would be the lowest allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill since FY 2008 and will have drastically negative impacts throughout America's education system.

The Music Education Policy Roundtable is a public policy coalition led by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) that advocates for a high-quality music education for all students. Consisting of music organizations, trade associations, and businesses, the Roundtable is unified under a single policy banner and works to achieve a consensus set of federal legislative recommendations aimed at ensuring the continued presence and expansion of high-quality music programs in America's schools.

As revised by the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act designates music as part of a "well-rounded education," providing federal funding and more opportunities for increased student access to music education. This commitment to music education is more important than ever as students returned to in-person learning increasingly in need of environments that support their mental health and well-being. The music classroom provides such an environment. Studies have shown that, when compared to other students, students with high arts engagement (including music) exhibit higher levels of self-concept in how they value themselves, increased abilities in performance skills and self-evaluation, a stronger tendency to employ empathetic thinking, and more opportunity to develop interpersonal skills.

After weathering a global pandemic and facing challenges in teacher recruitment and retention, America's education system needs robust federal support. This school year, all 50 states reported teacher shortages in at least one subject area. [A recent study](#) found a severe lack of qualified education

professionals across the United States, with over 200,000 positions either vacant or filled by underqualified teachers. Factors such as low pay and poor working conditions for educators have contributed to the teacher shortage, which will only worsen without substantial and sustained federal investments in education.

The House FY 2024 LHSSE appropriations bill would have devastating impacts on America's education system, with its effects felt most deeply in districts with a high percentage of low-income families. It would slash Title I funding, severely limiting the support available to disadvantaged students; it would eliminate Title II which has been instrumental in maintaining a quality educator workforce and combatting the teacher shortage; it would eliminate several programs focused on providing support to teachers from diverse backgrounds, stifling efforts to diversify the teaching profession; and it would ensure school districts have less funds to support a well-rounded education that includes music

On behalf of parents, students, communities, and the undersigned organizations advocating for all students to have access to a comprehensive music education, we urge you to reverse the devastating cuts proposed in the FY 2024 House LHSSE appropriations bill and do everything in your power to ensure much needed federal funding continues beyond the September 30 deadline.

Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda Karhuse, NAFME Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Public Policy, at [amandak@nafme.org](mailto:amandak@nafme.org).

Sincerely,

American Eurythmics Society  
American Kodaly Educators  
Americans for the Arts  
Church Music Publishers Association  
CMA Foundation  
Collaborative Films  
Education Through Music  
El Sistema USA  
Feierabend Association for Music Education  
HBCU National Band and Orchestra Director's Association  
Jazz Education Network  
JazzSLAM  
Kennedy Violins  
League of American Orchestras  
Music and the Brain  
MusicConstructED  
Music Publishers Association  
Music Teachers National Association  
Music Travel Consultants  
National Association for Music Education  
National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music  
National Association of Music Merchants  
National Concerts  
National Music Council  
New Harmony Line

Organization of American Kodaly Educators  
Opera on Tap/Playground Opera  
Percussive Arts Society  
Rock and Soul Forever Foundation  
Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society  
Sankofa Songs  
Save the Music Foundation  
Teachrock.org