



Good afternoon,

I am Jordan Resh, speaking on behalf of the Delaware Arts Alliance as its and Engagement & Operations Coordinator. I am a lifelong Dover resident (and new homeowner) and proud alumnus of the Dover High School music program. I am here in support of SB260.

This bill **helps advance the findings of the CREATE Plan**, a comprehensive report from the Delaware Arts Alliance for advancing Delaware's creative economy and cultural tourism sector. Our research found that there is a need to bridge the gap between students and higher education in creative fields, promoting the creative economy as a valuable path for professional development.

This bill is also **supported by the findings of Senate Concurrent Resolution 109**, passed by the legislature last year to explore opportunities to support career pathways in the creative economy. In developing the SCR109 Report, Delaware Arts Alliance convened stakeholders to hear insights directly from them, including a group of high school students. One student, currently enrolled in a Computer Science Pathway and taking theatre courses said their arts electives quote "helps me in ways I can't explain. I've gotten to work professionally in Computer Science, and I can speak and present better than my peers because I received an arts education too."

These students are passionate about the role of the arts in their lives and careers, but there are opportunities to better communicate and recognize the creative talent that makes them exceptional students too. **Support of these arts students will help bring legitimacy to their work and help retain the talented youth Delaware's arts educators are helping foster.**

To close, I would like to encourage everyone to attend the **Arts & Culture Caucus tomorrow, March 19 at 11:30AM in the Senate Hearing Room** where you can hear directly from nearly 50 students, educators and working creatives who will be here celebrating "March for the Arts". You can also stop by our Artist Showcase in the 2nd floor atrium or hear performances from Dover High's marching band and Select Ensemble in the afternoon. I have a copy of the event agenda with me, in case anyone would like one.

Thank you for your time and for your support of SB260.



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Respectfully,

Jordan Resh