

MacPhail

CENTER FOR MUSIC

Representative María isa Pérez-Vega
583 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep. Pérez-Vega,

As an employee of MacPhail Center for Music since 2009, I have been fortunate to witness the power of music education. For this reason and many more, I support MacPhail and speak on behalf of their Learning With Music and Online School Partnerships programs.

Music is one of the most influential forces in the lives of youth today. All ages enjoy the variety of activities that revolve around rhythm and the sounds of musical scales - no matter the setting. Music enhances the lives of the youth by connecting them to people, provides them with alternative activities to stimulate their mental and emotional growth, and ultimately makes them happier!

In my years of coaching and implementation of music education (Human Beat Boxing and song writing), I have observed the following areas of improvement in youth: memorization of complex phrases and patterns; development of better understandings in rhythm and sound; a sense of pride that comes from composing music with or without instruments; gaining of knowledge in collaborating with others to form healthy social bonds; recognition of music as a means to positive self-expression; building of higher self-esteem while identifying the values of their unique voices; increased confidence in speaking and performing live.

As a self-taught career musician, I don't take the role that music has played in my life for granted. I often wonder how much more I could have learned - had I been given the opportunity to enroll in music classes at a young age. I can't help but believe that growing up in poverty and having limited access to programming may have hindered my output. So, with all my heart, I ask that you support HF1629 to provide youth incredible opportunities to learn more about themselves through music education. Thank you in advance!

Sincerely,

Terrell Woods
MacPhail Teaching Artist