

Submitter: Mollee Meneghin
On Behalf Of: Century Highschool
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

I am in support of bill 1507, because without it, k-12 theatre's will be cut. Theatre has shown and taught people how to communicate, build, finish tasks on a hard deadline, build communities, using hands-on experiences, and involves learning so much more than just memorizing lines. In fact the things I have learned in my Theatre classes are things that I'm actually going to need to know in life. I've learned more in theatre classes than I have in any other class. Theatre has also given marginalized communities a place of belonging, a place where you can be unapologetically you, a place you can call a second home. Because of this, theatre has become a safe haven for tons of people in the LGBTQIA+ community, and neurodivergent people, including myself, a member of both of those communities. The theatre department being cut will put the neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+ communities more at risk than they already are. Theatre departments are also huge factors in our mental health. Because of theatre being a safe space where you can be free to be you, and become a safe haven for you, it has become one of the only, if not the one and only place students can be happy. I have genuinely lost track of how many people I know who's only reason for being on this earth at one point or even now, is theatre. If it weren't for theatre, so many of my friends and peers would not be here. Taking away theatre will genuinely have such a negative impact on students' mental health to the point I wouldn't be surprised if we lost someone because of this decision. As someone who's been in love and doing theatre since the age of 5, and now attending university to study it so I can have a future in theatre, it truly changed lives for the better, and it will cause lots of harm if the bill doesn't get passed. Thank you, and please vote in favor of bill 1507