

United Arts OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

STATE ADVOCACY ALERT 2010-04

Action Needed NOW on Florida House Bill 461!

Participation in Fine Arts Courses

HB 461 provides an incentive for schools to provide time and access for student participation in the fine arts and would not cost any money or be a mandate. HB 461 would provide for bonus points on the school grade for schools that increase the participation rate of eligible students in fine arts courses.

Who is sponsoring this bill in the Florida House?

Representative Kurt Kelly

Who are the co-sponsors, as of 2/22/2010, in the Florida House for HB 461?

Charles McBurney, R-16

Charles Van Zant, R-21

Our goal is to secure as many Florida House co-sponsors for HB 461 as we can with our initial focus on:

(1) the chairman of the House PreK-12 Policy Committee, Representative John Legg and

(2) members of the House PreK-12 Policy Committee.

Please follow the three steps below to help get this bill moving in the Florida Legislature.

Action 1:

Call Chairman John Legg's office to encourage him to please consider HB 461 in his House PreK-12 Policy Committee.

His Tallahassee number is
(850) 488-5522

Action 2:

E-mail [John Legg](mailto:John.Legg@flhouse.gov)

See **sample letter** below. Copy and paste it, and we encourage you to revise and personalize it as you see fit. We're asking him to please consider HB 461 in the House PreK-12 Policy Committee he chairs.

Action 3:

Email [Scott Plakon](mailto:Scott.Plakon@flhouse.gov)

or call

District (407) 262-7520

Tallahassee: (850) 488-2231 and

encourage him to co-sponsor HB 461.

Sample Letter

to use in your calls AND emails.
Please revise and personalize:

Dear Representative _____:

I urge you to please sign on as a co-sponsor of HB 461, sponsored by Representative Kurt Kelly. HB 461 provides an incentive for schools to provide time and access for student participation in the fine arts and would not cost any money or be a mandate.

A 2007-2008 study was conducted by the Florida Department of Education that included 100% of the 2007-2008 12th grade class. 188,859 Florida students' participation in fine arts courses were examined and evaluated. This FDOE study clearly demonstrates a consistent pattern in students' performances in accordance with the years of participation in the fine arts: ***The more years in fine arts courses, the better student achievement on the FCAT and the SAT and the more likely a student is to graduate.*** The positive results of this study are true for students on free and reduced lunch and for students disaggregated by ethnicity.

HB 461 would provide for bonus points on the school grade for schools that increase the participation rate of eligible students in fine arts courses, and the specifics of this bill will be determined by DOE rule.

Based on this excellent data, I hope HB 461 will gain your support as a co-sponsor. If passed this legislative session, the provisions of this bill will help improve and strengthen the success of both our students and schools.

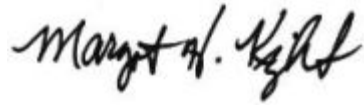
As of today's date, Representatives Charles McBurney and Charles Van Zant have signed on as co-sponsors. May I count on you to co-sponsor HB 461?

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

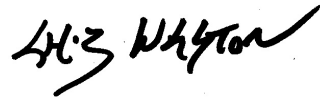
Your Name

Address
Phone Number
E-mail address

Thank you for your advocacy efforts.
Your voice *does* make a difference.



Margot H. Knight
President & CEO



Chip Weston
Government Affairs
