

Governor's March 1, 2010 Deficit Mitigation Plan

To reduce Culture & Tourism and Arts and Basic Cultural Grants by 25% is like cutting off your right arm to help your left arm.

Every state in which I have lived realized the value of supporting the arts as it makes money for the state, helps businesses and the economy. That is why Maryland designated several neighborhoods in different cities as Art & Entertainment Districts to support artists, musicians and writers in those areas as well as create galleries, theaters and entertainment venues. They bring in tourists who spend money on the arts, stay in hotels, eat in restaurants and shop. Plus, a state that doesn't take care of its artists will lose them to other states. It would benefit Connecticut to follow Maryland's example. Instead of cutting the budget for the arts, invest in the arts, help the arts flourish and help the economy.

Sincerely,
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