

Proposed Bill No. 148

Introduced by: SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.
Rep. Mary G. Fritz, 90th Dist.

To members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I strongly oppose this act ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ARTWORK FOR STATE BUILDING PROJECTS.

Artwork is the foundation of our society. It not only beautifies an area, but it deepens the cultural roots for any project engaged in it.

Also, by keeping the requirement, we empower artists to want to live and work in Connecticut. This boosts the cultural aspects of the state. People gravitate where the art is. Art makes a location a destination.

If you take away the arts, you take away culture. If you destroy this, you sterilize our state.

My fiancé and I are both artists. Tao LaBossiere has become a successful artist here in CT, one of the select few who can make a living at it and thrive. If you enable this act, you are telling artists that you don't want us here in Connecticut. That also tells tourists you don't want them here.

If you look at the city of Richmond, California and why they have percent for the arts, "In adopting a Percent for Art Resolution, the City recognizes the substantial economic benefits to be gained through the aesthetic enhancement of its public spaces, and its increased ability to attract and retain commercial and industrial businesses through an enriched visual environment." (source: <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=602>)

Please consider the long-term, far-reaching implications of retaining this requirement. It will have a ripple affect to many lives, including all of us.

Thank you.

Amy Mielke

Artist/Strategic Advisor

newly appointed Commissioner of Cultural Affairs/City of Hartford

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