

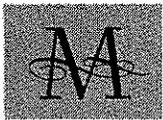
Testimony of: Douglas Hyland

Appropriations Committee

RE: H.B. No. 6350 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE

Chairwoman Harp, Chairwoman Walker, members of the committee,

My name is Douglas Hyland and I'm here today to testify on H.B. No. 6350 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.

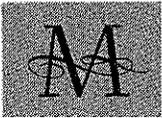


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I am the Director and Chief Curator of the New Britain Museum of American Art. We are very honored to be working in cooperation with the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Bruce Museum, Florence Griswold Museum, Hill-Stead Museum, Lyman Allyn Art Museum and Mattatuck Museum, so that we can continue to make a significant contribution to Connecticut's economy. Last year, the New Britain Museum attracted close to 100,000 visitors. We mounted 27 exhibitions, organized 1152 programs, 69 events, and toured 14,854 students from over 100 cities and towns in Connecticut. Working in conjunction with Professor Richard Benfield of Central Connecticut State University, we

have calculated that the economic impact of the Museum's operations in Connecticut has resulted in generating \$5,761,000 in our state.

For over a decade, the New Britain Museum has received approximately \$25,000 in operating support through the Department of Culture and Tourism, now part of the Commission on Economic and Community Development. While we are very grateful for this allocation, during the same period, the Museum's budget has grown from \$1.5 million to \$3 million and our building has expanded from 20,000 sq. ft. to 50,000 sq. ft. Our visitors have increased 300%. Over the years, the number of line items providing specific support for our sister cultural institutions across the state has expanded each year. Each of these allocations is dramatically greater than that provided the New Britain Museum of American Art. Last year, the community theaters received line item support. The only group that remains without line item support are the art museums of Connecticut. We request that you provide \$1.5 million in support to be divided equally by the 7 community art museums serving the people of Connecticut located in all parts of the state. In this way, we will be able to strengthen our programs, attract more visitors, and enable visitors to participate more effectively in the education programs that we offer. This year, we have decided to remain open on Mondays and thus, make available the 10,000 objects and hundreds of programs 362 days of the year. With your support of H.B. No. 6350, we would be able to plan and execute strategic



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objectives that will further enhance the quality of life in our state and specifically, strengthen our economy through cultural tourism and increase the influence of the Museum in terms of the basic curricula of 132 cities and towns that send their students to the New Britain Museum of American Art each year.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on this important issue and I ask that you support this bill which will provide much needed funds directly to help us achieve future success.



Douglas Hyland, Ph. D.

Director

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