



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE ERIC C. BERTHEL
SIXTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
Eric.Berthel@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of Raised Senate Bill No. 397 An Act Concerning A Municipal Option For Property Tax Abatements For Arts And Culture

**Commerce Committee
March 10, 2016**

Dear Chairman Hartley, Chairman Perone, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee.

I am here in support of raised **Senate Bill No. 397 An Act Concerning A Municipal Option For Property Tax Abatements For Arts And Culture**.

Senate Bill 397 would allow any municipality to exempt up to one hundred percent of property taxes for any venue that facilitates art and cultural activities. This would also include art galleries, art studios, installation galleries, movie theaters, performance venues and any other retailers catering to or relating to the arts.

The arts are an important part of our cultural and economic footprint in Connecticut and we need to do all we can to support them. We have heard countless times that the taxes in this state are forcing business to move or close altogether. I would ask the committee to consider these points when voting on this important legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric C. Berthel".

Eric C. Berthel
State Representative – 68th District