

Honored members of the Connecticut State Legislature:

As you consider H.B. No. 5578, an act to prohibit the sale and trade of ivory and rhinoceros horn in the state, please keep in mind the professional musicians of our great state.

Two parts of the bill's current language are inconsistent with proposed federal policies and could make it impossible for musicians to sell valuable and antique instruments that lack "historical documentation demonstrating provenance."

Musical instruments, especially violins, can be extremely expensive. An instrument that is played throughout a professional's career might be sold help to fund that musician's retirement when their playing days are through.

Phrases such as "historical" and "provenance" could be interpreted to set too a high standard for musicians that don't have reliable original documentation for their antique instrument. While it may be difficult to prove an exact date of creation, many of these instruments are over a century old and a reputable broker can ascertain their age within a few decades.

An exemption for all musical instruments that can be reasonably established to have been made before 1976 would be a great service to the musicians of our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine C. Carroll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elaine" and last name "Carroll" clearly distinguishable.

Elaine C. Carroll  
Executive Director, New Haven Symphony Orchestra