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County Administration
Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 933 (Allen) Arts for Every Student Act - Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on SB 933 (Allen), which would create the "Arts for Every Student Act," which will provide California school districts with a "jump start" in arts education.

Authored by Senator Ben Allen, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Senate Bill 933 can help provide our students with more robust visual and performing arts instruction. California Education Code states that every K-12 student shall receive instruction in and access to arts education. Per the California Arts Education Data Project, it has been demonstrated that only 39% of students in California public schools participate in the arts, and *that access is significantly lower in low-income and rural schools.*

The County of Santa Barbara proudly supports and believes in arts education and the arts for every resident. To this effect, Santa Barbara offers \$50,000 annually in Community Arts Enrichment Grant Funding with an emphasis in providing access to arts for underserved communities. During each grant cycle, over half of these grants support programs in our local schools for in-school and after school enrichment programs. Even with this additional help, many of our local school's grapple with insufficient resources to provide a STEAM education. This bill is critical to provide all students with access to quality arts education.

The arts prepare our students to enter the workforce by fostering skills that include innovation, persistence, and collaboration. Creative industries account for one out of every ten jobs in California, and provide over \$273 billion annually to our state's economy. Arts and culture are essential and relevant to every child's education. We specifically address this in the Santa Barbara County 2018 Legislative Platform passed and adopted by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. On Page 2, under *Arts and Culture*, we include a section titled *Creating a Workforce for the 21st Century- Support for Arts Education in Schools*, noting that "Studies have proven that workforce needs are dramatically shifting. The Business Sector and companies are looking for employees with new skill sets that focus on "out of the box" thinking and solutions; and workers that do well as part of a team. Studies show that arts in schools help develop these skills and better prepare youth for the job market and new career paths. Studies show that students exposed to arts in school stay in school and are less likely to drop out."

Santa Barbara County hosts many districts and schools in low-income communities, where our students are statistically over 50% less likely to receive the benefits of arts instruction when compared to more affluent communities. We wish for all of our students to receive a quality education that isn't impacted by their zip code or household income.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your signature on SB 933 (Allen).

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Ben Allen, Author
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 13th Senate District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors