

My name is [REDACTED]  
an artistic person  
who thrives in my  
theatre class at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] high school.

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

Thank you for convincing  
to advocate on my behalf  
so I can participate in  
what I love. Please  
continue to speak for  
disabled folks so that  
we can enjoy life just  
like you.

TO

Senator Andy Billie

307 Legislative  
building

PO Box 40403

Olympian WA 98504

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear [REDACTED] Administration.

As a parent of a high school  
Student, who participates  
in Performance company at  
theater in school and  
after school, I'm grateful  
for the opportunity. Arts  
in school has given our student  
forever friends, tools for future  
career and an appreciation for  
completing projects. We hope you can  
attend our next performance. Sincerely,

TO [REDACTED] Administration

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (High School Parent)

**Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education**

Dear Mr. [REDACTED],

Thank you for being a support  
of The [REDACTED] Theatre Arts program.

I absolutely believe that being  
involved in theatre has taught  
me life skills far beyond what  
I have learned in a classroom.  
I've become a better leader,  
organizer and I've found  
more direction on what I  
want to pursue next in life.

Thank you for being an advocate  
and supporter of what this  
Program does. My experience in  
theatre has been incredible and  
with admin like you I know our  
Program will continue to grow and  
improve. Thank you

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] High School

**Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education**

Hobby, that is what the  
arts are called, but it is so  
much [redacted]

[redacted] and  
[redacted]

am a part of the arts  
department through acting.

I have lived a life full  
of bad feelings and dark  
days, these stages pulled  
me from the dark. This  
isn't a hobby, it's healing.

student

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

Senator Andy Bilig

307 legislative Building

PO Box 40403

Olympia, WA 98504

Dr. Miner,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am  
a parent of 2 drama kids. I  
am currently chaperoning  
a trip to the State Thespians  
event in Ellensburg. As you  
think about the 10.6 million  
that needs to be cut,  
please remember that these  
kids do so much more than  
just "put on a show". They  
are learning skills like carpentry,  
costume design, sound, lighting  
and so much more. These are  
skills they can use to help  
them get one of the 187,146 jobs  
that are available JUST IN WASHINGTON STATE

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] - a concerned parent

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED],

My name is [REDACTED]  
(as you may know) and  
as a black girl, I need  
theatre to feel accurately  
represented. Statistics show  
72% of Americans believe  
the arts unify us regardless  
of age, race, or ethnicity.  
I'm writing to you as our  
#advocate for BSO and  
Swag to support our  
color-blind casted show  
Mamma Mia. WA state  
thespians have a BIPOC  
theater affinity group  
which opened my eyes to the  
fact people of color NEED  
theater. Thank You!

— [REDACTED] **Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education**

**Washington State Thespians**  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

**TO**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear, School board members

My name is [REDACTED], I'm a queer  
and disabled student who's found my safe-  
space in [REDACTED] Drama department.

Drama has given me skills that have  
affected me, in my normal classes. I have  
seen as theatre changes my life for the  
better and for that I care quite a bit  
about the program, and its longevity.

A problem that we observed first hand is the  
lack of acknowledgement towards theatre in our  
schools. Our sport teams get weekly updates told to  
all the schools via a 'news station' run by students.  
Our sports teams get so much recognition while  
arts only gets mentioned in passing. This also  
contributes to the problems with funding. People  
are not aware about our fundraising events and  
shows so when these happen the seats are not  
full. If the larger community knew more about our  
troupe's work then we would get more funding and  
fill more seats!

Best,

[REDACTED] **Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education**

**Washington State Thespians**  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

**TO**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am sitting here at the WA State Thespian Festival surrounded by numerous Drama students from around the state AND [REDACTED] Academic State Champions in Drama. It's glorious. I am reminded how important theatre arts education is in our community. These are students who learn to trust, collaborate, and communicate. They are empathetic, as they learn to walk in others' shoes. We are **TO** the embodiment of SEL. I worry about enrollment & how our program has been impacted. ~~These~~ These students **NEED** Drama. I know you know this, and I've always felt supported by you, for that I am grateful. But please consider the safe, creative space Drama provides for students who don't "belong" elsewhere in the building as our numbers pin out over the next few weeks.

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Thank you!



Hello, I'm a teacher at [redacted] HS for theater and CTE. I'm writing to ask you to help problem solve the issue with HB 1660 that has a great intent but in requiring us to provide the opportunities on a sliding scale without any financial support from the district/school means teachers and clubs have to do fundraising more than ever before to run our extra curricular activities. Going to a regional or state competition costs thousands of dollars so for students that are already so busy, it means untellable hours & potentially not being able to go at all. please help.

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

Dr. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Dear Mr. [REDACTED],

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

My name is [REDACTED] theatre teacher  
and director at [REDACTED] High School. This weekend  
myself and a small group of dedicated theatre  
students attended Thespians State at CWU in  
Ellensburg, and I got to hear many art educators  
complaining about their principals, superintendents,  
and districts and the lack of respect they feel.  
While I do believe there are strides we as a  
district can still make as far as access to and  
equity in all arts, I wanted to thank you  
for the continued support you give, and for  
fighting for arts education in our schools.  
Even in your short time in the district, it has  
not gone unnoticed.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
*Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education*

TO

Superintendent [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] School Administration,

I am writing to express my gratitude for funding our schools theater department. Being a part of the theater community has been incredibly beneficial for me. It has helped me find my voice, become more confident in public speaking, and develop leadership and compromise skills.

We deeply appreciate your support and hope that you will continue to provide equitable funding to help more students benefit from the mental and physical support and skills that our theater community offers. It truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED], I am the  
historian and advocacy chair for the thespian  
troupe and an active member who  
participates in every one of our shows  
as well as being a member in our two  
advanced choirs. Theatre and the arts  
has truly changed my life and  
provided me with so many opportunities.

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

Your growing support has given me and  
so many students the chance to thrive  
in theatre, leading to the ability to thrive  
in other categories. As a low income  
student, the funding we have received  
has given me and many students the  
opportunity to gain so many life experiences,  
and with your continued growing support  
so many more students will be able to  
gain these experiences.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Dear [redacted] School Board,

My name is [redacted] and I am a 10th grader at [redacted] High School. I have never been very into most school subjects, particularly math and science, but I still try my best. I work hard for good grades and get through the school day so I can go to rehearsal at the end of the day. Theatre isn't a hobby for me. I am working towards a career. I use the skills I use in rehearsals for college preparation. I am serious about it, and my school's theatre program has been nothing but supportive. But our school's budget for next year is the lowest we have seen in a very long time. and when our school has budget cuts, arts usually suffer the biggest blow. Students have cried to our principal, begging to not let a beloved music teacher go. But with the budget as small as it was, he had no choice. We are a community, a tight-knit family. Most people don't see the arts as important, but we are no less important than the athletes or academics. I have seen the quietest kids come alive in theatre. We help each other be the best versions of ourselves, and have so much love for this program. Many people may not see it as important, but it is, for so many reasons. When making budget cuts, please think about us and our family of artists. Thank you.

Sincerely, [redacted]

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

[redacted] School Board

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education



Hi, Ms. Schner! My name is  
[redacted] and I'm a future film  
director who loves theater. I  
wanted to say thank you so much for  
the state's support of arts in high school!

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

This is my first year going to WA  
State Thespians competition, and I've  
been learning about theater/art's impact  
on WA's economy. ~~Plus~~ I learned  
that it accounts for 10.8% (\$72.8 BILLION)  
of WA gross income, & 137,916 jobs. waaa!



TO

US Representative, Kim Schrier

Issaquah, WA 98027



I think it'd be amazing if the amount  
of funding a county received was proportionate  
to their average property taxes, so all schools  
could access the same programs. Again,  
thank you so much for everything you've  
done.

1445 NW Mall Street

Sincerely, [redacted]

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Hello

[REDACTED] School District officials.

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a senior at [REDACTED] high school & [REDACTED] Drama Thespian Troupe [REDACTED] member. I am writing to you to emphasize the importance of including arts programs in school to improve the mental health of students. I ~~first~~ entered high school initially having no intention of joining the performing arts program, but my involvement in it for the last three years has had an extremely positive effect on my mental health & self-esteem. I plan to pursue further education and a career path in science, but my involvement in drama has taught me valuable life skills in public speaking, working with others, & has connected me with wonderful people. ~~I have~~ Having taken many AP and college-level classes myself throughout high school, I understand the value of academic excellence & advancement. However, these arts programs add so much value to students' lives that other classes cannot provide. Please understand their necessity, and I urge you to prioritize their integrity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

TO

[REDACTED]

School District

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED], I'm an average student. My grades aren't outstanding, My test scores aren't perfect. You can also tell my punctuation and grammar aren't perfect either, I am, and have been content with this, yet the arts program has always been the driving factor to be better in many things I do. I'm so glad I have an activity I'm passionate about, that can help me and so many others find communities with supportive and educated people. It's a different kind of education, ones that teach you how to express yourself, communicate, work with other people and so much more. But that's boring right? I remember last year, at a protest for the arts, many of my friends stayed outside of a conference room till 2am just to talk about why arts are important, they yawned, you yawned. I love walking into school seeing the new fancy vending machines wondering if I'll be able to go on my field trip, we couldn't afford a bus. I like to send off the big football boys in their charter buses to state just to watch them come back empty handed, as if the gold plaques were nothing hanging on our choir walls.

-Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

School Board, [REDACTED]

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education



Dear Superintendent

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

[REDACTED],  
My name is [REDACTED] and  
I am a Junior at [REDACTED]  
High School as well as a running start  
student. I do a lot of things...track,  
lacrosse, ~~AP~~ art, and theatre. I have  
a deep passion for the arts, however, sadly,  
a lot of the art programs in our district  
are underfunded. As someone who does sports  
and different arts programs, the difference is  
staggering. Arts are unifying and positively  
impact our school community, so please consider  
leading more funding to our highschool arts programs.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] **lives Through Theatre Education**

TO

[REDACTED] Superintendent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WA [REDACTED]

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and before theatre, I had little to ~~have~~ no self-confidence or positive community. The first time I had ever enjoyed a summer vacation was when I took one of your theatre camps when I was 10. Since then, I have found people in my high school's theatre program who have made me more happy than I have ever been. I just want to thank you for sending me on the path of theatre arts, and helping me find who I am and who I want to be around. I hope you will continue to inspire others just as you have me. sincerely, [REDACTED]

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

Driftwood Players

950 Main St., Edmonds, WA

98020

Washington, USA

**Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education**

Dear [redacted] School Board,

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

I am a [redacted] School student who loves theater and am saddened by the lack of attention and funding arts programs receive, especially in comparison to sports programs. Arts students statistically have higher GPA's and lower dropout rates. Arts students are dedicated to school and extracurriculars, but are limited on what can be done and where they can travel. At [redacted], arts are mentioned as an afterthought. No clear messages are made regarding arts involvement, performances, and showcases, while there is a weekly bulletin on sports games, a constant sideshow celebrating their success. Arts are also having to pay out of pocket for many trips and activities, while sports trips are completely funded. I ask that you consider the arts students you may come across. They are passionate, creative, intelligent and have AMAZING ideas of how to use extra funding! We would love the obvious support the school board could provide and look forward to the day arts are appreciated as they deserve to be, come to our performances, pay for our trips, see the joy it brings me and the communities.

Sincerely, a theater student who loves their program.

TO

[redacted] School Board  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

Mr. [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] drama club vice president and choir section leader. I'd love to thank you for supporting [REDACTED] arts programs by coming to our theatre performances and choir concerts. It's amazing to receive such support considering how little recognition our programs receive. I'm writing to you to advocate for more funding in our arts programs. In WA State, the arts contribute \$72.8 Billion to the states economy, so it is essential that the arts are represented equitably. In fact, it's a law that all schools in WA state have equitable access to the arts. Unfortunately, it is really hard for prep's drama program to compare to other schools when we receive so little funding. Now, I understand that being a small, private school, there is only so much that can be done to increase the funding, but the same thing applies to our sports program. We all go to the same school, so why do the sports teams have the money for new uniforms/equipment and we don't?

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

I'd love for you to at least consider what can be done for all prep programs to receive equity. Thanks for your consideration!

Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Hello! My name is [REDACTED] and  
I am someone who found my confidence in theater.  
I am a senior at [REDACTED] and have found a haven  
in the drama department. I just wanted to  
personally thank you for supporting our program  
in coming and watching our production of Hello, Dolly!  
We as a program really appreciate your attendance  
as it lets us know that we are worth it.

It feels like we constantly have to remind  
community members what a special impact  
performing arts have. By you showing up to our  
show, you set an example for community  
members to know that the arts share stories  
and experiences people need to hear.

Thank you for your service on the  
school board. Please keep advocating  
for continual funding and communal supports of performing arts.

**Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education** Thank you! - [REDACTED]

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO

Mr. Johnson

3141 1st Ave. N.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

My name is [REDACTED]  
I am a student at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] in [REDACTED] The  
only A that I have gotten since  
my freshman year has been Theatre.  
I only show up to school and pass  
my classes so I can participate in  
the arts. I realize that I am  
very blessed to live in the [REDACTED] TO  
part of our district. We receive  
lots of funding; and we're one of [REDACTED]  
the most well-known and successful [REDACTED]  
programs in our region. I am reaching  
out to you because I know that [REDACTED]  
most schools around and even in [REDACTED]  
our district do not receive the  
same training or funding. I am  
sending this to ask you to give [REDACTED]  
other schools in our district proper  
funding to create the environment  
that the students from [REDACTED] have,

**Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education**

Dear [REDACTED] Public Schools,

Theatre changes lives. Theatre changed my life. The skills I have learned in my arts classes like how to speak publicly in a way that makes people ~~listen~~ listen and how to be creative and think outside the box are skills that are going to serve me for the rest of my life. I'm certain I'll eventually forget how to factor polynomials, but I'll never forget the things I have learned and the people I have met in the Arts programs at my school. I don't quite know how it works, but I know I didn't have to pay a penny to go to state. I'm unendingly grateful, but I can't help but notice other schools ([REDACTED] high school) didn't get this same privilege. I encourage you to ask yourself, why not?

Washington State Thespians  
1037 NE 65th St., STE 241  
Seattle, WA 98115

TO [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Shaping Lives Through Theatre Education**