

SR-201

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 2:28:16 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/24/2021 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an artist, I love to see government supporting the arts in every way that is educational and inspirational for the community.

SR-201

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 2:27:35 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/24/2021 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Page	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Jessica Page and I am testifying in support of SR201. I am currently doing research on Filipino American Mental Health in hopes to train mental health practitioners on how to serve Filipino clients in a way that honors our culture. In the past, I have provided culturally-relevant substance abuse counseling and created a free, community-based Filipino Studies course in San Jose, California Although I am proud to say these things, I can say that I only had the opportunity to do so because I was in a very progressive community which voraciously advocated for arts, culture, and humanities programs. I'm sure I wouldn't be able to say the same in another area where Filipinos are not a large portion of the population.

I am writing in favor of this resolution because all the things I do are products of arts, culture and humanities studies. As an undergraduate I studied psychology and sociology, but it wasn't until I took Asian American/Filipino American Studies courses that I understood the crucial role that culture plays in mental health. Since I started as an undergraduate 14 years ago, these programs were always the first on the chopping block when funds were low. While I was in community college, I didn't have the privilege of taking any because they were all cut. However, they became available when I transferred to a more prestigious university. But not everybody gets the opportunity to transfer to such universities, especially those from marginalized communities who could benefit from such resources.

Creative studies can give students a constructive outlet to express their emotional experiences in a way that they may not be able to in more conventional settings. Miner-Romanoff (2016) conducted a three-year study in which 200 incarcerated youth were able to take art classes in custody and exhibit their art to the public. Ninety-three percent of follow-up respondents reported increases in self-esteem and decrease in stress after having their work showcased. Additionally, Ngo and team (2014) highlighted how spoken word programs in Tucson and California (among numerous other parts of the country) empowered minoritized youth. These youth expressed their experiences to the public about police brutality, gang violence, sexual and reproductive health, among other things. Participants reported being empowered to mobilize in government or to educate the masses after experiencing such programs. Again, I write in favor of this

resolution, especially the fiscal provisions, to support further generations in mobilizing for social justice. Thank you all in advance for considering my testimony.

Maraming Salamat,
Jessica Page

References

Miner-Romanoff, K. (2016). Voices from Inside: The Power of Art to Transform and Restore. *Journal of Correctional Education*, 67(1).

Ngo, B., Lewis, C., &Maloney Leaf, B. (2017). Fostering sociopolitical consciousness with minoritized youth: Insights from community-based arts programs. *Review of Research in Education*, 41(1), 358-380. doi:10.3102/0091732x17690122