



NEWS

From the Office of Representative
Bob Dixon

140th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 14, 2008

CONTACT: Rep. Bob Dixon
573-751-9809
417-343-9560

Dixon's Fine Arts Initiative Passes House Committee

Jefferson City, MO — On Wednesday, March 12, 2008, the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education considered House Concurrent Resolution 26. The resolution, which was sponsored by Rep. Dixon (Springfield), received the unanimous approval of the committee members. HCR 26 was the product of months of work by students of Logan-Rogersville High School and Rep. Dixon. After conducting considerable research about the effect of the fine arts, the participating students crafted the language of the resolution. Having crafted the resolution, several students appeared before the committee to testify on behalf of arts education, discussing the potential impact of HCR 26.

“The ultimate goal will be increased funding for this vital element of the educational experience. HCR 26 is a first step on this path. The students from Logan-Rogersville who worked on the resolution are excellent examples of how the fine arts enable present and future Missouri students to succeed in school and in society, as engaged citizens,” explained Rep. Dixon.

Five students represented various departments at Logan-Rogersville High School: Ashlyn Moore (Choral), Lauren Devine and Meagan Dulany (Band), Carter Cunningham (Art), and Nic Hutchison (Visual Arts). Each cited instances where less funding has affected fine arts education. “Often times in our marching band, our instruments break or are in need of repair,” noted drum majorette Lauren Devine. “We have to use duct tape to fix the instrument rather than purchasing a new one.”

A variety of organizations expressed their support for HCR 26: Springfield Regional Arts Council, (Executive Director Sandra Smith); Missouri Fine Arts Academy (Director Julie Bloodworth); Missouri Music Educators Association (President Paul Copenhaver); Missouri Citizens for the Arts; Missouri National Education Association; and Gifted Association of Missouri.

Next, HCR 26 must receive approval from the Rules Committee before consideration by the full House.

###