

Dear Colleagues,

Time is running out and your action is needed immediately! The Virginia General Assembly will begin their general session on January 12 and one of the topics will be the implementation of the mandatory high school economics and finance course. If this course is adopted state wide as it is written students will not be able to take any elective for a four year sequence including music. This will cause a tremendous drop in the quality of all musical groups in our schools: band, orchestra, chorus and theatre.

Please take the time to accomplish all of the following as soon as possible:

- Sign the Virginia Students Need to Keep their Electives petition at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/virginia-students-need-to-keep-their-electives/> The number of signatures is embarrassingly low; spread the word!
- It is extremely important to contact both of your Virginia General Assembly members. It does not have to be a long letter, but taking the time to write something shows how important the issue is to you. Go to find your representatives http://legis.virginia.gov/1_cit_guide/contacting_my.html
- You also need to ask your Booster groups to disseminate this information immediately and get them to send letters. Thank you to the Herndon HS HHSBPA for posting information and a sample letter on their website! If you need something to share with your booster organization take a look at www.herndonband.org
- In your letter you can ask them to repeal HB622 altogether. If they will not repeal the bill then HB622 will only be supported with the following language change: Local school boards may implement this requirement through relevant Standards of Learning and career and technical education programs or through other educational programs that comply with Board objectives for economics and financial liberty.
- Also include a suggestion that localities implement the Economics and Finance requirement through Math or Civics classes like it is in middle school.

Everybody is busy and time is valuable, but if you do not take the time to fight this bill you will be significantly less busy in years to come. With the luxury of the internet we can make up lost time very quickly. Please share this with anybody in the state all electives will be affected by this every voice counts!

Please keep your student musicians' pride in mind because they are the ones who benefit from the excellence of your tutelage and performing groups.

Mary Wagner Christian Donlon

FACE Co-chairs