



February 1, 2021

Dear Chairman Owens and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing Sleepy Hollow to voice our support of HB 1478, which would create the opportunity for students to obtain credit for their experiences outside the classroom.

The point of education is to create well rounded individuals who become contributing members of society. Involvement in the arts is central to this as it teaches critical thinking, teamwork and the development of self-reliant abilities which positively impact one's entire life.

Sleepy Hollow Theatre & Arts Park has been providing artistic opportunities to youth and audiences in the Bismarck-Mandan community since 1990. We have since produced over 50 Broadway Style Musicals over 32 years and involved 185,000 students, teachers, orchestra members, volunteers, and over 200,000 audience members. Our communities and state benefit from this cultural and economic impact.

Our students dedicate hundreds of hours in rehearsals, performances and set construction. Throughout their training, they learn the value of preparedness, memorization and delivery, movement and awareness of the space they occupy, appropriate timing and flexibility. They practice teamwork, what it means to be part of an ensemble, and how critical it is to pull one's weight—just what we want young people to cultivate for successful futures.

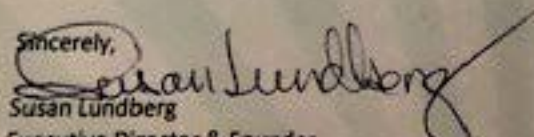
Over the years teachers have shared that when school starts in the fall, through their demeanor and confidence level, they can always tell who has been involved in Sleepy Hollow.

Shouldn't they have the opportunity to see that experience and those life skills rewarded in the form of school credit? We believe this creates a hunger for more learning and development.

HB 1478 will recognize that the extra-curricular efforts of our students translate to much more than a well-performed play—they foster individuals who are creative, confident, and competent.

We thank the legislature for its support of the arts and its foresight in helping our young people grow. We respectfully ask that you pass HB 1478. Thank you,

Sincerely,

  
Susan Lundberg

Executive Director & Founder

Sleepy Hollow Theatre & Arts Park is a recipient of the North Dakota Governor's Award for the Arts.

★ SLEEPY HOLLOW THEATRE & ARTS PARK ★