

Please draft a short email to your legislators. One or two paragraphs are sufficient, but feel free to go longer.

Describe the impact of a 10% tuition increase on your family and participation in SOGO.

Describe possible impacts on SOGO as a whole.

You can include the information below that describes the legislation, but this is not necessary.

Just be sure to include the number of the bill, ESSB 5814.

You may copy and paste selected points, but it is best if you put this in your own words and focus on your story of how ESSB 5814 will impact you and your family.

The Honorable (legislator name)

Washington State (Senate or House of Representatives)

Dear (Senator _____ or Representative _____),

I am a voter in Legislative District NN, writing to share the negative impacts ESSB 5814 is having on nonprofit youth arts education programs and my family.

ESSB 5814 imposes sales tax on “live presentations” – interpreted by the DOR to include rehearsals for youth arts organizations such as Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia (SOGO). As a result, the cost of tuition that families pay to participate will increase by almost 10%. Not everyone can afford this.

SOGO is a small nonprofit serving students throughout the South Sound area. It provides over 185 student musicians a rich musical experience that supplements school music, drawing students from over 41 schools in four counties.

SOGO works cooperatively with public school music educators, providing free sectional rehearsals in schools and free private lessons to students who need extra assistance. SOGO invites diverse students of all financial means and includes students with disabilities. Many students receive scholarships; many families make sacrifices to support their children’s musical enrichment.

The purpose of ESSB 5814, as stated in its first paragraph, is to support education and to help children achieve success in life. Unfortunately, the bill has resulted in the taxation of programs that do the things the bill claims to support.

I do not think nonprofit youth arts education was the intended target of this legislation. ESSB 5814 should be amended to repeal this sales tax on tuition paid to participate in youth arts education.

Sincerely,
(Your name)