

Testimony of Anni Weisband
Applicant of Fine Arts Program

Honorable Chairman Bryant and members of the budget committee my name is Anni Weisband, and I would like to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. Coming from a small blue ribbon Quaker school I want to thank the legislators of the past for their emphasis on making New Jersey a state that stresses excellence in education and educational opportunities for the youth of our state. New Jersey has always stood above all other states in their Governor's School program. We are the envy of forty-nine other states. I understand you have very difficult fiduciary decisions to make. I can not however understand how our governor has decided to take away the Governor's School- a source of pride to all New Jerseyans. Where else can students from all economic backgrounds get a chance to study in their chosen fields under excellent teachers? Would California suddenly drop the Rose Bowl Parade? Would England discontinue Rhode Scholarships? Would the United States not have a Ryder Cup team? Myself and over seven hundred other students after being nominated by our respective schools spent several months preparing our applications and fulfilling our requirements. Personally in addition to my application I had to prepare an arduous audition equal to that of Julliard's. My hard work paid off when I found out I was selected as one of thirty finalists out of three-hundred theater applicants. But can you imagine my disappointment when three days before my final audition I was informed there would be no Governor's school this summer? I understand that some people may feel that this is not as important as other financial responsibilities in the state and maybe they're right. However it is wrong to discontinue such a prestigious program this late into the process. I can't believe that the Governor's School would have a big impact on our state's budget. Please reconsider reviving the Governor's School of New Jersey for this year and the future. You can't let it die. Thank you for your time and patience.

