

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2017

Dear Mr. President,

We write in support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and urge you to support full funding for both agencies in your Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Since 1965, the NEA has offered all Americans the opportunity to develop their passion for the arts, explore new and developing areas, and receive grants for projects across our nation. In that same time frame, the NEH has funded numerous world-renowned exhibitions, preserved and digitized countless historically significant documents, and helped millions of young Americans gain a better understanding of our nation's history. Defunding the NEA and NEH would adversely affect communities in which the arts and humanities are not easily accessible and deprive our nation's youth of the opportunity to learn about our artistic and cultural history. Some crucial services provided by the NEA and NEH include:

Military

- The NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership funds centers across the country that utilize creative arts therapy, such as music therapy and therapeutic writing, as a means of treating brain injuries and psychological health issues for service members.
- Art therapy for PTSD and depression is estimated to save nearly \$1.7 billion in healthcare costs, averaging \$1,000 in healthcare cost savings per veteran.
- The NEH Standing Together Initiative provides grants to support veterans, as well as facilitate discussion about the effects military service has on military personnel and their families.
- The NEH Warrior Scholar Project provides veterans with a humanities-oriented two week long "academic boot camp" to assist them with the transition from the military to college.

Youth & Education

- Incorporation of the arts into school curriculums has proven to lead to higher GPAs and improved scores on the SAT.
- Students who receive arts education perform better in school and are less likely to drop out; low-income students that engage in the arts have only a 4% dropout rate, whereas their peers with little engagement in the arts have a 22% dropout rate.
- NEH's PRIME TIME Family Reading Time program provides nearly 60,000 underserved children and their families in 42 states with the opportunity to engage with literature on a weekly basis, combating intergenerational illiteracy in over 1,000 communities across the country.

- Nearly 100,000 educators have benefitted from NEH training, which includes instruction on topics ranging from Congress to Shakespeare. Subsequently, one million students have benefitted from the instruction these teachers receive.

Economic Impact

- The arts and cultural sector generated \$704.2 billion, 4.23% of our nation's GDP, and employed 4.7 million Americans who collectively made over \$330 billion in 2013.
- For every 100 jobs created by demand for the arts, 62 additional jobs are created.
- NEH-supported traveling exhibitions bring tourism dollars to small communities across the nation.
- Since the late 70s, the NEH has required outside organizations to match federal contributions, oftentimes several times over. As a result, the \$897.7 million the NEH has awarded in Challenge Grants has produced \$3.02 billion in non-federal matching funds from other organizations.

Eliminating these programs would be detrimental to our military, our students, and our economy. We strongly urge you to support full and robust funding for the NEA and NEH in the FY 2018 budget, as exposure to the arts and humanities benefits all Americans. We appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Lord Doggett
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



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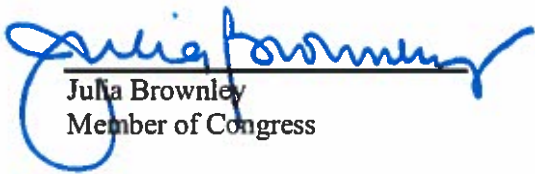
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress




Mike Thompson
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Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

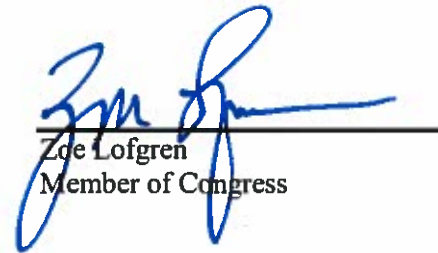

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