

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Capitol, S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Capitol, S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Department of the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Capitol, S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Chairman Murkowski,

We write today to express our steadfast support for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). For more than 50 years, the NEA and NEH have promoted educational and cultural experiences that generate tremendous economic returns for communities in every single state in the country. We urge you to continue bipartisan support by rejecting the Administration's budget proposal to eliminate the NEA and NEH. We respectfully request you support funding of no less than \$155 million for each of the NEA and NEH for fiscal year 2019.

Since its creation in 1965, the NEH has funded groundbreaking scholarly research, preserved essential cultural and educational resources, cataloged more than 63 million pages of our nation's historic newspapers, and helped millions of young people grapple with the lessons of history. Also established in 1965, the NEA supports art and education programs across the country. Access to the arts for all Americans is a core principle of the Endowment. The majority of NEA grants go to small and medium-sized organizations, and a significant percentage of grants fund programs in high-poverty communities throughout the country.

NEA and NEH serve as an important economic driver at the community level. The arts generate economic growth and employ more than 4 million people in the creative industries nationally. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector is a \$763.6 billion industry, or 4.2 percent of the nation's GDP. Arts and humanities education are critical to prepare our students for the innovative thinking required in the 21st century workplace. Students with an enriched education that includes the arts, have higher GPAs and standard test scores and lower drop-out rates. Every federal dollar spent on arts initiatives sparks funding collaborations that leverage more than nine non-federal dollars from collaborations with private foundations.

As an example of the tremendous value NEA and NEH provide nationwide, both agencies offer healing programs for those who serve in our Armed Services and their families, as well as veterans reintegrating into civilian life. The NEH's Warriors Scholar Project provides an "academic boot camp" for veterans entering or returning to college. Since 2012, the NEH program has served over 500 veterans and expanded to 11 school locations across the nation. The NEA's Military Healing Arts Partnership provides art therapy for active-duty military patients and their families to improve communication, process

traumatic events, and improve neurological and physical function. The program started at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and has now expanded to 11 other facilities across the country.

Thanks to your continued leadership, the NEA and NEH play a vital role in every state. We appreciate your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you on this and other important issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator




Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

*Tina Smith* *Maria Cantwell*

Tina Smith  
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

*Jeanne Shaheen*

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

*Tammy Duckworth*

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

*Martin Heinrich*

Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

*Robert Menendez*

Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

*Angus King*

Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

*Maggie Hassan*

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

*Christopher S. Murphy*

Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

*Cory A. Booker*

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

*Gary C. Peters*

Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

*Jack Reed*

Jack Reed  
United States Senator

*Joe Manchin III*

Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

*Mark R. Warner*

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

*Debbie Stabenow*

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

*Tammy Baldwin*

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator




Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator