Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 01

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May 11, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
418 Federal Building
1 Exchange Terrace
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senator Pell:

I strongly urge you to support the "Community Arts Partnership Act," during the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act (s.1513). Secretary Riley has recently elevated the arts to its rightful place in the National Education Goals. The House of Representatives included the Community Arts Partnership act in its version of the bill (H.R. 6). With this amendment, school districts can leverage existing community resources in order to provide arts programs for at-risk children and youth.

Arts programs give children who fall through the cracks of our nation's schools a way to think, speak, and be heard on their own terms. Research increasingly demonstrates that when students receive arts education, they often transfer their newly discovered discipline, self-esteem, and problem solving skills to other subjects like math, English and history. Perhaps more importantly, the increase in self-esteem and therapeutic value which comes from artistic self-expression gives these at-risk children new hope for the future which may translate into such tangibles as less violence and teen pregnancies.

As president of a premier arts institution, I feel that it is no less than essential that all children be allowed opportunities to find beauty and hope through the arts.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Roger Mandle
President