

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Interior Appropriations Bill: Pell Statements
(1990)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts
and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996)

August 2016

Interior Appropriations Bill: Pell Statements (1990): Speech 02

Claiborne Pell

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_40

Recommended Citation

Pell, Claiborne, "Interior Appropriations Bill: Pell Statements (1990): Speech 02" (2016). *Interior Appropriations Bill: Pell Statements (1990)*. Paper 12.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_40/12

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Interior Appropriations Bill: Pell Statements (1990) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. President, I oppose this amendment. The Endowments are a tiny portion of a percentage of the national budget. Their funding has shrunk in real dollars ever since 1979 and the legislation before us already makes further enormous cuts in funding to the Endowments. ~~Further funding cuts of this magnitude for the Endowments~~ ^{Elimination of the Endowment} would be injurious to cultural projects all around the country -- harm far disproportionate to ~~the~~ ^{any} dollar savings to the government.

Some have spoken of a privatization of the Endowments. The reality is that no government agency is going to be able to raise billions of dollars in private funds for grant activities. The private sector -- foundations, corporations and private patrons -- is already contributing the vast majority of cultural funding in our society. The Endowment funds provide the vital lever to encourage this involvement, but the private and philanthropic sectors are not going to contribute to the federal government so that the government can turn around and re-grant the money. I do not think that anyone would consider such an arrangement an efficient use of resources.

The Endowments' budgets have been shrinking significantly over the last decade, despite the fact that every Endowment dollar brings many more from the private sector to bear on increasing the quality and availability of art and scholarship for our citizens. We are in a very strict budgetary situation. Nevertheless, this cut is far out of proportion to cuts in other government programs and would harm our policy of federal cultural support leveraging private funds from around the country. Despite a very few controversial grants, some thirty out of over 100,000, I believe that

the Arts and Humanities Endowments, on the whole, have a marvelous effect on American culture.

I believe that NEA Chairman Jane Alexander has taken Congressional concerns regarding the agency very seriously. She has instituted a series of valuable changes to the Endowment, all of which are incorporated in the authorization legislation recently reported out of the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Mr. President, this amendment would eliminate the viability of the National Endowments and make it impossible for them to have even a modest effect in supporting American culture. I hope my colleagues will oppose this amendment.