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CLAIBORNE PELL



U.S. SENATOR RHODE ISLAND

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PELL TO JOIN IN INTRODUCING ARTS AND HUMANITIES MEASURE

Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), who wrote the legislation that created the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), today plans to join in introducing a measure to continue their work for five years.

"My own view," Pell said, "is that the two Endowments, which are coincidentally observing their 20th anniversary this year, are now operating very much as I had envisioned they would when I sponsored their establishment in the Senate in 1965. In fact, the leveraging force of Endowment grants on the cultural life of the United States has far exceeded my expectations."

Pell noted that the remarkable impact of the Endowments has been due, in large part, to the key provision that requires most grants to be matched. Some grants require an equal non-federal matching amount and others require three non-federal dollars to every federal dollar.

"Though funding is currently constrained owing to the large federal deficit," Pell said, "these unique matching grant programs are continuing to engender impressive amounts of non-federal support for the arts and humanities."

"It has been personally rewarding to observe how the bipartisan support for these agencies has increased and strengthened over the last 20 years. It marks a reaffirmation that our federal government does indeed have an important role to play in the support of culture in this country."

Pell, who is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, said the Subcommittee plans a series of hearings on the legislation later this month. The legislation, besides reauthorizing the endowments, also reauthorizes the Institute of Museum Services.

"Most of the Administration's own proposals for reauthorization," he said, "have been incorporated into this bill. These changes are non-controversial, reasonable and timely."

Pell also played a key role in the creation of the Institute of Museum Services (IMS), which joined the NEA and NEH as the third independent cultural agency under the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

"Last year," he said, "530 American museums from every geographical area of the country received awards from the IMS which totaled \$15,500,000. The funds are provided for basic services such as maintenance, security, education and outreach programs."

"It is critical," he said, "that these institutions which preserve our national heritage be healthy and secure both fiscally and physically. The IMS makes an important contribution toward insuring the vitality and permanence of all our museums."

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