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Jane Alexander

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Alexander, Jane, "Legislative History of the Reauthorization of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) (1990): Correspondence 02" (1994). *Legislative History of the Reauthorization of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) (1990)*. Paper 29.

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JAN 13 1994

*The Federal agency
that supports the
visual, literary and
performing arts to
benefit all Americans*

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
Arts and Humanities
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6300

Dear Senator Pell:

Arts in Education

*Challenge &
Advancement*

Dance

Design Arts

Expansion Arts

Folk Arts

International

Literature

Locals

Media Arts

Museum

Music

*Opera/Musical
Theater*

*Presenting &
Commissioning*

State & Regional

Theater

Visual Arts

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Mrs. Eloise Pickard Smith. I appreciate your insights on how the Endowment can play a role in establishing arts education programs in federal prisons.

I very much agree that quality arts education programs in prisons can truly transform lives and ultimately prevent crime. I intend to include this very important issue among the themes of this Chairmanship.

When I visited a state prison in Concord, New Hampshire last November, I was astonished by the inmates' strong interest and hunger for art. Several of the inmates were successfully using poetry, music, visual arts, or writing as a means for constructive expression.

In addition, I had a long visit with Attorney General Janet Reno about this issue and found Attorney General Reno to be quite interested and supportive. We look forward to working with the Justice Department to help establish the highest quality arts programs in federal prisons.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts and for bringing Mrs. Smith's letter to my attention.

Sincerely,



Jane Alexander
Chairman

JA/RW/jw