Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 12

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May 3, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Labor & Human Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

We urge your support of the "Community Arts Partnership Act," during the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (S.1513). The arts have proven to be a valuable and effective tool in providing positive direction and motivation for at-risk youth.

An example is the Boys Choir of Harlem, which recruits boys from the Harlem area who often come from disadvantaged and at-risk environments. The training, discipline, team process skills, and sense of self-worth obtained by these young men through their involvement have led to more than 80% going on to college. There are hundreds of similar success stories involving nonprofit arts organizations, the schools, and at-risk young people.

With the inclusion of the arts in the National Education Goals by Secretary Riley, the education system has recognized the important role of the arts in developing young people. The House of Representatives has included the Community Arts Partnership Act in its version of the reauthorization bill (H.R. 6).

Thank you for your favorable vote to help school districts leverage existing community cultural resources to provide arts programs for at-risk children and youth.

Sincerely,

Nancy Meier
Executive Director