Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 17

Roger Gilmore

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May 9, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell (D-RI)
U.S. Senate
335 Senate Russell Office Building
Constitution and Delaware Avenues NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I urge you to work for the inclusion of the "Community Arts Partnership Act" in the mark-up of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), s.1513 ("Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994"). This program will efficiently facilitate partnerships between local schools and cultural institutions to bring the arts to bear on vocational effectiveness for students "at-risk". There is an increasing number of students "at-risk" in both our rural communities and our metropolitan areas. Evidence and experience clearly demonstrate that utilizing the arts in a serious, professional, and central manner in the educational experience of such youngsters significantly increases their achievement in other academic areas and it gives them the personal re-enforcement and motivation to be positive contributions to society rather than expensive drains on our systems.

This is a modest program that should have a significant return as a social investment in our future. Thank you for your good attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Roger Gilmore
President

RG/fmm