

1989

Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 08

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Educ

the
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Museum
of Rhode
Island

The Honorable Claiborne deB. Pell
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

August 3, 1989

Dear Senator Pell:

I am writing in regard to the amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill proposed by Senator Jesse Helms last week. The Helms amendment unreasonably restricts the National Endowments on the Arts and Humanities and the Institute of Museum Services. The language of this amendment is foolish and dangerous and clearly the intention is to destroy NEA, NEH and IMS. I am shocked that the Senate would approve such legislation.

I must also protest the ban on NEA grants to the Southeast Center for Contemporary Art and the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Contemporary Art. I believe it is dangerous and inappropriate to legislate what appears to be "punishment" of these institutions.

It is easy to mount sensationalist charges, as Senator Helms has, of taxpayers paying for "pornography". I know you have the courage and integrity to continue to defend the spirit of the National Endowments and the Institute of Museum Services and oppose any reduction of funding for NEA, NEH and IMS.

Sincerely,

Janice O'Donnell

Janice O'Donnell
Director