8-8-1994

Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 24

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August 8, 1994

Senator Claiborne Pell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell,

On behalf of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) which represents art museums nationwide, we urge your support of the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth in the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act (ESEA, S. 1513). The Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth will encourage local school systems and cultural institutions to provide programs for at-risk children.

However, there is a provision in this program which, if not corrected, will nullify the program before it has an opportunity to function; it is a triggering mechanism that would defund the initiative unless the NEA, NEH and IMS receive FY 95 funding equal to FY 94. However, the NEA FY 95 appropriation bills in both the House and the Senate call for a reduction over the NEA's FY 94 funding. This automatically would make the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth ineligible for funding.

We urge you to eliminate the trigger mechanism to this legislation during conference. Art museums have offered outstanding educational programs for over 100 years. Those programs will be greatly enhanced by the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth.

Thank you for your past advocacy on behalf of the arts and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Millicent Hall Gaudieri
Executive Director

Anita M. Difanis
Director of Government Affairs