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## State Humanities Committees (1979-1982): Correspondence 11

Claiborne Pell

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August 2, 1979

Honorable Sam Nunn  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20512

Dear Sam:

Thank you very much for your recent letter with your thoughts on the proposed change in the structure of the state humanities organizations.

The bill I introduced on June 21, 1979, S. 1386, does indeed call for the establishment of an official humanities entity in each state. I am, however, aware of the great strides made by many of the state-based humanities committees as a result of the 1976 legislative changes. The Georgia Commission on the Humanities is one that has developed an especially vital program with a broad-based membership and healthy variety of programs.

The aspect of the program that continues to concern me has to do with the critical need for increasing the accountability and the visibility of these "public" programs. As long as the Committees are suspended halfway between a Federal agency and the public in each state, they will suffer from a lack of visibility that only a true Federal-State partnership can provide. State government needs to be drawn into the furtherance of the humanities and humanities programming in a way that is simply impossible as long as private organizations are used.

I appreciate hearing from you and will certainly consider your comments and the experience of the Georgia Commission on the Humanities as we develop the extension legislation for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

With warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell