

1989

Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 14

Claiborne Pell

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

August 3, 1989

Ms. Iona Dobbins
Director
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
95 Cedar Street
Suite 103
Providence, RI 02906

Dear Iona:

Thank you very much for calling my office the other day on behalf of the State Council staff and the Rhode Island artists community in regard to the changes proposed in the Senate version of the Arts Endowment's FY 1990 appropriations bill.

I appreciate knowing the depth of feeling against these provisions. The banning of two fine arts organizations from Endowment funding and the Helms amendment with its sweeping implications are the most troubling. It also disturbs me, however, that \$400,000 has been reallocated from the Visual Arts Program to two other program areas without any apparent rationale. Should this provision be retained, the blow to our visual arts community would be severe. I would hate to see an entire category such as "Art in Public Places" be eliminated to accommodate this cut.

I am hopeful that the House/Senate conference in September will resolve these issues in favor of the House position and I have indicated my thoughts on this to the conference chairman, Senator Byrd.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
Arts & Humanities