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Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 31

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Hon. Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I write to thank you for your support of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (S. 1513) and especially for your co-sponsorship of the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth Act that is part of this legislation.

As President of the American Association for Museum Volunteers, an organization representing the salaried and volunteer staff in the wide variety of museums across the nation, I know the importance of the special kinds of learning that museum-school partnerships can engender, especially for those who often "fall through the cracks" in traditional educational situations. Zoos, Botanical Gardens, Community Centers, Art, Science and History Museums, Railroad, Seaport and Historic sites - all these offer different ways of educating - ways that often quite literally change the course of peoples' lives by opening possibilities which would never have occurred in the regular classroom.

Our membership, including more than 300,000 volunteers across the nation, is a vital link between communities and museums and we believe that the Cultural Partnerships legislation is an unparalleled opportunity for strengthening ties between schools, parents, neighborhoods and the varied cultural resources available in the diverse towns, cities, regions and states of America.

"A mind is a terrible thing to waste..." is a comment that is often heard. As you know, S1513 and the Cultural Partnerships Act aim to stop some of that waste, particularly for those children and youth that are so at-risk in our society. Again thank you for your support of this legislation.

Yours truly,

Sarah Brophy, President