Letters (1981): Correspondence 33

Claiborne Pell

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June 23, 1981

Mrs. Voiney Righter
Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Dear Mrs. Righter:

Thank you very much for your recent letter in regard to the proposed cuts in the budgets of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities.

The Labor and Human Resources Committee, on which I serve, has recently completed its action on the section of the Administration's budget which deals with these programs. I am relieved and pleased to report that the Committee has voted to reduce the severity of the Administration's original budget recommendations by asking for a cut of approximately 32% in the arts and humanities rather than one of 50%. It is a small but significant victory.

I am disappointed that the Committee was not able to maintain these unique programs at a fully funded level. However, I believe that its recent action was the least painful of many difficult decisions. You can be sure that I will continue to be a strong advocate for these programs which are so vital to the human spirit and quality of all our lives.

Thank you again for writing me and for sending the fine piece by Budora Welty. Her philosophy of "access to the best in the arts" is one I have strongly believed in for many years.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/jb