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## Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Speech 33

Claiborne Pell

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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL  
INTRODUCING AN AMENDMENT TO EXTEND AUTHORIZATION FOR  
THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

Mr. President, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, I am offering an amendment to the Interior Appropriations Act that will provide for an extension of the authorizations governing the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum Services. This legislation has been reported out of the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

The three agencies were last reauthorized in 1990 for a three-year period. Meaningful changes were made in the law authorizing the National Endowment for the Arts. These changes included a new emphasis on arts education, greater support for state agencies and development of rural and inner city areas. Provisions were also added requiring the use of advisory panels in grant application review, diversity in the makeup of advisory panels and strengthening conflict of interest standards. Finally, the authorizing statute established that obscenity was not to be funded by the NEA and that standards of decency and respect for the beliefs and values of Americans be included.

A simple extension will allow us time to scrutinize the impact of these changes and to fully explore other changes in these agencies. Since authorization for the NEA, NEH and IMS expired last September, it is most urgent that we establish an extension of existing law for these agencies through fiscal year 1995. The funding authorized would be at the level requested by the President in his fiscal year 1994 budget request.

This extension makes only one significant change in the authorizing legislation. The amendment incorporates a House-passed measure freezing a state's allotment of NEA funds at the preceding year's level if that state decreases its own funding for the arts below its previous three-year average. The amendment also requires the NEA Chairperson to conduct an investigation of state compliance with this requirement and to report the findings to Congress prior to full reauthorization. A state's basic grant would only be capped in cases where cuts in its arts programs are disproportionate to cuts made in other non-mandatory programs. I believe that these provisions will ensure that state governments will not reduce their own arts budgets at the expense of the federal government.