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Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 44

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THOMAS POOLE GRIESA

July 12, 1991

Senate Committee on
Labor and Human Resources

Dear Members:

We wish to express our strong support for the nomination of Carol Jannone to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities.

Over the years she has been an important voice in cultural matters. She has spoken with unusual perception about trends in current literature, and has been consistently fair and at the same time rigorously honest, with the purpose of upholding excellence in literature and education. Of great importance is her concern about morality--not some narrow, cramped morality, but the basic moral standard without which literature and educators are simply forces for weakening our society.

We know that certain organizations, such as the Modern Language Association, are mounting a vigorous opposition to her. It may be that the quantity of mail they stimulate is large. But we believe that these organizations do not represent the mainstream views of the American people. We believe that these mainstream views are consistent with what Ms. Jannone stands for--excellence and basic moral standards.

She should not be taken for a partisan nominee (whatever fringe groups may contend). A growing body of commentary, including Arthur Schlesinger's recent book "The Disuniting of America," shows that Ms. Jannone's voice is one that Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, blacks and whites will value hearing more from.

Very truly yours,

Christine M. Griesa
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** on these issues*