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Samuel Hope

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July 7, 1978

Senator Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
325 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

During the past year there has been increasing evidence of improved cooperation among the organizations representing the various sectors of arts activity in the nation. Several new coalitions and discussion groups have been formed, all with the purpose of facilitating discussion and creating a more cohesive and coordinated effort to seek support for arts education.

On May 23, a group representing the major components of the private sector (arts, arts education, advocacy) and participating observers from the public sector attended a meeting chaired by Dr. Samuel Gould which addressed the issues outlined above with respect to arts education. A report of that meeting is attached for your information.

As a result of this effort a small working group representing the Alliance for Arts Education; Arts, Education, and Americans, Inc.; the American Council for the Arts in Education; and the Assembly of National Arts Education Organizations with the cooperation and support of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the American Arts Alliance, and the American Council for the Arts have begun meeting regularly to consider the range of national policy and federal legislative-agency issues affecting arts education.

At its first meeting on June 12 the representatives noted that despite the presence of several committees and task forces, the Federal government presently has no advisory body making federal policy recommendations respecting issues and concerns in arts education. The organizations in this group expect that their efforts will assist in filling the present void, and they offer to the Federal government, the education community, and the arts community their energies in this regard.

During the discussions of June 12, attention was given to the White House Conference on the Arts projected during 1979. These discussions revealed a growing concern about progress toward the Conference, particularly its scheduling and funding. In order to clarify many of these issues for our constituents we would be grateful for your response to the following items concerning the Conference:
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(1) What will be the operational funding structure for the White House Conference and will the Congress assure the funding of the Conference through legislation to that effect?

(2) Is the schedule for the Conference contained in H.J.R. 649 still viable, and if not, what is the projected schedule? Would the scheduling of the Conference beyond fiscal 1980 necessitate re-authorizing action by the Congress?

(3) What mechanisms are in place or will be put in place to assure attention to the spectrum of issues in arts education as indicated by you in response to the testimony of Dean Warner Imig at the Joint Hearings held in Washington on January 23, 1978?

We ask that your response be forwarded to the Acting Recording Secretary in care of The Assembly of National Arts Education Organizations, P.O. Box 2422, Reston, Virginia 22090.

We appreciate your kind consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Samuel Hope
Acting Recording Secretary
on behalf of these Participating Organizations

Alliance for Arts Education
Forbes Rogers, Executive Director
American Council for the Arts
Michael Newton, President
American Council for the Arts in Education
Wallace Smith, President
Gerry Martin, Secretary/Treasurer
American Arts Alliance
James Backas, Executive Director
Arts, Education, and Americans, Inc.
David Rockefeller, Jr., President
Assembly of National Arts Education Organizations
Members of the Ad Hoc Committee:
Marjorie Blaufarb
Ernest Dyson
Samuel Hope
John Mahlmann
Charles Moody
Jack Morrison
Naima Prevots
John Straus