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American Arts Alliance

American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta

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Authors

American Arts Alliance, American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, American Association of Museums, National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and National Humanities Alliance

Doniel

May 16, 1994

The Hon. Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

We would like to applaud the policymakers in the House and Senate and in the agencies who are working to institute a Federal program of partnerships between schools and cultural organizations to serve at-risk youth. We are committed to helping them bring such a program into being and offer our combined resources in working toward that goal.

We are united in our concern that a trigger mechanism, under which the program would not be funded unless NEA, NEH, and IMS receive funding of \$170 million, \$177 million, and \$28 million respectively, could kill the proposed partnership program. For example, an across-the-board cut in the Interior appropriations bill of as little as one-tenth of one percent would have this effect. Such cuts have occurred frequently in the past few years. Moreover, despite our best advocacy efforts, the NEA suffered a 2-1/2 percent cut for FY 1994.

We have worked with total dedication to protect cultural funding, and will continue to do so. We must also participate in the great enterprise of reforming the American educational system. The challenge to all of us is to make these two efforts mutually reinforcing rather than mutually exclusive. An educational partnership program such as that currently under consideration offers us the means to emphasize the centrality of culture in society, which, in the end, will add force to the arguments for funding the cultural agencies.

Thank you very much for your continuing support for culture and education. We look forward to working together on this and many future projects.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN ARTS ALLIANCE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANICAL GARDENS AND ARBORETA
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES
NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE