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# Iannone, Carol: National Council on the Humanities Nomination (1991): Correspondence 05

Jeno Paulucci

Frank Stella

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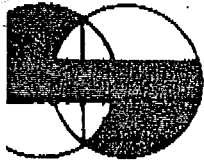
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**Authors**

Jeno Paulucci, Frank Stella, and Arthur Gajarsa



# The National Italian American Foundation

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July 8, 1991

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Honorable Claiborne Pell  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC  
 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

The National Italian American Foundation strongly urges your support for the appointment of Dr. Carol Iannone to the National Council for the Humanities when the matter comes before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on Wednesday, July 10.

We support Dr. Iannone for the only reason she should be supported, because she is eminently qualified to serve on the Council. Dr. Iannone has amassed a most distinguished 20-year career as a teacher, writer and literary scholar and as an Associate Professor in literature at the New York University.

Members who serve on the Council are to "provide comprehensive representation of the views of scholars and professional practitioners in the humanities." Dr. Iannone is more than qualified to serve on this basis alone.

We fear that Dr. Iannone is being unfairly victimized by those who would prefer to impose an ideological litmus test instead of allowing the nominee to be evaluated on the basis of her strong academic and scholarly qualifications. Dr. Iannone should only be judged on how qualified she is to serve on the National Council. When subjected to that criteria only, there is no question in our mind that her nomination should be swiftly approved.

Dr. Iannone was nominated by the President at the direct request of the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities Lynne Cheney. That we believe speaks volumes about her qualifications to serve on this important advisory panel. We again urge that Dr. Iannone be judged on her merits not on whether she meets some arbitrary political "correctness" test. We are joined in our support of Dr. Iannone by The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal who have both endorsed her nomination.

The National Italian American Foundation advocates for the Italian-American community of this nation advancing qualified Italian Americans for service in the Administration. Dr. Iannone happens to be such a highly qualified Italian-American and we strongly resent any effort which would result in her nomination being disapproved for reasons that do not relate to her qualifications.

Sincerely

*Jeno Paulucci*  
 Jeno Paulucci  
 National Chairman

*Frank Stella*  
 Frank Stella  
 Vice Chairman

*Arthur Gajarsa*  
 Arthur Gajarsa  
 President