

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2005

The Hon. Ralph Regula, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. David Obey, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to urge you to ensure that the final fiscal year 2006 Labor/HHS Appropriations bill includes at least \$35.7 million for the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education. Years of research demonstrates that a significant link exists between arts education and students' academic performance, as well as their social development, motivations, attitudes, and disposition toward learning.

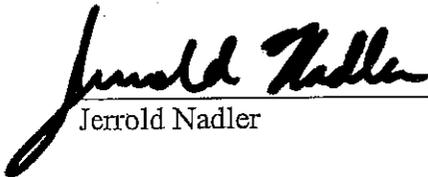
Though the Department of Education has not requested specific funding for the program, over the past five years, Congress has approved incremental funding increases to the Arts in Education program that have resulted in 122 awards to communities throughout the country. The Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education funds model programs that bring arts education to schools across the country, and funds professional development of arts educators. The program supports the ongoing national arts education initiatives of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and *NSA arts*, which ensure that people with disabilities can participate in the arts.

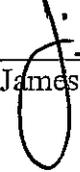
As you know, No Child Left Behind recognizes the arts as a core subject of learning. This commitment to quality arts education is reinforced at the state level, where all 50 states have adopted standards in the arts or require their school districts to do so. Students who take regular arts courses are shown to score on average 90 to 100 points better on their SATs. Arts education also reinforces student achievement in reading and math. Students are shown to have better attendance at school, lower drop-out rates, greater participation in community service, and higher self-esteem. At-risk teens who participate in arts programs are half as likely to repeat their crimes.

As the states work to implement NCLB, we must provide funding to sustain the national development and dissemination of these vital programs through the U.S. Department of Education. We urge you to support the educational development of our schoolchildren and the professional development of our teachers by acceding to the

Senate, and including at least \$35.7 million in funding for the Arts in Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

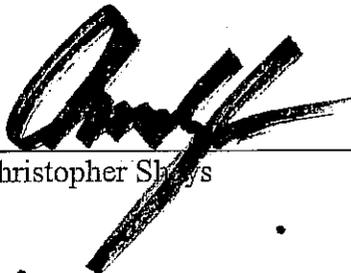
Sincerely,

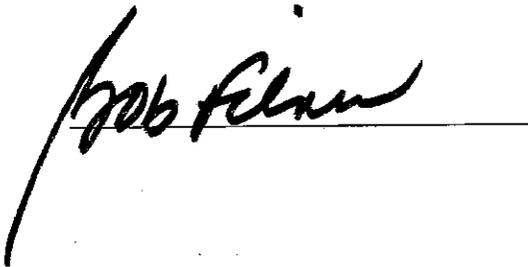

Jerrold Nadler

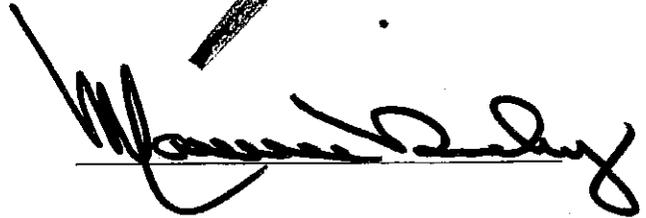

James Leach

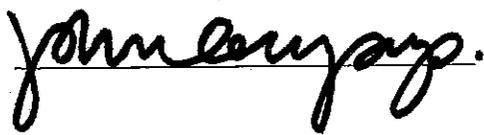

Sherwood Boehlert

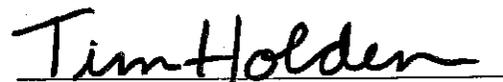

Louise Slaughter

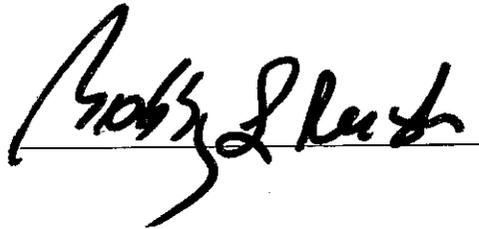

Christopher Shays


Bob Filner


Marc R. Leno


John Conyers


Tim Holden


Bobby L. Rush


Tom Lantos


Nancy L. Johnson


Corrine Brown


Joel Blumenthal


Norm Dicks

Walter L. Owens

Joseph P. Perri

Harry L. Ackerman

Jim Moran

Bunny Frank

Lynn C. Woolsey

Edward Shear

Herb A. Wayman

George Miller

Bill C.

Donald Payne

Howard L. Berman

Bill Duff

Elmer E. Cummings

Robert Menendez

David Price

Zee Loff

Carolyn McCaughy

Kirk Zansen

Ed Case

~~Donna Rosenblatt~~

Wm. Lucy Clay

~~Wm. Ammons~~
Wm. Smith

Tim Byrum
Pete Stark

Stephan Joseph

Mark Udall

Charles Byrum
Howard

Carl S. Schiff
Mike Rom

Bill Pascrell Jr

Joseph P. Rangel

Jim Oberstar

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Doris O. Matsui

Shelli Jackson

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Shane Brown

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Way V. Costello

Edward J. Markey

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Dennis J. Kucinich

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Michael H. Michael

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Jim W. Brown

Turt Patton, Jr

David Scott

Liane E. Watson

Bob Allen

Michael M. Hall

Gregory W. Meeks

Lois Capps

Emanuel Leira

Thaddeus McEotter

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Michael E. Capria

Neil Abernethy

Bon Chandler

Shelley Bentley

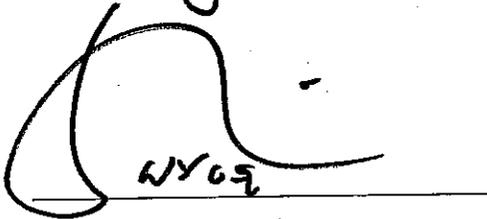
Jim Mansfield

John Spratt

Rins Van Hollen

Calvin Emanuel

T. J.


NY 69

Janice

Albert R. G.

Raul M. Hijalua

Tom Ullrich

Wiggin

Juan A. Davis

T. J.

Tom Allen

Rud Holt

~~W. C. De~~

Erin L. Engel

Peter de Zin

~~A. J. Johnson~~

Eleanor H. Norton

Julia Carson

Ed Somers

Sam M. Christen

Eddie Ben Johnson

Danny K. Davis

Diana M. Ne

A. Green

~~Bob Christen~~

Jamy Baldwin

Betsy McCollum

John B. Ruan

Jan Schatz

Jim McDermott

Kendrick B. Meek

Stephan Kelly

Signatories of the FY06 Arts in Education Appropriations Conference Letter:

Abercrombie
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Allen
Baldwin
Beccera
Berkley
Berman
Bishop
Blumenauer
Boehlert
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Brown, Sherrod
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Case
Chandler
Christensen
Clay
Cleaver
Conyers
Costello
Cummings
Davis, Danny
Davis, Susan
DeFazio
DeGette
Dicks
Dingell
Emanuel
Engel
Etheridge
Filner
Ford
Frank
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene

Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hersefh
Hinchey
Holden
Holt
Honda
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jefferson
Johnson, Eddie Bernice
Johnson, Nancy
Johnson, Tim
Kucinich
Lantos
Larsen
Larson
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lofgren
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
Meek
Meeks
Menendez
Michaud
Miller, Brad
Miller, George
Moore, Dennis
Moran, James
Nadler

Neal
Norton
Oberstar
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Peterson, Collin
Pomeroy
Price, David
Rangel
Ross
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan, Tim
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott, David
Shays
Simmons
Slaughter
Smith, Adam
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Tubbs Jones
Udall, Mark
Udall, Tom
Van Hollen
Wasserman Schultz
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