

FINAL FY11 BUDGET RELEASED

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

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By Performing Arts Alliance

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Today, Congress released details of their compromise to fund the federal government for the remainder of FY11. Highlights of the budget plan include \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), \$25.5 million for the Arts in Education program at the Department of Education, \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and \$430 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The House is expected to vote on the funding package Thursday, and the Senate will likely take up the bill before the end of the week.

Your advocacy efforts paid off! Congress protected the NEA from further cuts and restored a portion of the Arts in Education funding.

- **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA):** As you will remember, in February, the House of Representatives voted to decrease funding for the NEA by \$43.1 million (nearly 26%) to a level of \$124.4 million for FY11. The Senate did not pass this bill. In the final FY11 bill released today, Congress includes \$155 million for the NEA, which represents a \$12.5 million decrease from the \$167.5 million Congress appropriated in FY10. Though this represents a funding cut, the \$155 million allocation is higher than both the initial House bill (\$124.4 million) and the President's current request (\$146.3 million).
- **Arts in Education:** On March 2, 2011, both the House and the Senate agreed to eliminate a number of small education programs at the U.S. Department of Education, including the complete defunding of the Arts in Education program, a \$40 million fund that supports competitive grants and national initiatives. In the final FY11 bill released today, Congress includes \$25.5 million for the Arts in Education fund, which is enough to continue the next year of funding for multi-year grants currently in progress, with \$10 million available for additional arts education expenditures.

In addition to the grassroots efforts of advocates like you, strong support from Congressional leaders, including Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM), Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA-19), Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY-28), and Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID-2), was instrumental in securing funding for these critical programs.

Following passage of the final FY11 spending package, the Performing Arts Alliance will be in touch to urge support for arts funding in the FY12 federal budget. Your participation will continue to be important as federal budget discussions continue.

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