

URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE NEA

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Urge Congress to Support the NEA

By Performing Arts Alliance

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February 10, Washington, DC - We need your help. This week, the House Appropriations Committee released their FY11 funding recommendations. In it, they call for a minimum of a \$12 million cut to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The House is slated to consider these recommendations as they debate the FY11 Continuing Resolution next week. In addition to the recommended funding cut, it is anticipated that floor amendments will be introduced to more severely cut and/or eliminate funding to the NEA.

Arts advocates must send letters to their members of Congress RIGHT AWAY to urge support for the NEA and to hold in place federal funding for the arts. You play an important role in making sure efforts to severely cut or eliminate funding to the NEA are not approved.

The Alliance has created a sample letter for you to personalize. It is important to include information about you and your organization when communicating with your legislators.

[Click to Take Action to generate your letter and contact your member\(s\) of Congress today!](#)

Send a letter to the following decision maker(s):

Your Senators

Your Representative

Below is a sample letter:

Subject: Support Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts

Dear [decision maker name automatically inserted here],

As your constituent and a performing arts advocate, I urge you to support the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and its federal role in providing access to the performing arts to communities across the country. The House Appropriations Committee has recommended a funding cut to the NEA for FY11 and floor amendments are likely to occur next week calling for more severe cuts or elimination of funding to the agency. I urge you to vote against any amendments to eliminate or severely cut funding to the NEA. A show of support for the NEA by you and other members of Congress right now is extremely important in this current debate.

Direct NEA grants to performing arts organizations -- and NEA support allocated through state arts agencies -- create and keep jobs, widen citizen access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts, and advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.

Supporting the NEA will ensure the agency continues to support arts organizations in all 435 congressional districts.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

[Your name automatically inserted here]

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