

March 6, 2017

Support FY18 Funding for the Humanities

Deadline COB March 27

Dear Colleague:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Humanities Caucus, we cordially invite you to join us in signing the following letter to Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, urging \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

NEH is the single most important source of federal funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that provide individuals with an ethical, cultural, and historical perspective. Each sector of our country's education enterprise use NEH's competitive grants to conserve and nurture America's heritage and educate the next generation of Americans. In addition, NEH funding allocated through state humanities councils strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities in every state and territory across the nation.

Building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more vital to U.S. interests as the world becomes more interconnected. Beyond protecting our national security, the knowledge and competencies represented by humanities fields are critical to a broad range of U.S. interests: fostering a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, and preserving our cultural heritage. That is why virtually all of our CIA analysts, State Department officials and diplomats at embassies across the globe are graduates of the humanities -- as are leaders ranging from the late Steve Jobs to former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey.

Current demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability, and non-federal support for the humanities has declined sharply due to the current economic downturn. The NEH is still trying to recover from sequestration cuts, which provided the agency the lowest level of funding since 2005.

We recognize the need to invest taxpayer dollars wisely; this relatively small investment in NEH funding pays significant dividends for our nation. We hope you will join us in supporting this request. For more information or to sign the letter, please contact Leigh Whittaker (5-1784 or leigh.whittaker@mail.house.gov) or Bri Hearn (5-5361 or bri.hearn@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

David Price

Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus

Leonard Lance

Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus

March 6, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment & Related
Agencies
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its past support of funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and respectfully request your support of a funding level of \$155 million in the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Interior Appropriations bill.

As you know, NEH is the main source of federal support for humanities research, teaching, preservation, public programming, and related activities in the U.S., providing competitive grant funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that empower individuals with critical perspective and knowledge. Furthermore, NEH funding allocated through state humanities councils strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities in every state and territory throughout the nation.

Additionally, investment in the humanities advances vital national interests by fostering a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, preserving our cultural heritage, and protecting our national security. As our world becomes increasingly more interconnected, building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more critical, which is why the majority of our CIA analysts, State Department officials and staff members and diplomats at embassies across the globe are graduates of the humanities – as are leaders ranging from the late Steve Jobs to former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey.

NEH has been an excellent steward of its annual federal appropriation, successfully leveraging more than \$4.8 billion in non-federal support (adjusted for inflation) between 1965 and 2014. Currently, demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability, and non-

federal support for the humanities has declined in recent years, in part due to the current economic downturn. Sadly, as billions of dollars are rightfully invested in research and education in science and technology, the relative federal investment in the humanities falls further behind each year.

We understand the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in constructing its FY 2018 bill, but we believe that strong federal investments in the humanities are crucial for preserving America's place as a world leader in education and innovation as well as provide our nation's citizenry and workforce with the foundation necessary to tackle the challenges of today's globalized world. We appreciate your past support of NEH and strongly urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,

David Price

Member of Congress

Leonard Lance

Member of Congress

Cc: House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

Cc: House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey