

March 6, 2019



Join the Congressional Humanities Caucus

“The founders of this country were trained humanists and could not have written our founding documents without their training in the classics, ethics, history, law, and political philosophy.”

– Richard H. Brodhead
President Emeritus, Duke University

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite you to join the bipartisan Congressional Humanities Caucus.

When we think of national security, the global economy, and other perennial and pressing concerns, the word “humanities” does not typically come to mind. But it *should*. It is the humanities which ground, inform, and shape our civic, cultural, and intellectual lives, providing a context and a framework for the most current policy debates.

As our world gets smaller by virtue of technology, we increasingly need the humanities to help us understand the cultures and languages we encounter and the context in which we encounter them. Humanities reinforce our historical and cultural legacies, fostering a sense of citizenship and drawing millions of tourists to the United States every year. And humanities train our high school and college graduates to think critically and analytically and to compete in the global economy. Research has shown that studying the humanities offers multiple benefits to our society at large, as well as employers and individuals. Consider this: 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 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey to Nobel Laureate and National Cancer Center Director Harold Varmus. Further, 60% of U.S. CEOs have degrees in the humanities.

The Congressional Humanities Caucus was established in the 108th Congress to raise the profile of the humanities within Congress. The Caucus provides a forum for Members and their staffs to work more closely with the humanities community and promote greater awareness and understanding of the various federal humanities programs that enrich American intellectual and cultural life -- from the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Historic Publications and Records Commission to the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Smithsonian Institution.

If you are interested in public policy issues relating to the humanities and in strengthening our nation's awareness of the role of history, literature, language, philosophy, ethics, religion, anthropology, and civics in our lives, I encourage you to join and participate in the Congressional Humanities Caucus.

To join or request additional information about the Congressional Humanities Caucus, please contact Leigh Whittaker in Congressman Price's Office (5-1784 or Leigh.Whittaker@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress