

For Use in Member Appropriations Request Forms: *Final FY 2020 Appropriations Language*

Several members have requested councils provide final language used in the FY 2020 appropriations reports. Following are two reports: The first is the final FY 2020 appropriations language and the second is the language included in the final House Interior report, which mentions the important work of the councils (see paragraph on veterans and final paragraph).

We recommend including language from both of the FY2020 statements when filling out the member appropriations request forms.

FINAL FY 2020 APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE, STATEMENT OF MANAGERS

The National Endowment for the Humanities; Grants and Administration

“The bill provides \$162,250,000 for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue the important work of the Endowment. Changes to the enacted level are included in the table at the end of this explanatory statement. The agreement includes \$4,172,000 for the program development and cross-cutting grants associated with the “A More Perfect Union” initiative focused on three programmatic areas: The United States Semiquincentennial; civics education; and veterans programming. NEH has supported these program areas within core budget lines in previous years and may continue to do so for activities that fit those budget lines. The Committee also encourages the NEH to incorporate and continue two popular components of the former “We the People” initiative grant opportunities, the National Digital Newspapers Program, and the Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops as part of the new initiative or with other funds. Within the funds provided, NEH is also expected to continue its support of native language preservation and education programs.”

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS REPORT LANGUAGE, FY 2020

The National Endowment for the Humanities

“The Committee recommends \$167,500,000 for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), \$12,500,000 above the enacted level and \$129,609,000 above the budget request. The Committee expects the NEH to obligate and expend funds as directed in the table that is included at the end of this report.

The Committee recognizes the broad bipartisan support for the NEH mission to serve and strengthen our nation by making the humanities available to all Americans. NEH programs support cultural infrastructure projects, education programs, and initiatives; advance scholarly research; and provide for exhibitions, documentaries, and the preservation of historic collections.

The Committee acknowledges the importance of NEH dialogue programs in advancing a civil discourse on challenging issues. The NEH supports dialogue programs in every state that help individuals and communities engage thoughtfully on regional and national issues of local importance.

The Committee encourages the NEH to provide opportunities for documentaries that promote the importance of and educate the public on the historic preservation process.

The Committee includes funding to advance cross-cutting NEH initiatives. The Committee understands that this funding will be used to support three programmatic areas: the celebration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial, the advancement of civic education, and NEH’s “Standing Together” initiative which promotes a deeper understanding of the military experience and supports returning veterans and their families.

The Committee commends the NEH for its support of grant programs to benefit wounded warriors and to ensure educational opportunities for veterans and service members transitioning to civilian life. In partnership with NEH, State humanities councils have developed and delivered local programs that support veterans, their families and caregivers. The Committee encourages the NEH to fully support efforts to connect the humanities to the experience of veterans and provide educational opportunities to these American heroes.

The Committee commends the NEH for its ongoing support to American Indian and Alaska Native communities in preserving their cultural and linguistic heritage through the Documenting Endangered Languages program and a variety of preservation and access grants that enable American Indian and Alaska Native communities to preserve cultural artifacts and make them broadly accessible. The Committee also commends the NEH for providing educational opportunities for Tribal communities through the Humanities Initiatives at Tribal Colleges and Universities program.

The bill includes funding to continue the longstanding collaborative relationship between the NEH and State humanities councils. The Committee commends the NEH for its ongoing, successful collaboration with State humanities councils in each of the 50 states as well as Washington, D.C., the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. State humanities councils support public programming in more than 6,000 rural and urban communities and nearly every congressional district. These programs increase public awareness of national issues such as the opioid epidemic, help veterans reintegrate into their communities, promote family literacy, and record and preserve the stories, language, and histories of our native cultures. The Committee urges the NEH to provide program funding to support the work of State humanities councils consistent with the guidance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018.”