

March 6, 2015

Support FY16 Funding for the Humanities

“When military leaders talk of winning the hearts and minds of the populace in another country, they are talking about understanding language, culture, values, religion and history.... Just as surely, the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and intelligence agencies will only be as effective as their analysts are educated in the humanities.”

-- David J. Skorton (President, Cornell University)

Deadline COB March 18th

Dear Colleague:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Humanities Caucus, we invite you to join us in signing the below letter to Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee urging continued strong support for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2016.

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. All sectors 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. In addition to 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's 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 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey to Nobel Laureate and National Cancer Center Director Harold Varmus!

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. And the

NEH is still trying to recover from sequestration cuts, which provided the agency the lowest level of funding since 2005! Further cuts to this valuable program would be short-sighted.

While we recognize the need to invest taxpayer dollars wisely, we believe the relatively small investment in NEH funding pays significant dividends for our nation. We hope you will join me in supporting this request. For more information or to sign the letter, please contact Nora Blalock (5-1784 or nora.blalock@mail.house.gov) or Michael Taggart (5-5361 or michael.taggart@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

David Price

Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus

Leonard Lance

Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert

Chairman

House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment & Related 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 to respectfully request your strong support for NEH in fiscal year (FY) 2016.

As you know, NEH is the primary source of federal support for humanities research, teaching, preservation, public programming, and related activities in the U.S. The Endowment provides competitive grant funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages,

and other fields that provide individuals with critical ethical, cultural, and historical perspective. Additionally, NEH funding allocated through state humanities councils strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities in every state and territory across the nation.

Investment in the humanities advances vital U.S. 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 vital to U.S. interests. That's 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 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey to Nobel Laureate and National Cancer Center Director Harold Varmus!

NEH has been an outstanding steward of the relatively small amount of federal support it receives annually. Between 1965 and 2009, NEH successfully leveraged more than \$2 billion in non-federal support, including private and institutional contributions. However, current demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability and non-federal support for the humanities has declined sharply in recent years, in part due to the current economic downturn. Each year, 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.

We are aware of the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in crafting its FY 2015 bill, but we believe that strong federal support for the humanities is needed now more than ever to preserve America's place as a world leader in education and innovation for all fields of learning and help 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 Harold Rogers

Cc: House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey