



American Music Therapy Association

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Dear Member of Congress:

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) is proud to serve as a **National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007**. Representing over 5,000 professionally trained music therapists, AMTA is committed to the mission of advancing public awareness of music therapy benefits and increasing access to quality music therapy services. Music therapists from around the country currently provide goal-directed arts interventions based on clinical assessments. Whether in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, community mental health centers, or prisons, qualified therapists using music as the tool, affect positive change in physical, emotional, cognitive and social functioning.

Arts access fulfills essential quality of life needs of *all* individuals. To make the arts accessible across the country, we request your support of the following issues impacting both children and adults:

- Support a funding level of 36.5 million for the Arts in Education programs within the U.S. Department of Education.
Research documents that students with an education rich in the arts demonstrate improved educational outcomes including:
 - Better grade point averages in core academic subjects;
 - Better scores on standardized tests; and
 - Lower drop-out rates than students without arts education.
- Support for maintaining the arts as a core academic subject within NCLB reauthorization.
- Support increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to \$176 million for FY 2008, which would restore the agency's budget to the high point that it reached in 1992.
This funding increase would spur significant economic growth, and would help support access to our nation's cultural treasures for those in under-served communities.

Recognizing the vast amount of budget requests you receive across a wide variety of federal programs, we believe funding for the arts is a solid investment in the future of our country. We thank you for your attention to these important issues and for your support of all Arts programs in America.

Sincerely,

Andrea Farbman, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Judy Simpson, MHP, MT-BC
Director of Government Relations