



Leadership in Dance Education!

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**“Well, I guess you can cut the arts as much as you want...
Sooner or later, these kids aren't going to have anything to read or write about.” - Mr. Holland's Opus**

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Dance Association (NDA), a member of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), is pleased to act as a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008. AAHPERD's membership of professionals and future professionals—a network of educators, administrators, artists and researchers spanning the United States—is 23,000 strong and growing. NDA advocates for professional development in dance as an art form and a healthy lifestyle for Americans of all ages and abilities.

We petition the Congress to support the arts by enacting policy and funding initiatives that provide broader access to arts in communities across our great nation:

- **Provide access to Arts Education for all students** by approving \$53 million for the U.S. Department of Education's Arts in Education program which includes funding **VSA arts** and the **John F. Kennedy Center** to ensure the inclusion of underserved populations.
Strengthen Arts Education in *No Child Left Behind* by retaining arts and adding physical education in the definition of Core Academic Subjects of Learning; require states to report annually on student access to all core academic subjects, including visual art, dance, music, theatre and physical education.
Direct the U.S. Department of Education to conduct research on movement skills and related curricula in its National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) also known as the National Arts Report Card and the Fast Response Statistical Survey (FRSS) report, *Arts Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools*.
- **Allocate critical funding to emerging and established dance groups** across the country by approving \$176 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.
- **Establish international cultural exchanges** for the U.S. Department of State's Cultural Programs Division with improved visa processing procedures to be administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for foreign guest artists.
- **Provide public access to educational programs** through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by approving \$483 million in advance funding (FY 2011).
- **Encourage lifelong learning** and protection of America's cultural heritage by providing funding to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- **Support our nonprofit arts institutions** with tax incentives including reinstating the IRA Charitable Rollover rule, allowing artists to deduct the fair market value of their works donated to nonprofits and improve tax benefits to qualified artists by raising the adjusted gross income cap to \$30,000.

The National Dance Association thanks you for your ongoing support for arts programs — when our citizens have freedom to access the arts, we are assured economic and creative growth.

Sincerely,

Colleen Hearn Dean, MA
NDA Manager

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NDA President