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March 13, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Dance Association (NDA) is pleased to unite with other arts organizations as a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day. Leadership in promoting and supporting creative, artistic and healthy lifestyles through quality services in dance and dance education is our mission. We advocate for dance as an art form and as physical activity for all ages and abilities.

NDA is celebrating over 75 years as an association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). Our combined membership of professionals and future professionals is 23,000 strong and growing. We are a network of educators, administrators, artists, writers, and researchers with six regional organizations and affiliation with all states in the United States and its territories. We are an important resource for federal/state education agencies, other non-profit organizations and corporate partners.

We urge your support of the following arts issues that will increase revenue and human resources while fostering community service among the constituents of our state and the nation.

#### **ARTS EDUCATION**

Vote for a funding level of \$36.5 million for the Arts in Education programs within the U.S. Department of Education. More than ever our nation needs quality model arts collaborations with schools, teacher professional development and arts programs for at-risk youth.

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE FUNDING**

Vote for a funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts to further develop our nation's cultural treasures and the arts in under-served communities.

**Statistics show that nationwide the arts progressively bring strong financial and educational benefits to our communities. Residents and visitors all patronize local businesses, such as restaurants, hotels and shops during the planning and performance of arts events.**

We thank you for your ongoing support for arts programs that enrich the quality of life for all Americans. When our citizens have freedom to access the arts, we are assured financial and creative growth.

Sincerely,

Nancy Brooks Schmitz, EdD  
NDA President

Colleen Hearn Dean

Colleen Hearn Dean, MA  
NDA Administrator