



March 13, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

I bring greetings from the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. We represent leaders in higher education in the arts primarily from the United States, and we are pleased to be a co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007. I write to emphasize the importance of the funding that is provided by the government for the arts and arts education in America. Many nations now look to America for leadership in the creative realm. Being able to show reasonable governmental support is crucial to maintaining this leadership position. Please continue to fund quality arts experiences, for the arts benefit everyone.

For our children, the arts provide powerful tools for development that enable them to see themselves in a very positive light and to know what it means to create, to lead and to be part of a team. All schools should have the ability to offer a quality educational program that includes arts creation, arts performance, and arts understanding. The funding that you provide to the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and to the U.S. Department of Education has great impact in allowing schools to offer these important experiences to all.

We pledge to you to continue to develop the great treasure of talent that America provides and to graduate the very finest artists and arts educators for the future. We ask your help in continuing and improving the arts infrastructure that is vital to our country.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard E. Toscan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard E. Toscan
President