

March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

As the national service organization for not-for-profit, professional dance and a national cosponsor of Arts Advocacy Day, Dance/USA urges you to support federal policy that will strengthen the arts in America. Founded in 1982, Dance/USA's membership represents the breath and diversity of this brilliant art form. Currently, we speak for over 400 ballet, modern, ethnic, jazz, culturally specific, and tap companies, artist managers, dance service organizations, presenters, and the thousands of dancers, trustees, administrative staff, educators, volunteers and audiences committed to these member institutions.

On behalf of its membership and those who serve the field, we encourage you to strengthen federal support for the arts in the following ways:

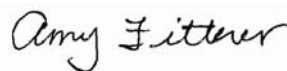
- Support legislation reinvesting in the country's workforce and economy that creative industries are recognized as key members of the business community and supported through specific provisions.
- Support artistic excellence by increasing funding for the National Endowment for the Arts to \$200 million;
- Encourage international cultural exchange by increasing funding by \$10 million for the Cultural Programs Division of the State Department's Office of Citizen Exchanges;
- Enact legislation that will require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reduce the total processing time for O and P petitions filed by, or on behalf of, nonprofit arts-related organizations to a maximum of 45 days;
- Improve student achievement by allocating \$53 million for the Arts in Education programs at the U.S. Department of Education;
- Support legislation that strengthens the relationship between National Service and nonprofit cultural organizations and support the creation of an Artist Corps to place consisting of young artists trained to work in low-income schools and their communities;
- Promote charitable giving by enacting legislation to make permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover provision, allowing individuals to roll funds from their Individual Retirement Accounts to charity by lowering the qualifying age requirement and removing the \$100,000 cap.

We encourage you to support funding and policies that continue to strengthen dance and the performing arts in communities across the nation.

Sincerely,



Andrea E. Snyder
Executive Director



Amy Fitterer
Director of Government Affairs