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April 13, 2010

***“The arts embody the American spirit of self-definition.”***  
– President Barack Obama

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Dance Association (NDA), of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), is honored to act as a National Co-Sponsor and Legislative Committee Representative for Arts Advocacy Day 2010. Our membership of professionals and future professionals unites a strong and growing network of 23,000 educators, administrators, artists and researchers. NDA advocates the importance of dance education as an art and as a creative, healthy lifestyle —for all ages and abilities.

**Arts = Jobs! On behalf of the members of the National Dance Association, we encourage the Congress to enact policy and funding initiatives that would provide broader access to arts in the communities we serve across this great nation. We urge the Congress:**

- To prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, by enacting funding of \$53 million for the Arts in Education programs within the U.S. Department of Education;
- To promote excellence in and public access to the arts, by approving \$180 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts;
- To invest in the country's cultural and artistic workforce, by boosting arts projects in Community Development Block Grants, by including artists in proposals for Unemployment & Healthcare Benefits for Part-Time Employees; by supporting an Artists Corps under the Corporation for National Service; by encouraging hiring by enacting of the Administration's Small Business Jobs and Wages Tax Credit;
- To support international cultural exchanges, by approving \$10 million in funding for the US Department of State's Cultural Programs Division and by improving visa processing procedures for foreign guest artists;
- To improve incentives for private charitable giving to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, by enacting the Artist-Museum Partnership Act, to allow creators of original works to deduct the fair-market value of their works donated to nonprofit institutions; by supporting the IRA Charitable Rollover provision to permit donors to make tax-free charitable gifts directly from their IRAs to charities; and by amending the Qualified Performing Artist Deduction, IRC Sec. 62(a)(2)(B), to allow performing artists to qualify for this benefit by raising the income cap to \$30,000 from \$16,000.

The National Dance Association/AAHPERD along with other arts organizations, are integral parts of the business community, and generate \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year, proving to our constituencies that the arts are an economic driver for our local communities and our nation. The National Dance Association thanks you for your support of these important arts programs — when our citizens have freedom to access the arts, we are assured economic and creative growth that benefits all.

Sincerely,

***Colleen Dean***

Colleen Hearn Dean, MA  
NDA Administrator

May Yoneyama Gwinn  
Arts Advocacy Legislative Committee Representative