Support Arts Education Week

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Dear Colleague,

I invite you to become a co-sponsor of my resolution designating the second week of September as Arts Education Week. A child’s education is not complete unless it includes the arts. Despite this fact, access to the arts has been eroding. A 2007 study by the Center on Education Policy found that 16% of elementary school districts have decreased time in art and music since 2001.

Arts education enables students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express feelings and ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, which all support academic success as well as personal growth outside the classroom.

As our country works to strengthen our foothold in the 21st century global economy, the arts equip students with a creative, competitive edge. Arts education provides the skills and knowledge students need to develop the creativity and determination necessary for success in the global information age.

A study by the Arts Education Partnership found that schools with large populations of students in economic poverty can be transformed into hubs of learning when the arts are added to their curriculum. Studies have also found that eighth graders from under-resourced environments who are highly involved in the arts have better grades, less likelihood of dropping out by grade ten, have more positive attitudes about school, and are more likely to go onto college; and

My resolution supports the designation of Arts in Education Week; calls on governors, mayors, and other elected officials from across the country to issue proclamations to raise awareness of the value and importance of arts education; and encourages the President to issue a proclamation encouraging the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate activities.

To become a co-sponsor contact Josh Connolly in my office, at josh.connolly@mail.house.gov or at 5-5351.

Sincerely,

/s/
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress