

April 27, 1964

Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Pell,

This letter is a follow-up of my statement introduced in the Record at the recent Hearings before the Special Subcommittee on Education and Labor. In that statement I proposed that we combine the provisions of S.2379 and H.R. 9587 with my bill, H.R. 324.

I have prepared a draft of the proposed combined bill and enclose a copy for your most careful consideration.

It seems to me to be both politically expedient and educationally sound that we combine the major provisions of these bills. The National Council on the Arts, under Title I, should be concerned with the total needs of the arts both in education and in public life. Therefore, it is proper that it be lodged within the Executive Office of the President. The National Arts Foundation, under Title II, would be concerned with the institutions of the arts and with all aspects of the arts in public life. Therefore, it would seem best to establish the Foundation as an independent agency as you have done in the bill which you have so ably supported. The National Institute of the Arts and Humanities, under Title III, would be concerned exclusively with the arts and humanities in education at all levels. Therefore, the Institute should logically be placed within the U.S. Office of Education. You will note that the proposed bill provides also for an Advisory Committee to the Institute dealing exclusively in matters affecting the arts and humanities in education.

In giving consideration to legislation which could meet the needs of the arts and humanities most effectively, I have come to the conclusion that it would be wise to combine the provisions of our bills. I believe that this merger would strengthen the approach offered in both bills. Moreover, I continue to feel strongly that, at the same time we are providing encouragement and support for the public institutions of the arts through the proposed National Arts Foundation, we must also provide our institutions of higher learning, State agencies, and other groups, the assistance they require to train effectively our creative and scholastic talent throughout the Nation. I believe the U.S. Office of Education, which has in operation effective programs of aid to State agencies, institutions of higher education, and other diverse groups, should be given the means to conduct similarly effective programs in the Arts and the Humanities. With the vigorous leadership that Commissioner Francis Keppel has provided in other areas, I have no reservations whatever concerning the advisability of placing the proposed Institute within the Office of Education. After all, the Humanities depend to a far greater degree than the Arts upon our educational system and its institutions. And, as I have shown, the Arts are also strongly dependent upon the nurture which our schools and colleges can provide.

In summary, then, I believe we have every reason to combine our efforts to provide the much needed assistance to the Arts and Humanities at all levels. I shall be happy to meet with you to plan further for the many aspects involved in advancing the cause of this legislation in which we both emphatically believe. It is my earnest wish that we can move forward together to provide for the present and future needs of the arts and humanities in all phases of our dynamic society.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

John E. Fogarty
Member of Congress