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April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:



Music for All is proud to be a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008 and to add our voice to the chorus of individuals and organizations urging the 110th Congress to support legislation to advance the arts, arts education and related programs.

The Music for All is a national non-profit organization committed to creating, providing and expanding positively life-changing experiences through music... for all. Through our work we have seen, first hand, how the arts help transform our schools, our communities, and our society in extraordinary ways. Yet, access to the benefits provided by the arts are denied to many of our citizens and children. State and local budget cuts have significantly reduced investment in the arts. It has been well documented that implementation of current federal education policy combined with these budget cuts has pushed the arts from many of our schools. We have also seen the impact of, and need for, quantifiable research regarding arts education to document the level of access to these programs our children really have. Research from the U.S. Department of Education is long overdue.

To help make the arts accessible to more of our citizens we urge you to:

Support Arts Education within the U.S. Department of Education and the Nation - We urge Congress to increase appropriations to fund arts education model development and dissemination programs, Professional Development for Arts Educators, and the arts education initiatives of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and VSA Arts.

Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind - As Congress begins the reauthorization process of the No Child Left Behind Act, it must direct state and local education agencies to ensure that arts education is fully implemented as a core academic subject. We urge Congress to address provisions of the law that have had the unintended consequences of reducing arts education. We urge you to direct the U.S. Department of Education to conduct much-needed research on the status of arts education in America's public schools.

Increase Funding for the Federal Cultural Agencies - We ask you to support an increased budget of for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and the Office of Museum Services which would allow funding for the creation, preservation and presentation of the arts and humanities in America.

Thank you for your support advancing access to the arts in our nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RBM", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert B. Morrison
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs