



AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

The American String Teachers Association is the professional association for string teachers and supporters that serves close to 12,000 members across the nation and around the world. ASTA is a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008, and I urge you to support increased appropriations for federal cultural agencies.

Research supports that the presence of music and arts programs in schools contributes immensely to the academic, social, and community success of our children. We have an obligation to protect and preserve the arts for future generations. The arts provide a form of education that can't be found in textbooks or measured in standardized tests. The arts make life richer for the citizens of our nation and our world.

All Americans must have the opportunity to experience the arts. Decreased funding to NEA and the DOE endanger arts education for far too many children. Furthermore, we believe that music programs should not only be maintained at current levels but increased so that all our children have access to playing stringed instruments if they so choose. In the reauthorization of NCLB, we strongly encourage you to ensure that the resources to maintain arts as a core academic subject are available.

We encourage you to strengthen your commitment to music and art with increased funding and support. The stakes have never been higher and as elected leaders our vision and dedication are essential.

Sincerely,

Mary Wagner
President

Donna Hale
Executive Director