

Endowment for Arts and the Humanities Act, the primary source of federal support for the arts, humanities and museums, I wish to express my support for these programs.

#### ARTS AS PART OF OUR HISTORY

Mr. President, throughout this nation's history, the arts have been an integral part of our background and heritage. Over the years, music, dance, art, and personal expression have evolved to reflect our changing culture and attitudes. In a country of great diversity, from education and socioeconomic background to political perspective and religious views, all people should have the opportunity to experience America in its many forms, including the arts.

#### NEA IS A SUCCESS

In 1966, when Congress created the National Endowment of the Arts, the mission was to expose all people, across the nation, from California to Maine, from New York to North Dakota, of all backgrounds and origins, to music, dancing, theater, art and literature. Since then, the NEA has more than succeeded with its mission. The NEA helps support community festivals, rural chamber music, arts centers, galleries, arts libraries, town halls, children's organizations, and other social and civic institutions where families can experience the arts. NEA-sponsored programs build bridges of understanding among diverse groups of Americans.

#### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The arts also stimulate local economies. By attracting tourist dollars, the arts stimulate business development, encourage urban renewal, attract new businesses, and improve the overall quality of life for our cities and towns. Nationally, nonprofit arts organizations generate an estimated \$37 billion in economic activity and return \$3.4 billion in federal income taxes to the U.S. Treasury each year. In other words, for every \$ 1.00 dollar spent by the NEA, \$34.00 are returned to the United States. Every \$1.00 spent by the NEA attracts \$12.00 to the arts from other sources.

#### INCREASED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The arts also create job opportunities for more Americans. More than 1.7 million Americans are employed in the non-profit arts industry. This number is higher than any other profession including legal services, police and firefighting, mining, advertising, and forestry and logging. Since 1970 the number of artists employed in the U.S. has more than doubled. Even with this increase, the United States still spends nearly fifty times less on the arts than any of its major allies.

#### CREATES STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS

To ensure that people across the country have access to arts programs, the NEA promotes partnerships between the state and arts agencies, schools and local organizations. This cooperative system of arts support links local, state and regional associa-

tions in order to ensure that support and assistance is provided to organizations that work with culturally diverse populations, older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals living in institutions. Before the NEA, only 5 states had state-funded arts councils. Today, all 50 states do. Currently, the NEA sustains 25 partnerships with federal agencies including the Departments of Education and Justice, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and the National Science Foundation.

#### EDUCATION BENEFITS

The arts can improve learning and be part of a well-rounded education. Research from 1995-97 from the College Entrance Examination Board shows that students who studied the arts scored an average of 83 points higher than non-arts students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the SAT. Children with a piano background have also scored better on math tests.

The NEA and the state arts agencies provide \$30 million in annual support for more than 7,800 arts education projects in more than 2,400 communities. In 1997, the NEA invested \$8.2 million, 10 percent of its annual grant dollars, in kindergarten through grade 12 arts programs. Arts education improves life skills including self-esteem, teamwork, motivation, discipline, and problem solving that help young people compete in a challenging and high-tech workforce.

#### NEA AFFECTS CALIFORNIA AND STATES NATIONWIDE

Cutting funding means cutting programs. NEA has supported many California efforts: programs such as the I Do Dance Not Drugs program in South Central Los Angeles that works with latch-key kids would be demolished; a grant to the Pacific Symphony Association in Santa Ana, California funds Class Act, 95 a program which supports and enhances music education for up to 17,000 students at 20 elementary schools in Orange County through a series of activities, including repeated interaction with an Orchestra musician and direct exposure and interactive experiences with the Orchestra and the music it performs, would not be possible without NEA funding; to support a comprehensive education program at Berkeley public elementary schools, the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra will help train teachers in music, encouraging student interaction with the composer, an introductory orchestral concert, classroom visits, and a culminating presentation at which students perform side by side with Berkeley Symphony Orchestra professional musicians; the California Arts Council supports arts education and the partnership project with the California Assembly of Local Art Agencies to strengthen the State's local art agencies; programs which support Native American artists in Eureka, California to put on workshops for students and citizens on art could be terminated.

#### PUBLIC SUPPORTS NEA

By a margin of 3 to 1, Americans support government-funded arts programs. Moreover, a 1996 Lou Harris poll states that 61 percent of Americans said they would be willing to pay \$5.00 more in taxes to fund the arts. This is important because private donations tend to support larger arts organizations, not smaller, independent projects and groups. The NEA works hard to fund a wide range of expression.

#### NEA REFORMS

With reforms now requiring grantees to adhere to strict guidelines, trying to address the concerns of some who worry that some projects are objectionable can rest assured. National panels of private citizens select grantees in a rigorous, democratic review process.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to remind my colleagues that the total for arts and humanities-related spending for the 1997 fiscal year was less than 1% of the total budget. The National Endowment for the Arts costs each American about 36 cents per year. Arts institutions have affected millions of Americans. Whether its been watching a famous play, wandering through a beautiful museum, or having the opportunity to live a dream by singing on stage in a local theater company, the NEA fosters an excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in the United States which could never be matched by any other institution. It represents a national commitment to excellence our nation's culture, heritage, and, most important, its people. The NEA benefits our citizens, educational institutions, economy, and our spirits. We cannot, in good faith, deny Americans access to such a national treasure.●

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize St. Rose High School as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary. This year marks the 75th year the high school will provide quality education to students in and around the Belmar area. It is a pleasure for me to recognize this important milestone.

St. Rose exists to educate high school age men and women so that they may realize their spiritual, academic, and social potential. St. Rose's mission, since beginning as a parish school in 1923, emanates from a tradition of Roman Catholic education administered by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill. The staff of religious and lay faculty is responsive to the needs of a changing world. They have created a safe, supportive, disciplined atmosphere and curriculum that honors and nurtures the dignity, worth and capabilities of each student. The alumni go on to assume positions of leadership within their communities and professional fields.

This school has become an extraordinary educational institution that has improved the quality of life for the citizens of New Jersey, and it has long

been an example of the standard that we set for our nation's high schools. Through hard work and dedication, the faculty have illustrated their commitment to building the leaders of tomorrow, and their success over the past 75 years serve as an inspiration to all educators.

I am proud to recognize St. Rose on its anniversary, and I look forward to another 75 years of quality education from this institution.●

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Hispanic Americans, as we begin to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Events will occur throughout the Nation during this month—which extends from September 15th to October 15th—to applaud the achievements of Hispanics everywhere.

The diverse contributions of Hispanics to society, culture, academics, and the economy of our Nation have greatly enriched America. For example, the first two Hispanic Americans to win the Nobel Prize, biochemist Severo Ochoa and physicist Luis Alvarez, in their gain of worldwide acclaim, added to America's greatness in their respective fields. Dr. Ochoa of New York, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1959 for his discovery of ribonucleic acid (RNA). According to a New York Times article of November 3, 1993, Dr. Arthur Kornberg shared the Nobel Prize with Dr. Ochoa and said upon his death that Dr. Ochoa was "a fine teacher, a person of great enthusiasm and optimism." The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Dr. Alvarez in 1968 for discovering a subatomic particle that can exist for only fraction of a second. He was born in California and later died in Berkeley, California in 1968.

Another great American, Franklin Chang-Diaz, became the first Hispanic American in space when he flew on a 1986 space shuttle Columbia mission. Ellen Ochoa became the first Hispanic female astronaut when NASA selected her for that duty in 1990, after receiving her Masters and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford University. These Americans have presented themselves as ideal role models for other Hispanic Americans aspiring to excel in science and technical fields.

Our country's Armed Forces have also been proud to have Hispanics serve to protect America's freedom and liberty. The U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor Society has so far presented 38 Hispanic Americans with the distinguished Medal of Honor for their valor and great bravery. Without the integrity and spirit exemplified by these individuals, Americans everywhere would be facing a less secure world. Latinos have been with us through the Revolution, expansion to the West, and every conflict we have faced as a Nation; more than 400,000 Hispanics served the U.S. during World War II, and nearly 25,000 served during the Persian Gulf War.

The leadership of this country is augmented by the voices of our Hispanic elected officials, many who have joined forces in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. The Caucus has been working very hard to advance relevant legislation and educate their colleagues about the needs of the Hispanic community. As we review Congressional history, we discover that the first Latino to serve in Congress, Joseph Marion Hernández, entered our halls as a Delegate from Florida in 1822. Our body welcomed Octaviano Larrazolo as the first Hispanic U.S. Senator in 1928. Currently, I am honored to have the only Hispanic Chief of Staff in the U.S. Senate, my good friend Reynaldo Martinez. I feel that we should see more of these success stories as we reach the next millennium.

In the state of Nevada, Hispanics have shown their influence in all areas, especially in education, business, and politics. Nevada continues to be the fastest-growing state in the Nation, and Nevada's Hispanics have increased from 124,408 people out of 1.2 million in 1990, to 253,329 people out of 1.7 million in 1997, according to Census Bureau figures released last week. This is a large increase from 10.4 percent of the state population in 1990 to 15.1 percent in 1997.

Hispanics have been the largest minority in Nevada for years and will become the largest minority in the rest of the country in 2005. Overall in the U.S., Hispanics number more than 30 million people. Along with some of my colleagues, I worked to address urgent needs of this quickly growing segment of our U.S. population, forging inroads with various Hispanic organizations through our Senate Hispanic Working Group. The Working Group has met regularly throughout the past year, encouraging a two-way learning process in which we have come to better understand important concerns that Hispanic Americans have, while expressing to the Hispanic community our earnest desire to address these concerns. The group has forged ties with Hispanic organizations such as the National Council of La Raza, League of United Latin American Citizens, National Association of Latino Elected Officials, American GI Forum, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, National Latino Children's Institute and MANA A National Latina Organization. I am very pleased that our Leader, Senator DASCHLE, asked me to work with Senator BINGAMAN and Senator JOHN KERRY in this effort.

Practical, everyday issues Democrats have worked to address for Hispanic Americans are many in number and quite varied. For instance, we united to pass an amendment to the education IRA bill which I offered, along with my colleague from New Mexico, Senator BINGAMAN, to help reduce the alarming number of high school dropouts in this country. Although the amendment was added to the bill, it was regrettably stripped in conference.

This effort was particularly aimed at addressing the disproportionately high rate of Hispanic high school dropouts—a rate which has hovered at 30 percent. This is by far the highest rate compared to all other racial and ethnic minority groups—a rate that is simply unacceptable. Nevada has also seen dropout rates among Hispanics of more than 16 percent. We must continue to find out why these students are left behind, and eventually feel compelled to curtail their learning opportunities. These are opportunities that could help these disenfranchised young people begin a career, support their families now and in the future, and make something of their lives.

My own life was transformed by the power of education. My father never received an education higher than elementary school and my mother never graduated from high school. But because I was lucky enough to have access to educational opportunities, the support of good teachers, and a supportive community, I was able to accomplish what my parents had dreamed for me. Democrats want to make sure that every American has the opportunity to obtain a good education and realize their full potential.

We have also been trying very hard to reform our health care system. Millions of Americans worry every day about health care as they fight all manner of illness and disease, or care for a loved one who is sick. Many Americans, including Hispanic Americans who make up almost one in every four uninsured individuals in the U.S., wonder about how they will obtain the care they need when they need it, how they will pay for it, whether or not the care is quality care, and how much control they will have over their own health care decisions. We have managed to elevate on the national level one comprehensive solution to many families' health care worries in Patients' Bill of Rights legislation. We did this because people want to change the way managed care works, or more accurately, doesn't work. Regrettably, partisans have fought against full consideration of managed care reform in the Patients' Bill of Rights that would address issues at the heart of Americans' health care concerns. Democrats will continue pushing to increase patient protections for all Americans.

We have also, time after time, come to this floor to talk about strengthening retirement security for current and future generations. I hear our young people's anxiety about their retirement—that nothing will be available to help them when it's time to leave the workforce. Unfortunately for Hispanics, out of the one in ten who are part of the workforce, only one in three or 32 percent of the 13.2 million working Hispanic Americans participate in employee pension plans. The participation rate for other minorities is 44 percent and for white Americans, 51 percent. The situation is bleaker for Hispanic women, who earn on average