

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Michael McDonald  
Acting Chair  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
400 7th St SW,  
Washington, D.C. 20219

Dear President Trump & Acting Chair McDonald,

We write to express our deep concern about the future of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the only entity – federal or private – tasked with making the humanities accessible to all Americans. Overnight, on April 2, 2025, the NEH terminated all current five-year General Operating Support grants awarded to state and jurisdictional humanities councils. This funding provides the majority of operating support for state humanities council partners of NEH. The administration is also targeting NEH with the aim of terminating more than 1,400 other grant awards, substantially reducing its staff, and eliminating many of the agency’s previously announced grant programs.<sup>1</sup> Such actions will have a devastating impact on museums, historic sites, universities, educators, libraries, public television and radio stations, research institutions, and local humanities programming throughout our nation.

NEH was established by Congress in 1965 and reaffirmed by Republican and Democratic Administrations and lawmakers over the last 60 years.<sup>2</sup> Congress has repeatedly supported the NEH, its state humanities councils, and their effective service and distribution of federal dollars across the country. Over the course of its history, NEH has awarded over \$6 billion to support research, education, preservation, and public programming in the humanities.<sup>3</sup> For example, NEH funding has been instrumental in advancing groundbreaking research at universities, enriching our shared cultural experiences—from the King Tut exhibition to Ken Burns’s award-winning documentaries—and uncovering our nation’s history, including excavations at Jamestown, Virginia, and the preservation and publication of Mark Twain’s writings.

A shift in the federal government’s “fiscal priorities,” as NEH’s message to grantees states, does not justify withdrawing these funds. Congress has already appropriated them, and federal law requires that grantees receive support for the full duration of their grants, absent proof of misuse. We urge the NEH to abide by federal law and honor their agreements with grantees and humanities councils.

For over 60 years, NEH staff have helped grantees, from individuals to museums and nonprofits, provide high-quality humanities programs to communities across the country, including 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils. NEH funds, allocated to state humanities councils, are for local use and allow councils to leverage \$2 in private investment for every federal dollar spent.<sup>4</sup> The loss of NEH funding to humanities councils will

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<sup>1</sup> <https://impact.ach.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.neh.gov/about/history/national-foundation-arts-and-humanities-act-1965-pl-89-209>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.neh.gov/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.statehumanities.org/>

decimate the ability of these nonprofits to serve localities in their states, eliminating programs that are essential to each state's cultural infrastructure. This will lead to significant job loss in communities that are the most vulnerable to the lack of federal support.

Libraries, museums, historic sites, and community centers in rural communities and small towns face particularly dire financial futures without grant funding from state humanities councils and the NEH. Additionally, small and midsize organizations benefit from the guidance and expertise of the agency. These organizations are the backbone of our communities' unique cultures, reinforcing civic participation, community engagement, historic preservation, tourism infrastructure, and economic development. In short, they articulate a deep sense of place essential for a high quality of life.

The NEH and the state humanities councils are also an integral part of our nation's plans to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. They will give families and individuals an opportunity to participate in our national celebration in their own communities and highlight local stories and contributions. Without NEH's leadership and investment, the scope and impact of this national milestone will be dramatically diminished, leaving many regions without the resources needed to meaningfully take part.

NEH's budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 is \$207 million, a tiny fraction of the federal budget. These cuts will not provide significant savings for the federal government nor the American taxpayer, but they will impact millions who benefit from the far-reaching humanities programs, including our veterans, students, educators, and seniors. We urge the Administration to reconsider this decision. Supporting the NEH is not merely an investment in cultural preservation; it is also a crucial investment in community health, education, social development, and economic vitality.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure sustained federal support for the NEH.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



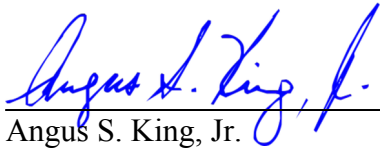
Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



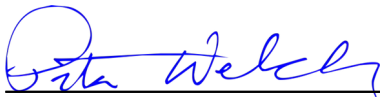
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



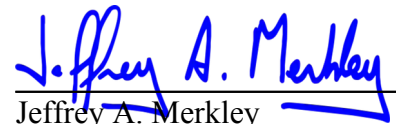
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



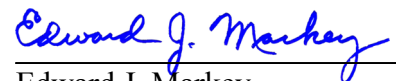
Peter Welch  
United States Senator



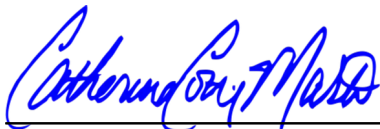
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



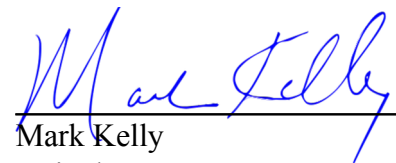
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



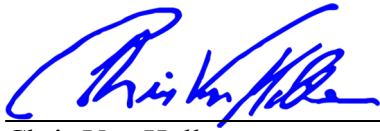
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



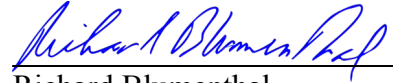
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



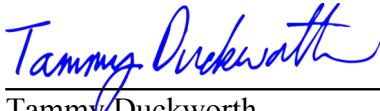
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



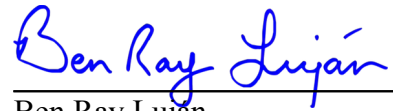
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



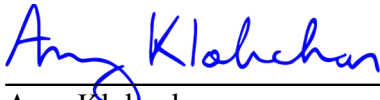
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



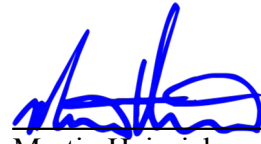
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



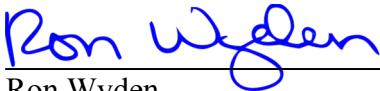
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



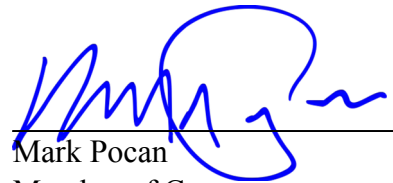
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



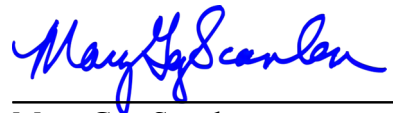
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



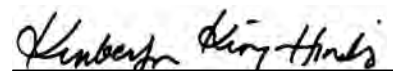
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Kimberlyn King-Hinds  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



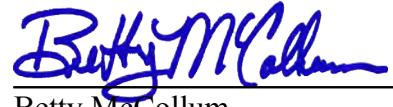
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



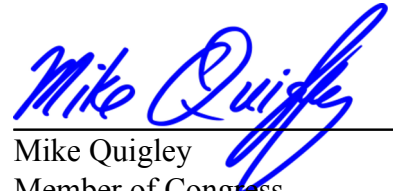
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



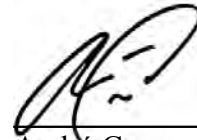
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



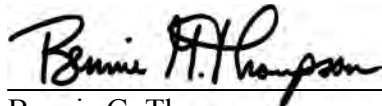
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



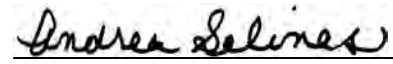
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



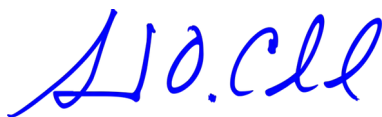
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Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



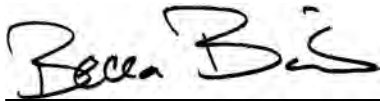
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



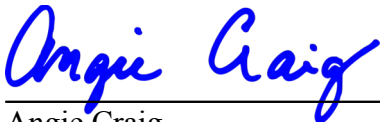
Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



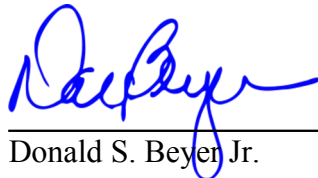
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



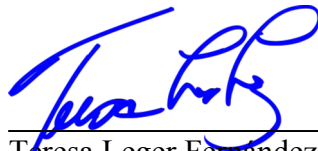
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



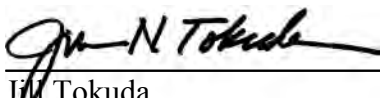
Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



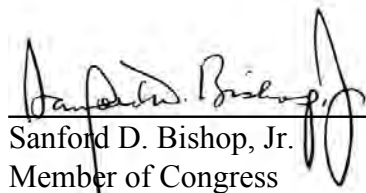
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



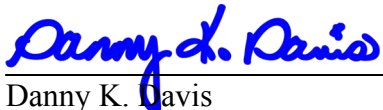
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



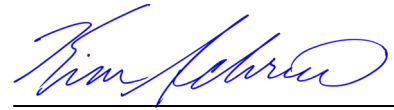
Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



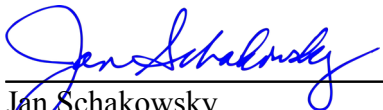
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



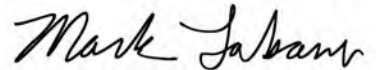
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



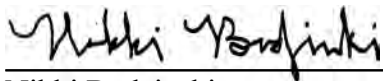
Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress




Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



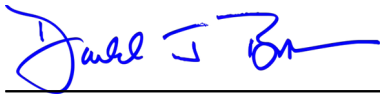
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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



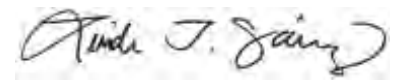
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



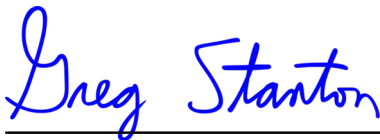
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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



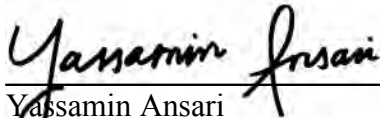
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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



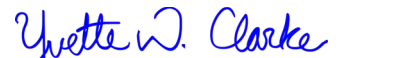
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



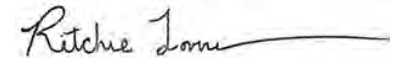
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



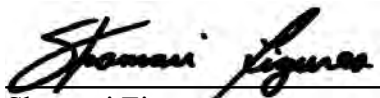
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



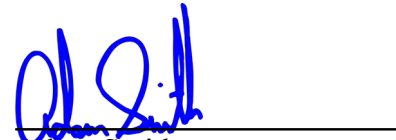
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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress




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Shomari Figures  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



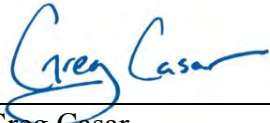
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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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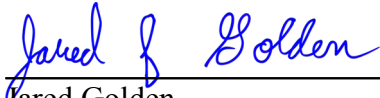
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



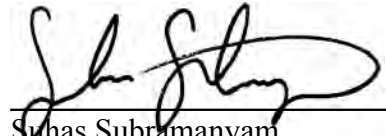
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



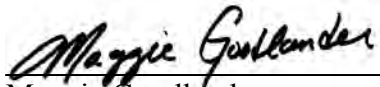
David Scott  
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



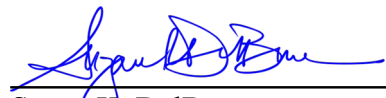
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



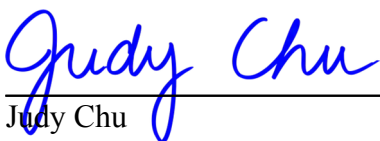
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



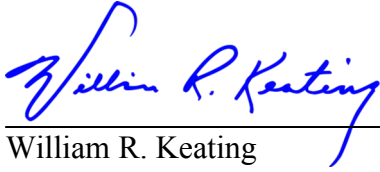
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



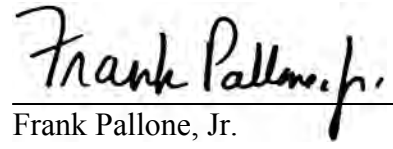
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



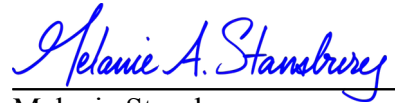
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



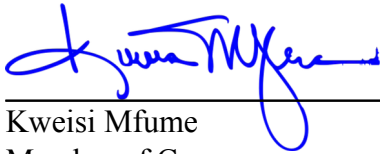
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



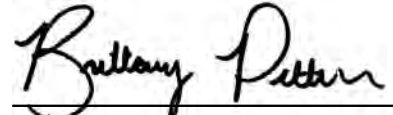
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



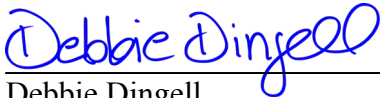
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



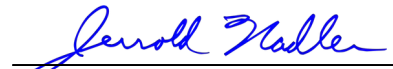
Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress




Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



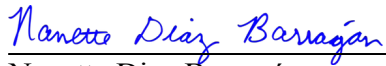
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



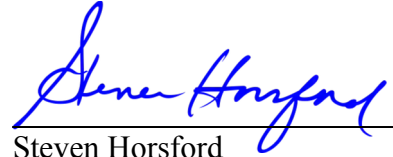
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  
Nevada's Fourth Congressional  
District



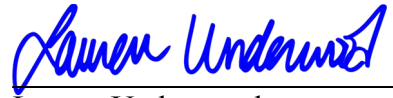
Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



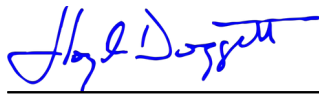
Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



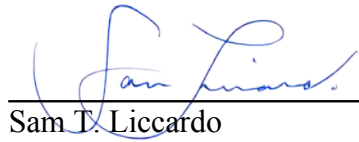
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



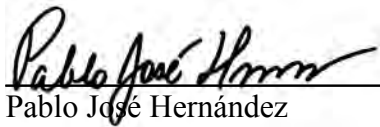
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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



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Pablo José Hernández  
Member of Congress