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"I believe strongly that arts education is essential for building innovative thinkers who will be our nation's leaders..."
—First Lady Michelle Obama

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Dance Association (NDA), of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), is honored to be a National Co-Sponsor and serve on the Legislative Planning Committee for Arts Advocacy Day 2012. Our membership of professionals and future professionals unites a strong and growing network of educators, administrators, artists and researchers. NDA advocates the importance of dance education as an art and as a creative, healthy lifestyle—for **all** ages and abilities.

Arts = Jobs! On behalf of the members of the National Dance Association, we encourage the Congress to enact policy and funding initiatives that would provide broader access to arts in the communities we serve across this great nation. We urge the Congress:

- To prepare students of the 21st century, by enacting funding of \$30 million for the Arts in Education programs within the U.S. Department of Education;
- To increase funding for creative arts in healthcare research within federal agencies involved with the Arts and Human Development Interagency Task Force, including the National Institutes of Health, Administration on Aging, and the Department of Education;
- To promote excellence in and public access to the arts, by approving \$155 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts;
- To invest in the country's cultural and artistic workforce, providing jobs to 5.7 million people, attracting billions of dollars in tourism revenue, and returning \$12.6 billion in federal income taxes annually—boosting arts projects in Community Development Block Grants, revitalizing rural areas, inner cities, and populations struggling with poverty; and by supporting an Artists Corps under the Corporation for National and Community Service;
- To support international cultural exchanges, by increasing funding by \$10 million for the Performing Artists Initiative and other cultural exchange programs within the US Department of State's Cultural Programs Division; and by improving visa processing procedures for foreign guest artists;
- To improve incentives for private charitable giving to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, by enacting the Artist-Museum Partnership Act, to allow artists, choreographers and creators of original works to deduct the fair-market value of their works donated to nonprofit institutions; by supporting the IRA Charitable Rollover provision to permit donors to make tax-free charitable gifts directly from their IRAs to charities; and by amending the Qualified Performing Artist Deduction, IRC § 62(a)(2)(B) and 62(b)(1) to allow performing artists to qualify for this benefit by raising the income cap to \$30,000 from \$16,000.

The National Dance Association/AAHPERD along with other arts and educational organizations, are integral parts of the business community, and generate \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year, proving to our constituencies that the arts are an economic driver for our local communities and our nation. The National Dance Association thanks you for your support of these important arts programs. When our citizens have freedom to access the arts, we are assured economic and creative growth that benefits all.

Sincerely,
COLLEEN DEAN

MAY YONEYAMA GWINN

Colleen Hearn Dean
NDA Administrator

May Yoneyama Gwinn
Arts Advocacy Legislative Committee Representative