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Slaughter Amendment Passes House: Secures \$10 Million Increase for NEA/NEH

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, offered an amendment to the FY07 Interior Appropriations bill providing \$5 million in additional funding respectively for the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The amendment was passed by voice vote for the second year in a row.

"Over the last forty years, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities have proven themselves time and again to be among our country's most valuable and successful organizations," Rep. Slaughter said. She added, **"By providing an overall increase for NEA and NEH, popular programs like Challenge America, the Big Read, and We The People will be reinforced-and reach a wider audience."**

The total of \$10 million in additional funding included in the Slaughter amendment will bolster the NEA and NEH in their missions to promote the arts and humanities in America. In her role as co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, Rep. Slaughter is at the forefront of efforts to increase the federal commitment to arts education and promotion in America.

By promoting arts and arts education targeting all age groups, the NEA cultivates appreciation for cultural activities across the nation.

However, the vital work of the NEA has been impeded by a 40 percent budget cut in fiscal year 1995. The result, observed Rep. Slaughter, is that "invaluable programs remain seriously under-funded."

BACKGROUND

Congresswoman Slaughter has served as co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus since 1993. This 190 member bipartisan caucus supports the arts through federal initiatives. The chief mission of the Arts Caucus is to secure adequate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museums and Library Services.

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