

Association of Performing Arts Presenters
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National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
National Performance Network
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July 2013

Advocacy Report

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About Us

The Performing Arts
Alliance is a national
network of more than
33,000 organizational
and individual members
comprising the
professional, nonprofit
performing arts and
presenting fields.

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House to Act on Education Policy

As early as this week, the U.S. House of Representatives will begin debating legislation to re-write the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the current version of which is known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). NCLB expired in 2007, but has yet to be re-written and/or re-authorized. Both parties in the House and the Senate have developed their own versions of a new ESEA—the most significant activity to date on updating this law—yet with such highly partisan views on how education should move forward, it seems that final passage of a new ESEA is still quite far down the road.

- Read about the <u>Student Success Act</u> (H.R. 5) proposed by Rep. John Kline (R-2nd MN) of the House Education & Workforce Committee
- Read the about the <u>Democratic Substitute to H.R.5</u> offered by Rep. George Miller (D-11th CA) of the House Education & Workforce Committee

The original intention of ESEA is to address equity gaps in education. As we believe strongly that arts education can be a factor in student success, PAA actively advocates at the federal level in support of improving access to arts education in our nation's schools. In June, PAA members sent a message to the Hill supporting specific provisions in Rep. George Miller's ESEA proposal that would improve federal resources for arts education. His proposal would also incentivize states and localities to do more to support arts learning. As the House prepares for floor debate, we will keep you informed by sharing resources and announcing targeted advocacy opportunities. In the meantime, you can take action now by learning more about your congressperson, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and the House Education & Workforce Committee.

Arts in Education Funding Supported by Senate Appropriations Committee

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee moved forward a recommendation for \$27 million in FY14 funding for the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education. This program supports national level high-quality arts education projects and programs for children and youth as well as the enhancement of effective

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arts education program models. In the past, this program has been eliminated in the House and Obama Administration's budget plans, but ongoing leadership by education appropriations subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and other Senate supporters has preserved Arts in Education funding. The U.S. Department of Education will soon announce a new round of multi-year grant awards made possible through Arts in Education funds. Stay tuned to PAA announcements for information on this program as it becomes available.

Stay Connected!

For more information about arts education and other PAA advocacy issues, visit us online at www.theperformingartsalliance.org, follow us on Twitter (@PAAlliance), or like our Facebook page.