Dear Congressman/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

**As a constituent, I am writing to urge you to ensure future federal support for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), in both FY18 and FY19.** These four entities provide critical funding for local community anchor organizations that play a vital educational role in rural, urban, and suburban communities in every congressional district nationwide.

Maryland Humanities is one such community anchor organization that would be adversely impacted should federal funding for the cultural agencies be eliminated. Last year it offered more than 1,900 free public humanities events in 170 communities across Maryland at the current funding level. Nearly 42,000 children benefited from educational programs that teach reading, critical thinking, communications, and analytical research skills. There is no cost to the individual participant to engage in Maryland Humanities programs, ensuring that Marylanders have access to these high-quality, impactful educational programs regardless of their financial situation. Moreover, Marylanders themselves decide how the federal funding Maryland Humanities receives is used.

Maryland Humanities’ work has made a significant impact in my [family/community].

[INSERT YOUR PERSONAL STORY OF WHY MARYLAND HUMANITIES MATTERS HERE.]

While I appreciate the difficult budgetary decisions ahead, I strongly believe that public support for humanities, arts, and public broadcasting must remain a priority. **I ask you to support our FY18 budget request of $155 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities** **—with $48 million for the Federal/State Partnership, which funds Maryland Humanities and 55 sister organizations nationwide—and to please support the NEA, CPB, and IMLS at current FY17 levels.**

“Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens. It must therefore foster and support a form of education, and access to the arts and the humanities, designed to make people of all backgrounds and wherever located masters of their technology and not its unthinking servants.” This statement from the founding legislation that established the NEH and NEA remains as true today as it was in 1965. Public support for humanities, arts, and public broadcasting is necessary for a strong democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.