

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M17-1175.02 Gwynne Middleton x4340

SJM17-007

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Merrifield, Todd, Fenberg, Zenzinger, Jones, Aguilar, Kerr, Donovan, Kagan

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 17-007

101 **MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT FEDERAL ARTS, HUMANITIES,**
102 **AND MUSEUM AGENCIES WITH FISCAL YEAR 2018 FEDERAL**
103 **FUNDING.**

1 WHEREAS, Arts, culture, humanities, and museums are critical
2 to the quality of life and prosperity of Colorado; and

3 WHEREAS, The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA),
4 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of
5 Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services
6 are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts
7 and cultural, humanities, and museum programs, activities, and efforts in
8 the cities and states of the United States of America; and

9 WHEREAS, The NEA's and the NEH's 50-plus years of promoting

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 cultural heritage and vitality have built a cultural infrastructure in this
2 nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, with more than
3 95,000 nonprofit arts organizations and 4,500 local arts agencies in cities
4 throughout the country; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2016, NEA funding to Colorado Creative
6 Industries alone supported 237 creative nonprofits, creative districts,
7 individuals, and businesses in Colorado, of which 44% of the awards
8 went to rural and small communities across the state and approximately
9 38% of the funds supplemented arts education programs in low-income
10 areas; and

11 WHEREAS, Colorado ranked number one in the country for the
12 percentage of adults who perform or create artwork, and the creative
13 industries are the fifth largest employment sector in Colorado; and

14 WHEREAS, Creative jobs in Colorado numbered 139,096 in 2015
15 and accounted for \$7.2 billion in earnings, such as Colorado's music
16 industry, which alone creates over 16,000 jobs and \$658 million in
17 earnings; and

18 WHEREAS, Each dollar in NEA grant funds leverages another
19 nine dollars from other public and private sources; and

20 WHEREAS, The NEA's 2016 national budget of \$148 million
21 represents just 0.004% of the federal budget, less than 1/2 of one
22 hundredth of one percent; and

23 WHEREAS, Of the 2016 NEA national budget of \$148 million,
24 Colorado received \$3,134,600, which was dispersed into grants
25 supporting 38 different agencies, groups, and schools, as well as the
26 Western States Arts Federation, which is a regional arts organization
27 housed in Denver that supports art programs in Wyoming, Nevada, and
28 Montana, and Colorado's annual portion of that total money is just over
29 \$1.3 million; and

30 WHEREAS, Since 2011, the NEA has partnered with the U.S.
31 Department of Defense to support creative arts therapies through a
32 program called Creative Forces, which helps service members, veterans,
33 and families dealing with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic
34 stress disorder and associated psychological health conditions at select
35 locations nationwide, including Fort Carson, Colorado; now, therefore,

1 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly*
2 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

3 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

4 (1) Declare our support for the National Endowment for the Arts,
5 the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum
6 Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and
7 encourage the United States Congress to support these agencies in fiscal
8 year 2018 federal budgeting; and

9 (2) Urge the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts
10 organizations through local arts agencies to promote economic growth,
11 create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract
12 tourists and residents to community activities, continue treating veterans
13 with creative arts therapies, and improve the quality of life for
14 Coloradans.

15 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent
16 to Colorado's Congressional delegation; Governor John Hickenlooper;
17 Dr. Jane Chu, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts; Dr.
18 William D. Adams, Chairman of the National Endowment for the
19 Humanities; Ms. Paula Gangopadhyay, Deputy Director of the Office of
20 Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
21 and Ms. Margaret Hunt, Director of Colorado Creative Industries.