

# Guide to Congressional Support Record

Votes are registered by individual legislators during public roll calls which happen frequently but are not mandatory. In 2005 there were no roll calls recorded on behalf of the humanities in either the House or Senate chambers. However, House Members of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress had two opportunities to register their support in 2005 for the humanities through “Dear Colleague” letters addressed to appropriators that members sign on to, using their combined strength for change. Although the Senate did not utilize this advocacy tool in 2005, there are multiple factors affecting legislators’ ability to support humanities funding such as: timing of the request or vote, leadership roles, and committee assignments (e.g., appropriations committee members do not typically sign “Dear Colleague” letters addressed to their subcommittee). Roll call votes are affected by these same factors as well as funding offsets and other provisions contained in an amendment or attached to a bill.

In the following charts, each representative is identified by their district (AL signifies “at large” for the entire state/territory), state or territory, political party (**R**epublican, **D**emocrat, or **I**ndependent), their participation in the House Humanities or Senate Cultural Caucus, and their recorded voting record and support for “Dear Colleague” letters in 2003-2005. Roll call votes and “Dear Colleague” letters for the 108-109<sup>th</sup> Congress are described in detail below.

## **House Roll Call Votes 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (2003-2004)**

- Roll Call Vote 248 to approve Amendment 548 (June 16, 2004): Amendment 548, submitted by Rep. Louise Slaughter, proposed increasing funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) by \$3.5 million and increasing funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) by \$10 million. The House approved the amendment by a vote of 241 to 185.
- Roll Call Vote 376 to approve Amendment 254 (July 17, 2003): Amendment 254, submitted by Rep. Louise Slaughter, proposed increasing funding for the NEH by \$5 million and increasing funding for the NEA by \$10 million. The House approved the amendment by a vote of 225 to 200.

## **“Dear Colleague” Sign-On Letters for the 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses**

- 2005 House NEH “Dear Colleague” sign-on letter: Signed by 110 Representatives and addressed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies to request increased funding of \$15 million for FY 2006, a 10% increase over FY 2005, for NEH core programs. The letter was co-sponsored by Representatives Jim Leach (R-IA-02) and David Price (D-NC-04).
- 2005 House NHRPC “Dear Colleague” sign-on letter. Signed by 47 Representatives and addressed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Housing, Urban Development, The Judiciary, and the District of to request restoration of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHRPC) to the FY 2006 budget by providing \$10 million for its continued operation. The letter was co-sponsored by Representatives Jim Leach (R-IA-02) and David Price (D-NC-04).
- 2004 House NEH “Dear Colleague” sign-on letter: Signed by 127 Representatives and addressed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies in support of full funding of the President’s FY2005 funding request for NEH. The letter was co-sponsored by Representatives Jim Leach (R-IA-02) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-09).
- 2004 Senate NEH “Dear Colleague” sign-on letter: Signed by 35 Senators and addressed to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies in support of full funding of the President’s FY2005 funding request for NEH. The letter was co-sponsored by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Susan Collins (R-ME)
- 2003 House NEH “Dear Colleague” sign-on letter: Signed by 137 Representatives and addressed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related in support of full funding of the President’s FY2004 funding request for NEH. The letter was co-sponsored by Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-09) and Jack Kingston (R-GA-01).
- 2003 Senate NEH “Dear Colleague” sign-on letter: Signed by 47 Senators and addressed to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies in support of full funding of the President’s FY2005 funding request for NEH. The letter was co-sponsored by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and John Warner (R-VA).