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TO CONGRESS**

October 2, 2020

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

Following up on our legislative update from Tuesday, bipartisan negotiations between House Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, on behalf of the White House, on a COVID-19 relief package appear to have ended. Notwithstanding, the House passed last night, by a vote of 214-207, the "skinny" version of the HEROES Act which was introduced earlier this week.

We're pleased to see that provisions greatly needed by the arts and culture sector were included in this House-passed bill. As U.S. Senate Republicans have indicated little interest in passing another COVID-19 relief bill, it appears that federal relief will not be seriously considered until after the November elections or early 2021.

In other Congressional news, President Trump signed into law on October 1, a continuing resolution (CR) that keeps the federal government funded until December 11. Fiscal year (FY) 2021 began on October 1st, and the CR gives Congress more time to come to an agreement on funding levels for the rest of FY 2021. Earlier this year, the House voted to appropriate \$170 million for both the NEA and NEH for FY 2021 (a funding increase of \$7.75 million over FY 2020 levels) which matched the level sought by arts advocates this year.

We have updated our COVID-19 action alert so you can communicate to your Representative your appreciation for the House passing the HEROES bill, and request your Senators to take action immediately.

We'll keep you updated if anything changes on the legislative front.

Nina Ozlu Tunceli
Executive Director

