



March 31, 2008

Dear Member of Congress,

The American Alliance for Theatre & Education is pleased to be a National Co-sponsor of National Arts Advocacy Day. On behalf of our membership, theatre artists and educators, AATE would like to extend our gratitude to the members of Congress who support theatre and education and the entire arts community in the United States.

All across America, the members of AATE work to bring theatre into the lives of young people in order to enhance creativity, teamwork, and problem solving skills. We also teach young people about the joy that theatre can bring into their lives. Support from government for theatre and education is critical to the ongoing work of the AATE membership. We encourage Congress and the administration to work to support theatre and all the arts for and with young people through the following actions:

- **Promote arts in education within the U.S. Department of Education**
- **Increase funding for national and international cultural programs**
- **Pass legislation to promote charitable giving to nonprofit groups**
- **Demonstrate a commitment to the inclusion of arts as a core academic subject**
- **Provide funding for the Department of Education's efforts in arts education research**
- **Support dissemination of information pertaining to the effects of Arts in Education on students' progress.**

We believe that the theatre is essential in people's lives. We encourage Congress to join us in bringing the arts to all Americans by supporting these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Leigh E. Jansson
Director of Operations and Programming

Betsy Quinn
President, AATE Board of Directors