

SAMPLE LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE

[date]

[Title, Legislator Name
Address]

Dear [Legislator Name]:

We often hear our leaders decry the decline of the American experiment. Whether they point to a stagnating education system, a forgotten sense of civic duty, or the dimming vibrancy of our culture, their pessimism is presented as inarguable and insurmountable. Such dire predictions give rise to a self-fulfilling apathy on all our parts, one in which we are resigned to hear them and assume there is nothing to be done.

And yet, throughout every age, at the center of any solution to any societal problem, have been the humanities. Exposure to the humanities engages our imaginations and sharpens our minds. They elevate our empathy by revealing the experiences of others. They provide the introspection we need to clearly see our own lives and the bigger picture against which they unfold. **There is a correlation here: a flourishing of the humanities equals a flourishing civilization.**

Since 1974, Mass Humanities has enriched countless lives in the Commonwealth. It has promoted the use of history, literature, philosophy, and other disciplines to deepen understanding of contemporary issues, strengthen a sense of common purpose, and enhance and improve civic life. **Without Mass Humanities, critical reading programs in local libraries would disappear; promising individuals from underprivileged communities would not have the opportunity to experience higher education; and more than eight Commonwealth hospitals would not have fulfilled their promise to deliver more humane health care through the discussion of art and literature.** In short, without Mass Humanities, we would succumb to that well-worn apathy that enervates our democracy and plagues our potential.

And all this is multiplied by 50 when each state of our union, and its efforts in the humanities, is factored in.

I am writing you today to ask for your support for the National Endowment for the Humanities' budget, which helps fund the programs provided by Mass Humanities. Your action now will prevent apathy from eroding our common and future good.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Here]