

**Hearing of the House Committee on Education and Labor Subcommittee on
Healthy Families and Communities**

***“The National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment
for the Arts: Overview of Programs and National Impact”***

Opening Remarks of Ranking Member Congressman Todd Russell Platts

Good morning and welcome. I would like to first thank Chairwoman McCarthy for holding this hearing to learn more about the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. I would also like to thank all of the panelists for joining us today and providing some insight as to how the arts and humanities are used to educate children across America.

I have seen first-hand the benefits of NEA and NEH local grants in my District, including a living museum program interpreting the Underground Railroad, several ballet and symphony performances, and a symposium on the events at Little Round Top during the Civil War battle at Gettysburg. In addition, their national projects, such as *The Big Read*, *Shakespeare in*

American Communities, and *We the People*, have positively impacted students in my District and across the country.

As a member of both the Congressional Arts Caucus and the Congressional Humanities Caucus, I strongly believe that exposing children to the arts and humanities can spur their interest in various subjects, as well as afford students with well-rounded educations. The NEA and NEH stimulate children by allowing them to learn through paintings, photographs, poetry, plays, and other interactive activities.

I look forward to learning more about how the Endowments not only engage teachers and schools, but educate teachers about effective ways to teach the arts and humanities to their students. In addition, I am interested to hear about the various state initiatives and how states respond to the different educational needs of students in diverse geographical and economic settings.

Again, I thank all of the witnesses for joining us and look forward to their testimony. With that, I yield back.

