

person holding something else and a third one holding something else and then have the secret holds and the hot holds and the threats of filibuster. The other body is just all tangled up in themselves. That's just an exasperating condition.

I have seen this over 25 years, back to the time when I chaired the Aviation Subcommittee, but we were always able to work it out. I have never seen such a tangle like this.

So I urge the other body to rise above themselves, get over these little petty differences, come to agreement in the greater good of this country. Aviation is 9 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States.

Last year a billion people traveled by air worldwide, 750 million moved in the U.S. airspace. We account for three-fourths of all air travel worldwide. Every other nation in the world wants to get into the U.S. and wants to serve our constituents because it is such a lucrative market.

But if we don't invest in the future and continuing the modernization of air traffic control, we are not going to be the leader in the world. That is what this legislation does. It lays down the charts, the path forward for continued modernization of the air traffic control system of the United States, which is the most robust in the world.

So you might ask, well, why are we doing just this short-term extension through the end of the year? Because I am confident that sanity will prevail, that equity will abound in the other body, and they will find themselves, and they will come to agreement in the post-election session, maybe before then, and then we could do the full, 4-year authorization bill.

So we must proceed on the course we have laid before you today.

I thank my colleagues on the committee, Mr. MICA, Mr. PETRI. Mr. BOUSTANY, thank you, from Ways and Means, a refugee from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure who has, as has Mr. LEWIS, also a graduate of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, gone on to Ways and Means, where we still have the partnership. I am glad we are all together. At least on this side, we are all together moving in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6190, the "Airport and Airways Extension Act of 2010, Part III". This bill ensures that aviation programs, taxes, and Airport and Airway Trust Fund expenditure authority will continue without interruption pending completion of long-term Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization legislation. Because the long-term bill will not be completed before the current authority for aviation programs expires next week, H.R. 6190 is needed to extend aviation programs, taxes, and expenditure authority for an additional three months, through December 31, 2010.

The most recent long-term FAA reauthorization act, the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (P.L. 108–176), expired on September 30, 2007. Although the House

passed an FAA reauthorization bill during the 110th Congress, and again last year, the Senate failed to act until March of this year. The FAA has, therefore, been operating under a series of short-term extension acts, the most recent of which expires on September 30, 2010.

Since passage of the Senate bill in March, we have been working diligently to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills. As it stands now, the negotiated bill would provide the aviation sector with the stability of a multi-year authorization, safety reforms, record-high capital investment levels, acceleration of the Next Generation Air Transportation System effort, and a passenger bill of rights. Moreover, a comprehensive multi-billion dollar FAA reauthorization would create tens of thousands of well paying aviation sector jobs.

This would build upon the aviation investments funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We know that Recovery Act aviation investments have been a tremendous success. Work is underway or completed on 758 aviation projects (\$1.2 billion), representing 96 percent of the total available Recovery Act aviation funds. Within this total, work is underway on 205 projects (\$627 million), and work is completed on an additional 553 projects (\$622 million). Aviation investments will result in 155 runway improvements at 139 airports that accommodate 11 million annual takeoffs/landings (\$483 million); 83 taxiway improvements at 78 airports that accommodate 8.1 million annual takeoffs/landings (\$220 million); and 25 projects to modernize air route traffic control centers (\$50 million). This record of success underscores the need to build upon these efforts and pass a long-term FAA reauthorization act.

Unfortunately, since July, the FAA reauthorization bill has been hung up in the Senate, primarily over a provision that would significantly increase the number of long-distance flights at Washington National Airport. The Senate provision was included in neither the House-passed nor the Senate-passed FAA bill, and it is strongly opposed by Members of Congress and Senators who represent the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. They argue it would create a burden on Washington National Airport by creating congestion at terminals and that it would siphon passengers away from Washington Dulles International Airport. I also have concerns that the provision, as written, would unduly benefit the dominant incumbent carrier at National Airport, US Airways.

We will continue to work as hard as we can on behalf of the American public for a strong, comprehensive FAA reauthorization bill, which I still remain confident that we can deliver this Congress.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I fully support H.R. 6190. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for this important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6190.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4853. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1560) supporting the increased understanding of, and interest in, computer science and computing careers among the public and in schools, and to ensure an ample and diverse future technology workforce through the designation of National Computer Science Education Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1560

Whereas computing technology has become an integral part of culture and is transforming how people interact with each other and the world around them;

Whereas computer science is transforming industry, creating new fields of commerce, driving innovation in all fields of science, and bolstering productivity in established economic sectors;

Whereas the field of computer science underpins the information technology sector of our economy, which is a significant contributor to United States economic output;

Whereas the information technology sector is uniquely positioned to help with economic recovery through the research and development of new innovations;

Whereas National Computer Science Education Week can inform students, teachers, parents, and the general public about the crucial role that computer science plays in transforming our society and how computer science enables innovation in all science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines and creates economic opportunities;

Whereas providing students the chance to participate in high-quality computer science activities, including through science scholarships, exposes them to the rich opportunities the field offers and provides critical thinking skills that will serve them throughout their lives;

Whereas all students deserve a thorough preparation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, including access to the qualified teachers, technology, and age-appropriate curriculum needed to learn computer science at the elementary and secondary levels of education;

Whereas these subjects provide the critical foundation to master the skills demanded by our 21st century workforce;

Whereas computer science education has challenges to address, including distinguishing computer science from technology literacy and providing adequate professional development for computer science teachers;

Whereas the field of computer science has significant equity barriers to address, including attracting more participation by females and underrepresented minorities to all levels and branches;

Whereas Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first females in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science; and

Whereas the week of December 5, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, is designated as "National Computer Science Education Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Computer Science Education Week;

(2) encourages schools, teachers, researchers, universities, and policymakers to identify mechanisms for teachers to receive cutting edge professional development to provide sustainable learning experiences in computer science at all educational levels and encourage students to be exposed to computer science concepts;

(3) encourages opportunities, including through existing programs, for females and underrepresented minorities in computer science; and

(4) supports research in computer science to address what would motivate increased participation in this field.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1560 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1560, which designates the week of December 5, 2010, as National Computer Science Education Week to support increased public awareness of, and interest in, the field of computer science and careers in computers.

I am honored to have joined Mr. EHLERS of Michigan for the second year in a row as bipartisan cosponsors in recognizing the critical importance of computer science education to the future of our country and to a strong economy and jobs.

The global competitiveness of our workers and our economy depends on our ability to embrace emergent information in computer technologies. As an Internet entrepreneur myself, who had founded several successful compa-

nies before I came to Congress, I learned firsthand how computer technology is transforming people's lives throughout the world and represents a critical strategy for ensuring our country's national competitiveness. The Department of Commerce estimates that there will be 800,000 job openings in computer science over the next 6 years, making it one of the fastest-growing fields in the country, and it's of critical importance, particularly during this recovery.

Computer science also drives innovation across other sectors—in science, technology, engineering, and math. According to the College Board, 4 of the top 10 fastest-growing jobs will be in computer-related fields as our Nation's most innovative and successful companies continue to expand their capabilities. Computer skills, Madam Speaker, are necessary in jobs across the board. From agricultural jobs to office jobs, the way we interact with computers plays a critical role in both our personal and our professional lives.

The types of jobs where we need to do better with regard to computer education include computer system analysts, software engineers, network systems managers, data communication analysts and many others. And yet despite the growing need and the many job openings, there were less than 60,000 Americans that pursued degrees in computer science in 2008.

In my district in Colorado, for example, more than 2,500 computing job openings occur annually, but only 10 students say they intend to major in computer science and 34 took the Advanced Placement computer science exam, according to the National Center for Women and Information Technology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the flagship State university in our Colorado system.

□ 1610

Unless we get more kids interested in computer science degrees and careers, we'll continue to lose our edge in global competitiveness. But that interest starts early, Madam Speaker. We need to start through public education, elementary school, middle school, and high school in giving kids the skills they need to enter these fields in college and professionally.

National Computer Science Education Week provides an important opportunity to highlight the opportunities available in this bill and give kids the skills they need to obtain success, to encourage more students to pursue careers in the fast-growing fields of computing and information technology, and also to highlight the importance of a skilled and diverse workforce that takes full advantage of the great diversity our Nation has to offer to compete for 21st century jobs.

The date of National Computer Science Education Week coincides with the birthday of Grace Hopper, one of the first prominent women in the field of computer science. As a United

States Naval officer, Ms. Hopper became a computer programmer and later engineered new programming languages and created standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for major advancements in computer science. The U.S. Navy destroyer USS Hopper was named in her honor.

National Computer Science Education Week can also help expose students to innovative technologies and computer science as early as kindergarten and continuing all the way through college. Students deserve and need access to the technology, qualified teachers, and age-appropriate curriculum at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. These resources encourage students to distinguish between computer literacy and computational thinking, which facilitates new ways to use these powerful tools to approach issues in biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, and health care.

In a world dominated by Facebook, iPods, the Web, and the Internet, every child stands to benefit from a rigorous computer science education. And yet today, too few students have the opportunity to take engaging and rigorous computer science courses, and there is far too little diversity among those who do. Low-income, women, and minority students are severely under-enrolled in computer science courses and programs, both at the secondary and post-secondary levels, and also in the related professions.

That's why I have introduced H.R. 5929, the Computer Science Education Act, which will help ensure that American students not only use technology but also learn the technical computing skills needed to grow our economy and invent the technology that will drive our economic engine in the future. America simply cannot afford to continue wasting talent and opportunities in this field.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative EHLERS for submitting this resolution and express my strong support for recognizing the week of December 5 as National Computer Science Education Week.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1560, supporting the increased understanding of, and interest in, computer science and computing careers among the public, and especially in our schools, to ensure an ample and diverse future technology workforce through the designation of National Computer Science Education Week.

Computer science is the study of the theoretical foundations of information and computation and of practical techniques for their implementation and application in computer systems. Today, more than ever, computer science is integral to the functioning

and growth of our society and economy. Computer science supports the information technology sector that has become such a large contributor to the United States' economic output.

The need for diverse participants in the field of computer science exists more so today than ever before. As the world's dependence on technology grows, so does the need for individuals with the knowledge and background to support and advance that technology in all fields of science.

Computer science education provides an opportunity for students to enter the field of computer science and exposes them to the opportunities this important field has to offer. A high-quality education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics can help to prepare students for a future in computer science and to master the skills needed in the 21st century workforce. A computer science education can provide students with opportunities for future education and employment in some of the fastest growing industries.

National Computer Science Education Week, to be recognized the week of December 5, will inform students, teachers, parents, and the public about the role of computer science in our society and the opportunities it affords to participants in the field. Today I express my strong support for National Computer Science Education Week and encourage all schools, teachers, researchers, and universities to recognize this occasion.

I support the resolution and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to inquire if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has any further speakers.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I was expecting the sponsor of the resolution. I understand that he is on his way and should be here momentarily.

I take it the gentleman has no other speakers?

Mr. POLIS. I would like to continue. I yield myself such time as I may consume, Madam Speaker.

Little is of greater importance to the economic future of our country than making sure that kids are prepared to enter the workforce of the future and create the jobs of the future, many of which will either be in computer science or require skills in computer science. Regardless of the field, whether it's construction, whether it's education, whether it's banking, having basic skills in computational technology as a computer science is absolutely critical for occupational success. To bring some of the jobs back to America, we need to make sure that we have the best and brightest and most capable children that are equipped with the tools they need to prepare the next generation of intellectual property and software products for consumption across the world.

I have been honored to introduce this resolution recognizing National Com-

puter Science Education Week with Representative EHLERS, for the second year, to acknowledge the important contributions of computer science to our country's economic development and also to emphasize the need for increased diversity and ensuring that we tap into the great diversity that composes the American people in preparing for the jobs of the future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend the gentleman from Colorado along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) for their sponsorship of this. We see issues often in our professional roles but also in our personal roles, and this area of computer science and education is one that I have seen as a dad, a parent of a 14-year-old and an 11-year-old, a sixth grader and an eighth grader. This generation that's coming up now can't imagine the world without computers. As one of the older generations, I regularly turn to them for input in how to troubleshoot. And I think that's what we're trying to help promote here is that understanding of how integral computer science is to our daily lives, to our economy, and to our quality of life. And this resolution will help promote that idea and remind all of our citizens that, if they're looking for a great opportunity for a career, computer science and related fields is a wonderful one that's going to be with us for decades to come and integral to our country's growth and success economically in the years ahead, as well.

I believe that we're not going to be able to wait for the sponsor, so I would just conclude by acknowledging Mr. EHLERS, the gentleman from Michigan's work in this area and his professional work before coming to the House in this arena and what a great champion he has been for supporting the importance of education in computer science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. And he'll be leaving us at the end of this session, but I know he will continue to be a strong advocate for education in this field.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Certainly, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania mentioned, we salute Mr. EHLERS' leadership on this issue and certainly hope that in future sessions we will continue to have strong bipartisan agreement on this issue. And perhaps if we are both in the next session, the gentleman from Pennsylvania will join me to continue the tradition of honoring Computer Science Education Week in future sessions.

Again, the recognition in ensuring that raising the profile of the importance of computer science is a first step. And I have also introduced a bill, H.R. 5929, that really enacts what we need to do with regard to helping improve opportunities for computer science across the country. It's not

simply a matter of kids using technology, but also a matter of learning the technical computing skills that are needed for an increasingly complicated workforce and business climate.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1560, which supports the increased understanding of, and interest in, computer science and computing careers among the public and in schools, and ensures an ample and diverse future technology workforce through the designation of National Computer Science Education Week.

The week of December 5 has been chosen as National Computer Science Education Week to honor the birthday of Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first female computer scientists. This will mark the second annual celebration of this important week.

Computing technology and the innovations it yields are transforming our world and are critical to the global competitiveness of our economy. However, we are not preparing an adequate and diverse workforce to meet the ever-growing demand for the information technology sector, which includes some of the country's most innovative and successful companies.

While it is very important that students in K-12 are exposed to computer science, many do not get a chance to learn about it in schools today. The lack of understanding of computer science and how it fuels innovation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines contributes to a lack of interest in computing careers, especially among women and underrepresented minorities, whose participation rates in computer science are among the lowest of any scientific field. By introducing students to computer science at an early age and providing them with learning experiences in computer science at all educational levels, we can reverse this trend and expand and diversify our technology workforce.

I am very pleased that Congressman POLIS joined me in introducing this resolution. Also, I thank Cameron Wilson with the Association for Computing Machinery and Joel Adams with the Department of Computer Science at Calvin College for their efforts in raising the awareness about the importance of computer science education. In addition, I thank Julia Jester, formerly of my staff, for her help on drafting and introducing this resolution, as well as for her dedicated service as the staff director of the STEM Education Caucus.

Please join me in supporting the designation of the second annual National Computer Science Education Week to raise awareness about these important issues.

Mr. POLIS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1560.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1582) honoring and saluting Americans for the Arts on its 50th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1582

Whereas Americans for the Arts is the Nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in the United States;

Whereas celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010, Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every person in the United States to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts;

Whereas Americans for the Arts was founded and chartered in 1960 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, by then-first board president George Irwin, Philip Hanes, Ralph Burgard, Arthur Gelber, Charles Mark, Keith Martin, Leslie White, and Edgar Young with the mission of enhancing public and private support for the nonprofit arts and serving local arts councils in United States;

Whereas Americans for the Arts is now currently headquartered in Washington, DC, with offices in New York, Massachusetts, California, and Florida under the leadership of Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch;

Whereas Americans for the Arts played a key role in the formation and establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965;

Whereas Americans for the Arts has provided leadership and training to local public and nonprofit arts agencies through a national network consisting of Arts and Business Councils, Business Committees for the Arts, State arts agencies, State arts advocacy organizations, and community-based cultural organizations across the country serving 5,000 local arts agencies and their communities;

Whereas Americans for the Arts continues to produce groundbreaking research that is the industry standard for reliable and credible information on the size and economic impact of the nonprofit arts industry through its series on "Arts and Economic Prosperity", which reports that approximately 100,000 nonprofit cultural organizations generate \$166,200,000,000 in economic activity every year supporting 5,700,000 jobs and generating \$29,600,000,000 in government revenue;

Whereas Americans for the Arts produces annual events that heighten national visibility for the arts and arts education, including Arts Advocacy Day in cooperation with the Congressional Arts Caucus in Washington, DC, and the Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy that has featured illustrious artists and policymakers with speakers such as Maya Angelou, Arthur Schlesinger, Leonard Garment, Wynton Marsalis, Representatives John Brademas and Barbara Jordan, Senator Alan K. Simpson, and Robert Redford, National Arts and Humanities Month, and National professional and leadership development convenings annually for 50 consecutive years; and

Whereas Americans for the Arts has been a leader in promoting active participation in arts education both in and out-of-school through its professional development work and national visibility PSA campaigns, "The Arts. Ask for More": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates and honors Americans for the Arts for its 50 years of service in advancing the arts and arts education in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1582 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

□ 1620

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1582 as a proud member of the Congressional Arts Caucus. This resolution honors Americans for the Arts on its 50th anniversary this year. Americans for the Arts is the Nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I come from a family of artists. My father is a graphical artist, and my mother is a poet. The arts is not just for the enjoyment of others; they put food on the table for many families across the country. Americans for the Arts strives to create opportunities for all people to participate in and appreciate all forms of art. They partner with local, State, and national arts organizations, government agencies, businesses, philanthropists, and educators throughout the country. They provide arts industry research and professional development for community arts programs.

Additionally, Americans for the Arts supports a variety of unique partner networks in the areas of public art for all of our enjoyment, united arts fundraising, arts education, including interfacing with our public schools, and emerging a new generation of leadership in the arts. Americans for the Arts also strongly endorses opportunities for students to participate in visual and performing arts in the schools.

We know that learning and participating in music, dance, theater, and the visual arts is vital to the cognitive development of our children and to our communities, and too frequently, Madam Speaker, it is given short shrift in our public schools.

Americans for the Arts played a key role in the formation and establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965, which has been the main Federal agency dedicated to funding arts groups around the country. It offers grants for State and local arts projects, national initiatives, and scholarships to students who pursue a higher education in the arts.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1582 honoring and saluting Americans for the Arts on its fifth anniversary, and I am honored to have the privilege of joining with the distinguished chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, the gentleman from New York. As co-chairs of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I was delighted to join with her in sponsoring this resolution. I appreciate her great leadership in promoting arts and helping to advance the cause of arts.

Again, I speak as a dad, those boys I referenced earlier, my sons, T.J. and Tom, I have seen what a great blessing it has been to them being exposed to the arts throughout their lives, and how it has enriched them and allowed them to be even better students in other subjects as well.

Today I stand in support of this resolution. Americans for the Arts is the Nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. It was founded and chartered in 1960 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, by first board president George Irwin and a group of arts supporters with the mission of enhancing public and private support for the nonprofits arts and serving local arts councils in the United States. The organization played an integral role in the formation and establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965, and today Americans for the Arts serves more than 150,000 organizational and individual members and stakeholders.

The organization's goals are achieved in partnership with local, State, and national arts organizations, government agencies, business leaders, individual philanthropists, and educators throughout this country. Americans for the Arts provides extensive arts-industry research and professional development opportunities for community arts leaders via specialized programs and services, including a content-rich Web site and an annual national convention.

Local arts agencies throughout the United States comprise Americans for the Arts' core constituency. A variety of unique partner networks with particular interests such as public art, united arts fundraising, arts education, and emerging arts leaders are also supported.

Americans for the Arts strives to ensure the arts thrive in America. It also produces annual events to heighten visibility for the arts, including the National Arts Awards and Arts Advocacy Day, which annually convenes arts advocates from across the country to advance Federal support of the arts, humanities, and arts education.

Today, we congratulate and honor Americans for the Arts for its 50 years of service representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the