

Protect NEH / Save The West Virginia Humanities Council

As a constituent, I am writing to urgently request that you support the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the face of the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) attempt to substantially reduce its staff, cut the agency's grant programs, and rescind grants that have already been awarded.

NEH provides essential funding for our nation's 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils, including the West Virginia Humanities Council, which provides vital cultural services and critical funding to local nonprofit organizations right here in our district.

In the last year alone, the West Virginia Humanities Council has:

- Contributed over \$1 million to West Virginia's cultural economy through grantmaking, direct programs, and cooperative partnerships with corporations and foundations
- Awarded 58 grants totaling nearly \$320,000 to West Virginia cultural organizations, schools, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions in communities of every size, all around the state
- Directly served over 400,000 people through grants and programs, a number equivalent to one in four West Virginians
- Committed over \$130,000 to the West Virginia Folklife Program, documenting, sharing, and preserving West Virginia's living traditions for generations to come
- Delivered 100 *History Alive!* presentations to community centers, senior centers, and K-12 classrooms throughout West Virginia
- Expanded and upgraded e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia Online, the single most comprehensive reference work on West Virginia, visited by millions of users across America, and in nearly every country in the world

NEH was created by an act of Congress in 1965, and has been repeatedly reaffirmed by Republican and Democratic Presidents and legislators throughout the following 60 years. DOGE's reductions to the NEH budget and workforce will block the agency's ability to carry out Congressional intent, and destroy the West Virginia Humanities Council's unique role in putting federal funding to work in the Mountain State.

Every Congress for 50 years has given bipartisan support to the state humanities councils, praising their effective and responsible distribution of federal dollars across America. These funds go directly to states (and our district) and allow councils, including the West Virginia Humanities Council, to generate \$4 for every federal dollar spent.

The loss of NEH funding to humanities councils will decimate the ability of the West Virginia Humanities Council to serve communities across our state, eliminating programs that drive tourism, and are essential to our region's cultural economy and cultural health.

Again, I urge you to act to protect NEH, and NEH funding for the West Virginia Humanities Council.