

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

**Delegation Office
State of New Mexico
434 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20520
(202) 224-3330**

October 24, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

We welcome the decision by the Institute for Education and the Arts to convene a National Overture of Education and the Arts in New Mexico in February 2004, and to support the sustained integration of the arts as teaching tools in our K-12 curriculum. The power of the arts, both on their own and as tools to help teach core academic subjects becomes more important every day, and the potential benefits for our students and our communities are immense.

The National Overture of Education and the Arts in New Mexico will be a major demonstration of the value and feasibility of using the creative performing and visual arts to help teach academic subjects at the K-12 level, with an emphasis on teaching science and math. The Institute will work closely with educators; artists; cultural, business and civic leaders; and public officials in New Mexico. Together they will highlight the extraordinary range of arts, cultural, and intellectual resources available in New Mexico; will exchange best practices in arts education; and will encourage new levels of cooperation throughout our communities in supporting excellence in education for all our students.

The arts engage a broad range of learning styles, require disciplined learning habits, and nurture creativity. When used to help teach academic subjects, the arts enable students to understand and apply concepts, greatly improving their ability to learn and retain facts and details.

The National Overture will be the prelude to a sustained program of professional development, discussion, and collaboration among teachers, artists, and subject matter experts. The Overture will provide an example from which other communities in New Mexico and other states can develop programs tailored to their specific interests and needs.

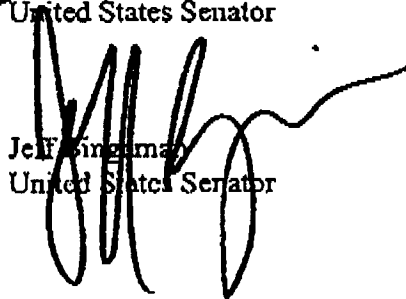
We look forward to the Institute's efforts to bring attention to this important teaching and

learning approach, to make it available throughout the state, and to encourage integrated use of the arts on a sustained and routine basis across the full academic curriculum.

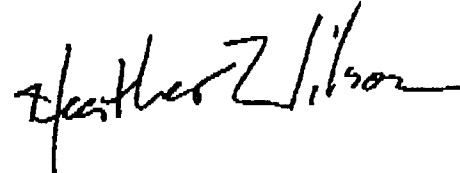
Sincerely,



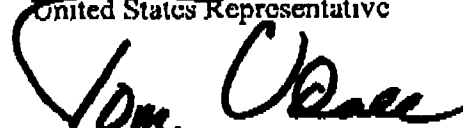
Pete V. Domenici
United States Senator



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator



Heather Wilson
United States Representative



Tom Udall
United States Representative



Stevan Pearce
United States Representative