



# CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious  
and  
Civil Rights*

January 26, 2018

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Hon. Ken Calvert  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Calvert:

On January 23, I held a press conference at the National Press Club on the propriety of using federal funds, via the National Endowment for the Arts, to promote the most obscene anti-Christian play ever produced, "Jerry Springer: The Opera." The NEA funds the New Group, the New York-based organization that is hosting the play; this entity receives most of its money from public sources, the NEA being the largest donor.

I wrote to President Trump on January 24 requesting that he nominate a new NEA chairman who will not approve of funding for anti-Christian grantees, exhibitions, or performances (the current chairman's tenure ends June 12). I also wrote to Dr. Jane Chu, chairman of the NEA, expressing my outrage over the play and the NEA's incestuous relationship with the New Group. It is this latter point that I am asking you to address.

As the enclosed documents show, the NEA is expressly prohibited from funding "General operational or seasonal expenses," yet in 2009 it made a grant of \$50,000 to the New Group, "To support the preservation of jobs that are threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the economic downturn." This is a clear violation of its strictures.

I am requesting a probe of this important matter.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.  
President