

February 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

We are writing in support of A9683/S6721 entitled the Non-Profit Homeland Security Preparedness Act. The state's 1900 museums and historical organizations annually open their doors to more than 50 million visitors and protect hundreds of millions of items relating to the cultural, historical and scientific expressions of civilization and the natural world. Many serve as major tourist attractions, economic engines, and places of public assembly that are potential targets of terrorist activity.

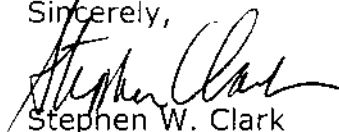
New York State's museums also provide onsite and in-school programming to more than 6 million school children each year with a wide variety of standards-based activities lasting anywhere from a class period to a full day.

In fulfilling their missions, New York State's museums routinely pump more than \$1 billion into the state's economy every year primarily in the form of wages, taxes and purchases of goods and services. As part of a vibrant arts industry, museums and historic sites along with other nonprofit art organizations created a \$7.7 billion impact on the state's economy in 2005, according to an Americans for the Arts report published in 2006.

The Museum Association of New York welcomes the possibility of a Non-Profit Homeland Security Grant Program to help defray the escalating costs of security at the state's most renowned museums and historic sites. These institutions, by virtue of the collections they exhibit and the visitation they receive, are prime targets for those wishing to destroy the tangible manifestations of a civilized society and we agree that the burden of their protection must be borne by all New Yorkers.

The Museum Association of New York fully supports the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Clark

President

and Deputy General Counsel, Museum of Modern Art