

Civics Learning Act 2021- H.R.400

We urge all representatives to cosponsor, vote for, and vocally advocate for the Civics Learning act of 2021 (H.R.400) to create an in-depth civics curriculum for youth in the United States.

Why is this bill important?

According to the Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania—

- (A) in 2018, only 32 percent of people in the United States surveyed were capable of naming all 3 branches of Government, while 33 percent of Americans were not able to name any of the branches of government;
- (B) in 2018, 30 percent of people in the United States surveyed knew that the Senate is in charge of Supreme Court nominee confirmations; and in 2017, 37 percent could not name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment.
- In 2014, only 23 percent of eighth graders were found to have performed at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress civics exam conducted by the National Center of Education Studies.

“A lack of knowledge of the basics of the structure of our democratic republic creates an increasingly ill-prepared electorate which over time has, and will continue to, contribute to a weakened democracy.” (HR 400)

What does this bill entail?

This bill expands the use of American History and Civics Education National Activities grants to prioritize innovative civics learning and teaching.

- Specifically, the bill expands the allowable uses of these grants to include before and after-school activities and extracurricular activities; activities that include service learning and community service projects that are linked to school curriculum; activities that encourage and support student participation in school governance; and online and video game-based learning. Further, the Department of Education must ensure that specified percentages of grant funds are awarded on a diverse basis to eligible entities (e.g., institutions of higher education) that serve students and teachers at elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools.

We fund STEM education at a rate of about \$50 per student per year. We fund civics education and history education for about 5 cents per student per year. And we get what we pay for! For our country to heal the wounds of hyperpolarization, we must educate our youth.

(Date)

The Honorable (Full Name)

(Room #) (Name) (Senate or House) Office Building

United States (Senate or House of Representatives)

Washington, DC (20510 for Senate; 20515 for House)

As [indicate your professional position and/or your interest in civics education], I am writing to you today in hope that you will cosponsor and vocally advocate for the Civics Learning Act of 2021. As your constituent, I urge the prioritization of civics education in primary and secondary schools.

I ask that you support the Civics Learning act of 2021 because:

- **A lack of knowledge of basic governmental structures leads to an uninformed electorate and growing political polarization in the nation.**
- **Programs that encourage civics in action such as community-based programs, student governance, and others should receive grants to attack the growing skepticism of the US government and help prepare students for healthy civic discourse and informed voting.**

Civics education feeds healthy democracy. The importance of the role that Civics play in our community and in educating our children is unquestionable. I ask you to continue to support civics education by supporting the Civics Learning Act of 2021 and by working to ensure that civics education is being prioritized in schools.

Sincerely,

(your name)

(your title)

Phone Call Template

-Phone calls should be brief and succinct.

My name is _____, and I live at (full address)

_____. I'm calling to urge

Senator/Representative _____ to support/oppose the Civics Learning Act of 2021.

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