

Building Civic Engagement by Increasing Quality Civic Education Programs in our Public Schools

The very future of our great American democracy is built on the premise that each generation of Americans understands their rights, responsibilities and roles as citizens. Public school education has historically played a role in the rollout of civic education programs which in turn build a strong foundation of democracy through civic engagement. As a result, the federal government has previously supported programs that target civic education programming in our public schools.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been passionate about safeguarding American democracy. As a result, my introduced legislation reflects this commitment to civic education.

The 112th Congress Civic Education targeted legislation:

H.R. 1617, the Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Development Act
H.R. 3464, the Sandra Day O'Connor Civic Learning Act

The 111th Congress Civic Education targeted legislation:

H.R. 1026, the Student Privacy Protection Act

H.R. 3249, the Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Skills Act

The 110th Congress Civic Education targeted legislation:

H.R. 1346, the Student Privacy Protection Act

H.R. 6617, the Strengthening Communities through Education and Integration Act

The 109th Congress Civic Education targeted legislation:

H.R. 551, the Student Privacy Protection Act

The 108th Congress Civic Education targeted legislation:

H.R. 1149, the National Education Technology Corps Act.

H.R. 3464, the Sandra Day O'Connor Civic Learning Act

I introduced the Sandra Day O'Connor Civic Learning Act on the House floor, alongside my Republican co-sponsor, Congressman Tom Cole (OK), to create a new funding stream for civic education programming affecting change in the classroom.

H.R. 3464, the Sandra Day O'Connor Civic Learning Act of 2011 does the following:

- Creates a funding pool for competitive grants to non-profit entities in order to create innovative approaches to civic education programs
- Targets programs for underserved student populations in both rural and urban areas who might otherwise not have the opportunity to engage with high quality civic education programs
- Requests to increase the sample size of students tested in history and civics in order to improve the disaggregation and analysis of the reporting data in these subjects

Press:

<http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?ald=149401>