May 4, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations United States
United States Senate Washington, DC 20515
Washington, DC 20010

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations United States
United States Senate Washington, DC 20515
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman DeLauro, Chairman Blunt  
Ranking Member Cole, Ranking Member Murray:

Civic education is an essential component of K-12 education and a subject whose importance is more critical, not less, in the wake of COVID-19. To ensure that civic education can survive the pressures placed on state and local governments, their fiscal resources, and operational systems, we request Congress take decisive action to ensure America’s students continue to receive essential civic education.

As our nation’s schools transition to virtual learning, in many cases instructional time has necessarily been cut significantly. Many schools are focusing on math, English, and to a lesser extent, science - doubling down on core subjects that are most widely tested. Civic education is a core function of the schools that had already been subjected to significant reductions in instructional time and resources and is in danger of a substantial further reduction. This comes at the same time that questions of public policy, governmental processes, media literacy – in other words, basic civics - loom large. Civic education has never been more important to the health of our constitutional democracy. Overstressed schools, teachers, and parents need help providing students with the essential civic knowledge and skills that help them develop a disposition to be civically engaged. The nonprofit supplemental civic education community stands ready to offer high quality, engaging, and effective curriculum but needs assistance to help parents and teachers successfully provide civic education in the virtual learning environment.

We respectfully request $40,000,000 for one-time competitive grants to nonpartisan nonprofit civic education program providers with a track record of successfully providing effective civic education programming to schools to meet the remote teaching needs of K-12 schools and teachers, the homeschooling needs of parents and students, and for meaningful student-centered civic learning. Priority should be given to applicants proposing to meet the needs of historically underserved school populations - including, but not limited to, students in rural areas, urban areas, immigrant students, and students with special needs, as well as those serving communities whose learners are predominantly students of color. Funding would be used to:

- Adapt current school-based lessons, projects, and materials for online use with instructions
for teachers, students, and parents

- Develop new lessons and material for online use
- Offer online professional development for teachers in using civic education lessons, projects, and material in an online world
- Enhance and expand the capacity of existing remote learning infrastructure to meet the anticipated demand from parents, students, and teachers
- Replace funding lost due to the virus emergency (canceled fundraising events, lost grant revenue) so nonprofit organizations can maintain operations, retain staff, and support teachers, parents, and students.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, there was a growing recognition among policymakers, media, and the public that the lack of attention and resources devoted to effective student-centered civic education had to end and that a renewed emphasis needed to be placed on civic learning. The great divides in our body politic and growing disillusionment about government and democracy itself—especially by those under 35—have been major drivers of this renewed interest.

As young people work to engage on civic issues, they must be equipped with essential civic knowledge, vital civic skills, and important civic dispositions to make their voices heard on the looming issues of critical importance to their future. We must act to ensure all of our youth have the vital and necessary knowledge, skills, and dispositions so they can be active civic participants in an informed and reasoned manner. Now is the time to strengthen our constitutional democracy through civic learning.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ABOTA Foundation

Alliance for Quality Education

America Forward

America SCORES

American Association of Univ. Women Eugene-Lane Branch

American Board of Trial Advocates

American Heritage Education Foundation

Anthem Reggae Band

Bites Media

California Council for the Social Studies

Campus Compact

california LAW Leadership - Access – Workforce

Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

Center for Civic Education

center for Educational Equity at Teachers College

Constitutional Rights Foundation – Orange County, CA

center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University (CIRCLE)

Children's Defense Fund - Texas

citizen University

Citizenship Counts

Civic Education Center

civic Learning Council

Civic Nebraska

Civics Unplugged

civXNow

Classroom Law Project

ClimateMama

composer

ConSource

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Adele Mujal  
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KEAP Site Coordinator Kingdom East School District

Christopher Curmi-Hall  
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<tbody>
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<td>Christopher Herr</td>
<td>Social Studies Teacher</td>
<td>Concord High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Polloni</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Young Voices for the Planet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Beougher</td>
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<td>Claire Pace</td>
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<td>Second Social Studies Curriculum Manager Houston Independent School District</td>
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<td>Claudine Paris</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>Sumner Academy</td>
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<td>Connie Cude</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>Clear Creek ISD</td>
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<td>Connie Miller</td>
<td>Social Studies Head</td>
<td>Birchwood School of Hawken</td>
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<td>Constance Lively</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Friend of Classroom Law Project</td>
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<td>Corbin Novotny</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Frontier School of Innovation - Middle</td>
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<td>Corey Sell, PhD</td>
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<td>Craig Wood</td>
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<td>Mississippi Council for the Social Studies</td>
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<td>Cynthia Fairbanks</td>
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<td>Cynthia Stilwell</td>
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<td>Daviess County High School</td>
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<td>Dan Gavin</td>
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<td>Daniel G. Krutka, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Social Studies</td>
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<td>Danielle Caples</td>
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<td>David Bonior</td>
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<td>David Bruce Smith</td>
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<td>David Finkelman</td>
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<td>David Galiel</td>
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<td>David Lenowitz</td>
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<td>David Moss</td>
<td>Social Studies Teacher</td>
<td>Beaverton School District</td>
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<td>David Olson</td>
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<td>David Skaggs</td>
<td>Former Member of Congress</td>
<td>(CO-2, '87-'99) Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools</td>
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<td>David W. Gordon</td>
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<td>Dawn Toutkaldjian</td>
<td>Occupational Therapist</td>
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<td>Deana Jacobs Smith</td>
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<td>Deb Christensonn</td>
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<td>Debora J. Champagne, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Deborah Smolover</td>
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<td>Denise Bervig</td>
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<td>Devia Cearlock</td>
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<td>Associate Program Director</td>
<td>Emily David</td>
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<td>Facing History and Ourselves</td>
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<td>Farah Upperman Pre Law Academy LCSM</td>
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<td>Elizabeth J. Malcom</td>
<td>Emily Keating</td>
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<td>Francesca Colletti Executive Director Facing History and Ourselves New England Region</td>
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<td>KY YMCA Youth Association</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Lambert English</td>
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<td>Teacher Grafton High School</td>
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<td>Frank Ferrara Instructional Facilitator Lombard SD44</td>
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<td>Elizabeth LeBrun</td>
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<td>7-12 Social Studies Teacher</td>
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<td>Frank Malabe Essential Worker Local 282E</td>
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<td>Poultney High School</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Rabb 6th Grade</td>
<td>Eric Liu</td>
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<td>High School Social Studies</td>
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<td>Gail Fair Social Studies Department Chairperson</td>
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<td>Polk County Public Schools,</td>
<td>Erik Jappinen</td>
<td>Gary Sheng COO Civics Unplugged</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Schley Evans</td>
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<td>Geoffrey T. Stuckart Teacher Central Catholic High School</td>
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<td>Ellen Annas</td>
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<td>High School Social Studies</td>
<td>Secondary Teacher Niagara Falls High School</td>
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<td>Polk County Public Schools,</td>
<td>Erik W. Egan</td>
<td>Glenn Lauzon Associate Professor Indiana University Northwest</td>
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<td>Polk County, FL</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Resnek</td>
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<td>Downingtown East High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Ozaukee School</td>
<td>Erin Esparza Executive Director Classroom Law Project</td>
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<td>Ellie Sanchez Program Manager</td>
<td>Erin Merrill</td>
<td>Erin Merrill ACETA National Teacher of the Year 2020 Pennington</td>
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<td>Generation Citizen</td>
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<td>Elyse Poller</td>
<td>Eldon Kaul</td>
<td>Glenn Lauzon Associate Professor</td>
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<td>Elyse Poller</td>
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</table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>John Launceford</td>
<td>Principal, Berntson Porter &amp; Company</td>
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<td>John Lewis</td>
<td>Retired Judge, New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education</td>
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<td>John Schwarz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jollee Patterson</td>
<td>Partner, Miller Nash</td>
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<td>Jonathan Haber</td>
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<td>Youth Advocate, NJ Youth and Government</td>
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<td>Jordan Zimberoff</td>
<td>National Board Certified Social Studies Teacher, Geneva High School</td>
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<td>Joseph Kahne</td>
<td>Professor, UC Riverside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Hoover</td>
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<td>Julie Silverbrook</td>
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<td>Justin Paredes</td>
<td>Karalee Nakatsuka, Teacher, First Avenue Middle School</td>
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<td>Karoli Cadarette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kasi Valjat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Flanagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Wagner</td>
<td>Social Studies Program Chair, Carlisle Area School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Camuel Bryan</td>
<td>Chief Philanthropy Officer, The Sixth Floor Museum</td>
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<td>Kory Loyola</td>
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