To improve the teaching and learning of American history and civics.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the teaching and learning of American history and civics.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Improving the Teaching and Learning of American History and Civics Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965
TITLE II—AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS ACHIEVEMENT

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 203. Amendment to the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act.
Sec. 204. National Assessment Governing Board.
Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 206. Conforming amendment.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

SEC. 101. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.

Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART E—AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION

“Subpart 1—Teaching Traditional American History

“SEC. 2511. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish and implement a program to be known as the ‘Teaching Traditional American History Grant Program’, under which the Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis to local educational agencies—

“(1) to carry out activities to promote the teaching of traditional American history in elemen-
tary schools and secondary schools as a separate academic subject (not as a component of social studies); and

“(2) for the development, implementation, and strengthening of programs to teach traditional American history as a separate academic subject (not as a component of social studies) within elementary school and secondary school curricula, including the implementation of activities—

“(A) to improve the quality of instruction; and

“(B) to provide professional development and teacher education activities with respect to traditional American history.

“(b) REQUIRED PARTNERSHIP.—A local educational agency that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall carry out activities under the grant in partnership with 1 or more of the following:

“(1) An institution of higher education.

“(2) A nonprofit history or humanities organization.

“(3) A library or museum.

“(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a local educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“SEC. 2512. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart $150,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

“Subpart 2—Presidential and Congressional History and Civics Academies

“SEC. 2521. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—The term ‘American history and civics’ means the events, persons, ideas, and documents that shaped the institutions and democratic heritage of the United States of America.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’—

“(A) means—

“(i) an institution of higher education;

“(ii) an educational institution created by a legislative act of a State for the express purpose of teaching American history and civics to elementary school and secondary school students; or
“(iii) a nonprofit educational institution, museum, library, or research center;
and
“(B) includes a consortium of entities described in subparagraph (A).
“(3) State.—The term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.
“(4) Teachers of American History and Civics.—The term ‘teachers of American history and civics’ means kindergarten through grade 12 teachers who teach American history, government, or civics, or who incorporate such subjects into their teaching.

“SEC. 2522. PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIES FOR TEACHING OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.
“(a) Establishment.—From amounts appropriated under section 2524, the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to establish Presidential Academies for Teaching of American History and Civics (in this section referred to as the ‘Academies’) that offer seminars or institutes for teachers of American history and civics—
“(1) to strengthen such teachers’ knowledge of the subjects of American history and civics; and
“(2) to learn how better to teach such subjects.
“(b) Application.—

“(1) In general.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(2) Contents.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) include the criteria that will be used to determine which teachers will be selected to attend a seminar or institute offered by the Academy;

“(B) identify the individual the eligible entity intends to appoint to be the primary scholar at the Academy;

“(C) include a description of the curriculum to be used at a seminar or institute offered by the Academy; and

“(D) provide an assurance that the recruitment plan for which teachers will be selected to attend a seminar or institute offered by the Academy will include teachers from high-need schools.

“(c) Priority.—In awarding grants under this subpart, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
that coordinate or align their activities with the National Park Service National Centennial Parks initiative to develop innovative and comprehensive programs using the resources of the National Parks.

“(d) GRANT TERMS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be for a term of not more than 5 years.

“(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds—

“(A) to establish an Academy and a seminar or institute in accordance with paragraph (2);

“(B) for Academy staff in accordance with paragraph (3);

“(C) for the selection of teachers in accordance with paragraph (4); and

“(D) to pay teacher stipends in accordance with paragraph (5).

“(2) SEMINARS AND INSTITUTES.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall establish an Academy that shall offer a seminar or institute for teachers of American history and civics that—
“(A) provides intensive professional development opportunities for teachers of American history and civics to strengthen such teachers’ knowledge of the subjects of American history and civics;

“(B) is led by a team of primary scholars and core teachers;

“(C) is conducted during the summer or another appropriate time; and

“(D) is of not less than 2 weeks and not more than 6 weeks in duration.

“(3) ACADEMY STAFF.—

“(A) PRIMARY SCHOLAR.—Each Academy shall be headed by a primary scholar identified in the application submitted under subsection (b) who shall—

“(i) be accomplished in the field of traditional American history and civics; and

“(ii) design the curriculum for and lead the seminar or institute.

“(B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary scholar shall appoint an appropriate number of core teachers. At the direction of the primary
scholar, the core teachers shall teach and train
the seminar or institute attendees.

“(4) Selection of teachers.—

“(A) In general.—

“(i) Number of teachers.—Each
year, each Academy shall select teachers of
American history and civics to attend the
seminar or institute offered by the Acad-
emy.

“(ii) Flexibility in number of
teachers.—Each Academy shall select
not more than 300 and not less than 50
teachers under clause (i).

“(B) Teachers from public and pri-
vate schools.—An Academy may select
teachers from public schools and private schools
to attend the seminar or institute offered by the
Academy.

“(5) Teacher stipends.—Each teacher se-
lected to participate in a seminar or institute funded
under this section shall be awarded a fixed stipend
based on the length of the seminar or institute to
help cover travel costs, books and other study ex-
penses, and meals and living expenses appropriate to
the length of the seminar or institute to ensure that
such teacher does not incur personal costs associated
with the teacher’s participation in the seminar or in-
stitute.

“(f) EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the completion of all of
the seminars and institutes assisted in the third year
grants are awarded under this section, the Secretary
shall conduct an evaluation and submit a report on
its findings to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-
mittee on Education and Labor of the House of
Representatives.

“(2) CONTENT OF EVALUATION.—The evalua-
tion conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) determine the overall success of the
grant program authorized under this section;
and

“(B) highlight the best grantees’ practices
in order to become models for future grantees.

“(g) MATCH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving
Federal assistance under this section shall provide,
toward the cost of the activities assisted under the
grant, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal
to 100 percent of the amount of the grant.
“(2) Waiver.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement described in paragraph (1) for any fiscal year for an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that applying the matching requirement would result in serious hardship or an inability to carry out the activities described in subsection (e).

“SEC. 2523. CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES FOR STUDENTS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.

“(a) Establishment.—From amounts appropriated under section 2524, the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to establish Congressional Academies for Students of American History and Civics (in this section referred to as the ‘Academies’) that shall offer seminars or institutes for outstanding students of American history and civics to broaden and deepen such students’ understanding of American history and civics.

“(b) Application.—

“(1) In general.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.
“(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) include the criteria that will be used to determine which students will be selected to attend a seminar or institute offered by the Academy;

“(B) identify the individual the eligible entity intends to appoint to be the primary scholar at the Academy;

“(C) include a description of the curriculum to be used at a seminar or institute offered by the Academy; and

“(D) include a description of how the eligible entity will—

“(i) inform students served by local educational agencies receiving assistance under part A of title I, particularly students enrolled in schools with high percentages of students described as children to be counted under section 1124(c), of the Academy; and

“(ii) provide such students with information on how to apply to attend a seminar or institute offered by the Academy so
that such students may attend the seminar
or institute.

“(c) GRANT TERMS.—Grants awarded under this
section shall be for a term of not more than 5 years.

“(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that re-
ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant
funds—

“(A) to establish an Academy and a sem-
inar or institute in accordance with paragraph
(2);

“(B) for Academy staff in accordance with
paragraph (3);

“(C) for the selection of students in ac-
cordance with paragraph (4); and

“(D) to pay student stipends in accordance
with paragraph (5).

“(2) SEMINARS AND INSTITUTES.—An eligible
entity that receives a grant under this section shall
establish an Academy that shall offer a seminar or
institute during the summer for outstanding stu-
dents of American history and civics that—

“(A) broadens and deepens such students’
understanding of American history and civics;
“(B) is led by a team of primary scholars and core teachers; and

“(C) is of not less than 2 weeks and not more than 6 weeks in duration.

“(3) Academy staff.—

“(A) Primary scholar.—Each Academy shall be headed by a primary scholar identified in the application submitted under subsection (b) who shall—

“(i) be accomplished in the field of American history and civics; and

“(ii) design the curriculum for and lead the seminar or institute.

“(B) Core teachers.—Each primary scholar shall appoint an appropriate number of core teachers. At the direction of the primary scholar, the core teachers shall teach the seminar or institute attendees.

“(4) Selection of students.—

“(A) Number of students.—Each year, each Academy shall select between 100 and 300 eligible students to attend the seminar or institute offered by the Academy.
“(B) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—A student shall be eligible to attend a seminar or institute offered by an Academy if the student—

“(i) is recommended by the student’s secondary school principal (or other head of such student’s academic program) to attend the seminar or institute; and

“(ii) will be a junior or senior in the academic year following attendance at the seminar or institute.

“(5) STUDENT STIPENDS.—Each student selected to participate in a seminar or institute funded under this section shall be awarded a fixed stipend based on the length of the seminar or institute to help cover travel costs, books and other study expenses, and meals and living expenses appropriate to the length of the seminar or institute to ensure that such student does not incur personal costs associated with the student’s participation in the seminar or institute.

“(e) EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the completion of all of the seminars and institutes assisted in the third year grants are awarded under this section, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation and submit a report on
its findings to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

“(2) CONTENT OF EVALUATION.—The evaluation conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) determine the overall success of the grant program authorized under this section; and

“(B) highlight the best grantees’ practices in order to become models for future grantees.

“(f) MATCH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving Federal assistance under this section shall provide, toward the cost of the activities assisted under the grant, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 100 percent of the amount of the grant.

“(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement described in paragraph (1) for any fiscal year for an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that applying the matching requirement would result in serious hardship or an inability to carry out the activities described in subsection (d).
“SEC. 2524. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015.

“Subpart 3—Civic Education

“SEC. 2531. SHORT TITLE.

“This subpart may be cited as the ‘Education for Democracy Act’.

“SEC. 2532. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this subpart—

“(1) to improve the quality of civics and government education by educating students about the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights;

“(2) to foster civic competence and responsibility; and

“(3) to improve the quality of civic education and economic education through cooperative civic education and economic education exchange programs with emerging democracies.

“SEC. 2533. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

“(a) Authority.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants to, or enter into contracts with—

“(1) the Center for Civic Education, to carry out civic education activities under sections 2534 and 2535;
“(2) the National Council on Economic Education, to carry out economic education activities under section 2535; and

“(3) organizations experienced in the development of curricula and programs in civics and government education or economic education for students in elementary schools and secondary schools in countries other than the United States, to carry out civic education or economic education activities under section 2535.

“(b) Distribution for Cooperative Civic Education and Economic Education Exchange Programs.—

“(1) Limitation.—Not more than 40 percent of the amount appropriated under section 2536 for a fiscal year shall be used to carry out section 2555.

“(2) Distribution.—Of the amount used to carry out section 2535 for a fiscal year (consistent with paragraph (1)), the Secretary shall use—

“(A) 37.5 percent for a grant or contract for the Center for Civic Education;

“(B) 37.5 percent for a grant or contract for the National Council on Economic Education; and
“(C) 25 percent for not less than 1, but not more than 3, grants or contracts for organizations described in subsection (a)(3).

“SEC. 2534. WE THE PEOPLE PROGRAM.

“(a) THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION.—

“(1) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Center for Civic Education—

“(A) shall use funds made available under grants or contracts under section 2533(a)(1)—

“(i) to continue and expand the educational activities of the program entitled the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program administered by such center;

“(ii) to carry out activities to enhance student attainment of challenging academic content standards in civics and government;

“(iii) to provide a course of instruction on the basic principles of the Nation’s constitutional democracy and the history of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights;

“(iv) to provide, at the request of a participating school, school and community
simulated congressional hearings following
the course of instruction described in
clause (iii); and
“(v) to provide an annual national
competition of simulated congressional
hearings for secondary school students who
wish to participate in such a program; and
“(B) may use funds made available under
grants or contracts under section 2533(a)(1)—
“(i) to provide advanced, sustained,
and ongoing training of teachers about the
Constitution of the United States and the
political system of the United States;
“(ii) to implement a comprehensive
program to improve public knowledge, un-
derstanding, and support of American
democratic institutions; and
“(iii) to provide materials and meth-
ods of instruction, including teacher train-
ing, that utilize the latest advancements in
educational technology.
“(2) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.—The edu-
cation program authorized under this subsection
shall be made available to public and private elemen-
tary schools and secondary schools, including Bu-
reau-funded schools, in the 435 congressional districts, and in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(b) PROJECT CITIZEN.—

“(1) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Center for Civic Education—

“(A) shall use funds made available under grants or contracts under section 2533(a)(1)—

“(i) to continue and expand the educational activities of the program entitled the We the People . . . Project Citizen program administered by the Center;

“(ii) to carry out activities to enhance student attainment of challenging academic content standards in civics and government;

“(iii) to provide a course of instruction at the middle and high school levels on the roles of State and local governments in the Federal system established by the Constitution of the United States;

“(iv) to provide an annual national showcase or competition; and
“(v) to provide civic education materials and services to address the needs of immigrants, new citizens, and other post-secondary and adult populations; and

“(B) may use funds made available under grants or contracts under section 2533(a)(1)—

“(i) to provide optional school and community simulated State legislative hearings;

“(ii) to provide advanced, sustained, and ongoing training of teachers on the roles of State and local governments in the Federal system established by the Constitution of the United States; and

“(iii) to provide materials and methods of instruction, including teacher training, that utilize the latest advancements in educational technology.

“(2) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.—The education program authorized under this subsection shall be made available to public and private middle schools, including Bureau-funded schools, in the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and
the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(c) BUREAU-FUNDED SCHOOL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Bureau-funded school’ has the meaning given such term in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021).

“SEC. 2535. COOPERATIVE CIVIC EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

“(a) COOPERATIVE EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.—The Center for Civic Education, the National Council on Economic Education, and organizations described in section 2533(a)(3) shall use funds made available under grants or contracts under section 2533 to carry out cooperative education exchange programs in accordance with this section.

“(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the cooperative education exchange programs carried out under this section shall be—

“(1) to make available to educators from eligible countries exemplary curriculum and teacher training programs in civics and government education, and economics education, developed in the United States;
“(2) to assist eligible countries in the adaptation, implementation, and institutionalization of such programs;

“(3) to create and implement civics and government education, and economic education, programs for students that draw upon the experiences of the participating eligible countries;

“(4) to provide a means for the exchange of ideas and experiences in civics and government education, and economic education, among political, educational, governmental, and private sector leaders of participating eligible countries; and

“(5) to provide support for—

“(A) independent research and evaluation to determine the effects of educational programs on students’ development of the knowledge, skills, and traits of character essential for the preservation and improvement of constitutional democracy; and

“(B) effective participation in, and the preservation and improvement of, an efficient market economy.

“(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the cooperative education exchange programs assisted under this section, the Center for Civic Education, the National Council
Economic Education, and organizations described in section 2533(a)(3) shall—

“(1) provide to the participants from eligible countries—

“(A) seminars on the basic principles of United States constitutional democracy and economic system, including seminars on the major governmental and economic institutions and systems in the United States, and visits to such institutions;

“(B) visits to school systems, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations conducting exemplary programs in civics and government education, and economic education, in the United States;

“(C) translations and adaptations with respect to United States civics and government education, and economic education, curricular programs for students and teachers, and in the case of training programs for teachers, translations and adaptations into forms useful in schools in eligible countries, and joint research projects in such areas; and

“(D) independent research and evaluation assistance—
“(i) to determine the effects of the co-
operative education exchange programs on
students’ development of the knowledge,
skills, and traits of character essential for
the preservation and improvement of con-
stitutional democracy; and

“(ii) to identify effective participation
in, and the preservation and improvement
of, an efficient market economy;

“(2) provide to the participants from the
United States—

“(A) seminars on the histories, economies,
and systems of government of eligible countries;

“(B) visits to school systems, institutions
of higher education, and organizations con-
ducting exemplary programs in civics and gov-
ernment education, and economic education, lo-
cated in eligible countries;

“(C) assistance from educators and schol-
ars in eligible countries in the development of
curricular materials on the history, government,
and economy of such countries that are useful
in United States classrooms;

“(D) opportunities to provide onsite dem-
onstrations of United States curricula and ped-
agogy for educational leaders in eligible countries; and

“(E) independent research and evaluation assistance to determine—

“(i) the effects of the cooperative education exchange programs assisted under this section on students’ development of the knowledge, skills, and traits of character essential for the preservation and improvement of constitutional democracy; and

“(ii) effective participation in, and improvement of, an efficient market economy; and

“(3) assist participants from eligible countries and the United States to participate in international conferences on civics and government education, and economic education, for educational leaders, teacher trainers, scholars in related disciplines, and educational policymakers.

“(d) PARTICIPANTS.—The primary participants in the cooperative education exchange programs assisted under this section shall be educational leaders in the areas of civics and government education, and economic education, including teachers, curriculum and teacher train-
• ing specialists, scholars in relevant disciplines, and edu-
  cational policymakers, and government and private sector
  leaders from the United States and eligible countries.

  “(e) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary may award a
grant to, or enter into a contract with, the entities de-
scribed in section 2533 to carry out programs assisted
under this section only if the Secretary of State concurs
with the Secretary that such grant, or contract, respec-
tively, is consistent with the foreign policy of the United
States.

  “(f) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—With the con-
currence of the Secretary of State, the Secretary shall en-
sure that—

  “(1) the activities carried out under the pro-
grams assisted under this section are not duplicative
of other activities conducted in eligible countries;

  and

  “(2) any institutions in eligible countries, with
which the Center for Civic Education, the National
Council on Economic Education, or organizations
described in section 2533(a)(3) may work in con-
ducting such activities, are credible.

  “(g) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section,
the term ‘eligible country’ means a Central European
country, an Eastern European country, Lithuania, Latvia,
1 Estonia, the independent states of the former Soviet
2 Union as defined in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support
3 Act (22 U.S.C. 5801), the Republic of Ireland, the prov-
4 ince of Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom, and any
5 developing country (as such term is defined in section
6 209(d) of the Education for the Deaf Act) if the Sec-
7 retary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, de-
8 termines that such developing country has a democratic
9 form of government.

10 “SEC. 2536. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
11 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
12 this subpart $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such
13 sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding
14 fiscal years.

15 “Subpart 4—National History Day

16 “SEC. 2541. NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROGRAMS.
17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
18 award a grant to, or enter into a contract with the Na-
19 tional History Day, Inc. to carry out activities under sub-
20 section (b) to promote the study of history and improve
21 instruction in history.

22 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the activities as-
23 sisted under this section, the National History Day, Inc.
24 shall—
“(1) develop a framework for hands-on, student-centered learning that guides classroom teaching as well as continuous professional development;

“(2) enable students to conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews, and historic sites;

“(3) provide students an opportunity to present their work in original papers, exhibits, performances, and documentaries;

“(4) enable students, through educational opportunities, training, and mentoring, to develop—

“(A) critical thinking and problem-solving skills;

“(B) research and reading skills;

“(C) oral and written communication and presentation skills; and

“(D) a sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process;

“(5) provide students with the opportunity to work with and analyze historical documents and other primary source material;

“(6) conduct competitions at local, State, and national levels where entries are evaluated by professional historians and educators; and
“(7) assist teachers and schools in meeting
State educational standards.

“SEC. 2542. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
this subpart such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
2010 and for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

“Subpart 5—Close Up Fellowship Program

“SEC. 2551. CLOSE UP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

“(a) Program for Middle School and Sec-
ondary School Students.—

“(1) Establishment.—

“(A) General authority.—In accord-
ance with this subsection, the Secretary may
make grants to the Close Up Foundation of
Washington, District of Columbia, a non-
partisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose
of assisting the Close Up Foundation in car-
rying out its programs of increasing civic re-
sponsibility and understanding of the Federal
Government among middle school and sec-
ondary school students.

“(B) Use of funds.—Grants under this
subsection shall be used only to provide finan-
cial assistance to economically disadvantaged
students who participate in the programs described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) NAME OF FELLOWSHIPS.—Financial assistance received by students pursuant to this subsection shall be known as Close Up fellowships.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—No grant under this subsection may be made except upon an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(B) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each application submitted under this paragraph shall contain assurances that—

“(i) Close Up fellowships provided under this subsection shall be made to economically disadvantaged middle school and secondary school students;

“(ii) every effort shall be made to ensure the participation of students from rural, small town, and urban areas;

“(iii) in awarding the fellowships to economically disadvantaged students, special consideration shall be given to the par-
participation of those students with special educational needs, including students with disabilities, ethnic minority students, and students with migrant parents; and

“(iv) the funds received under this subsection shall be properly disbursed.

“(b) Program for Middle School and Secondary School Teachers.—

“(1) Establishment.—

“(A) General Authority.—In accordance with this subsection, the Secretary may make grants to the Close Up Foundation of Washington, District of Columbia, a nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose of assisting the Close Up Foundation in carrying out its programs of professional development for middle school and secondary school teachers and its programs to increase civic responsibility and understanding of the Federal Government among the teachers’ students.

“(B) Use of Funds.—Grants under this subsection shall be used only to provide financial assistance to teachers who participate in the programs described in subparagraph (A).
“(C) NAME OF FELLOWSHIPS.—Financial assistance received by teachers pursuant to this subsection shall be known as Close Up fellowships.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—No grant under this subsection may be made except upon an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(B) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each application submitted under this paragraph shall contain assurances that—

“(i) Close Up fellowships provided under this subsection shall be made only to a teacher who has worked with at least 1 student from such teacher’s school who participates in a program described in subsection (a)(1)(A);

“(ii) no teacher shall receive more than 1 such fellowship in any fiscal year; and

“(iii) the funds received under this subsection shall be properly disbursed.

“(c) PROGRAMS FOR NEW AMERICANS.—
“(1) Establishment.—

“(A) General Authority.—In accordance with this subsection, the Secretary may make grants to the Close Up Foundation of Washington, District of Columbia, a nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose of assisting the Close Up Foundation in carrying out its programs of increasing civic responsibility and understanding of the Federal Government among economically disadvantaged middle school and secondary school recent immigrant students.

“(B) Definition.—In this subsection, the term ‘recent immigrant student’ means a student who is a member of a family that immigrated to the United States within 5 years of the student’s participation in such a program.

“(C) Use of Funds.—Grants under this subsection shall be used only to provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged recent immigrant students and their teachers who participate in the programs described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) Name of Fellowships.—Financial assistance received by students and teachers
pursuant to this subsection shall be known as Close Up Fellowships for New Americans.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—No grant under this subsection may be made except upon an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(B) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each application submitted under this paragraph shall contain assurances that—

“(i) Close Up Fellowships for New Americans shall be made to economically disadvantaged middle school and secondary school recent immigrant students;

“(ii) every effort shall be made to ensure the participation of recent immigrant students from rural, small town, and urban areas;

“(iii) in awarding the fellowships to economically disadvantaged recent immigrant students, special consideration shall be given to the participation of those students with special educational needs, including students with disabilities, students
with migrant parents, and ethnic minority students;

“(iv) fully describe the activities to be carried out with the proceeds of the grant made under paragraph (1); and

“(v) the funds received under this subsection shall be properly disbursed.

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

“(1) ACCOUNTABILITY.—In consultation with the Secretary, the Close Up Foundation shall devise and implement procedures to measure the efficacy of the programs authorized in subsections (a), (b), and (c) in attaining objectives that include the following:

“(A) Providing young people with an increased understanding of the Federal Government.

“(B) Heightening a sense of civic responsibility among young people.

“(C) Enhancing the skills of educators in teaching young people about civic responsibility, the Federal Government, and attaining citizenship competencies.

“(2) GENERAL RULE.—Payments under this section may be made in installments, in advance, or by way of reimbursement, with necessary adjust-
ments on account of underpayments or overpay-
ments.

“(3) Audit Rule.—The Comptroller General
of the United States or any of the Comptroller Gen-
eral’s duly authorized representatives shall have ac-
cess for the purpose of audit and examination to any
books, documents, papers, and records that are per-
tinent to any grant under this section.

“(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 and
for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

SEC. 102. STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS IN UNITED
STATES HISTORY.

(a) Challenging Academic Standards.—Section
1111(b)(1)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)(C)) is amended
by striking “and (beginning in the 2005–2006 school
year) science,” and inserting “(beginning in the 2005–
2006 school year) science, and (beginning in the 2011–
2012 school year) United States history,”.

(b) Academic Assessments.—Section
1111(b)(3)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)(A)) is amend-
(1) by striking “and science” and inserting “science, and United States history”; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and no State shall be required to meet the requirements of this part relating to United States history assessments until the beginning of the 2012–2013 school year”.

(c) Assessment Requirements.—Section 1111(b)(3)(C)(v) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)(C)(v)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(III) beginning not later than school year 2012–2013, measure the proficiency of all students in United States history and be administered not less than 1 time during—

“(aa) grades 3 through 5;

“(bb) grades 6 through 9;

and

“(cc) grades 10 through 12;”.

SEC. 103. REPEALS.

The following provisions of law are repealed:

(2) Subpart 3 of part C of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6711 et seq.).

(3) Subpart 4 of part C of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6721 et seq.).


SEC. 104. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 note) is amended—

(1) by striking the item related to section 1504;

(2) by striking the items relating to subparts 3 and 4 of part C of title II; and

(3) by inserting after the items relating to part D of title II the following:

"PART E—AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS"

"SUBPART 1—TEACHING TRADITIONAL AMERICAN HISTORY"

"Sec. 2511. Establishment of program.
"Sec. 2512. Authorization of appropriations."

"SUBPART 2—PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY AND CIVICS ACADEMIES"

"Sec. 2521. Definitions.
"Sec. 2524. Authorization of appropriations."

"SUBPART 3—CIVIC EDUCATION"

"Sec. 2531. Short title."
TITLE II—AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS ACHIEVEMENT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.
This title may be cited as the "Improving the Teaching and Learning of American History and Civics Act of 2009".

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.
Congress finds that—

(1) the 2006 National Assessment of Educational Progress assessments in United States history and civics demonstrated high percentages of students scoring below basic even though there were increases in scores, particularly for lower-performing students, compared to previous such assessments;

(2) in the 2006 National Assessment of Educational Progress assessment in United States history—

(A) 30 percent of students in grade 4 scored below basic, 35 percent of students in
grade 8 scored below basic, and 53 percent of
students in grade 12 scored below basic;

(B) a 31 point achievement gap exists for
students in grade 4 who are from low-income
families, as compared to students in grade 4
who are from high-income families, a 32 point
achievement gap exists between Black and
White students in grade 4, and a 30 point
achievement gap exists between White and His-
panic students in grade 4;

(C) 86 percent of students in grade 12
could not explain a reason for United States in-
volvement in the Korean War;

(D) 99 percent of students in grade 8
could not explain how the fall of the Berlin
Wall affected United States foreign policy; and

(E) 76 percent of students in grade 4
could not explain why early American pioneers
settled on the western frontier;

(3) in the 2006 National Assessment of Edu-
cational Progress assessment in the United States
civics—

(A) 27 percent of students in grade 4
scored below basic, 30 percent of students in
grade 8 scored below basic, and 34 percent of
students in grade 12 scored below basic;

(B) a 29 point achievement gap exists for
students in grade 4 who are from low-income
families, as compared to students in grade 4
who are from high-income families, a 25 point
achievement gap exists between Black and
White students in grade 4, and a 26 point
achievement gap exists between White and His-
panic students in grade 4;

(C) 72 percent of students in grade 8
could not explain the historical purpose of the
Declaration of Independence; and

(D) 57 percent of students in grade 12
were unable to describe the meaning of fed-
eralism in the United States;

(4) America’s past encompasses great leaders
and great ideas that contribute to our shared herit-
age and to the principles of freedom, equality, jus-
tice, and opportunity for all;

(5) an appreciation for the defining events in
our Nation’s history can be a catalyst for civic in-
volvement; and

(6) the strength of American democracy and
our standing in the world depend on ensuring that
our children have a strong understanding of our Na-
tion’s past.

**SEC. 203. AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AUTHORIZATION
ACT.**

Section 303(b) of the National Assessment of Edu-
cational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9622(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(D), by inserting “(with a priority in conducting assessments in history not less frequently than once every 4 years)” after “subject matter”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(A) in clause (iii)—

(i) by inserting “except as provided in clause (iv),” before “may conduct”; and

(ii) by striking “and” after the semi-
colon;

(B) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-
lowing:

“(iv) shall conduct trial State aca-
demic assessments of student achievement in United States history in grades 8 and
12 in not less than 10 States representing
geographically diverse regions of the
United States and in civics in grades 8 and
12 in not less than 10 States representing
geographically diverse regions of the
United States (with a priority given to con-
ducting assessments in United States his-
tory); and”.

SEC. 204. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.

Section 302(e)(1) of the National Assessment of
Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C.
9621(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” after
the semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as sub-
paragraph (K);

(3) in the flush matter at the end, by striking
“subparagraph (J)” and inserting “subparagraph
(K)”;

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the fol-
lowing:

“(J) in consultation with the Commissioner
for Education Statistics, identify and select the
States that will participate in the trial State
academic assessments described in section 303(b)(3)(A)(iv); and”.

SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 305 of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9624) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) HISTORY AND CIVICS ASSESSMENTS.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to carry out sections 303(b)(3)(A)(iv) and 302(c)(1), of which not more than $500,000 for each fiscal year shall be available to carry out section 302(c)(1); and

“(2) such sums as may be necessary to carry out such sections for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

SEC. 206. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 113(a)(1) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9513(a)(1)) is amended by striking “section 302(e)(1)(J)” and inserting “section 302(e)(1)(K)”.

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