

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 659

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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving the Teach-
5 ing and Learning of American History and Civics Act of
6 2009”.

7 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

8 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

- Sec. 101. American history and civics education.
 Sec. 102. Standards and assessments in United States history.
 Sec. 103. Repeals.
 Sec. 104. Table of contents.

TITLE II—AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS ACHIEVEMENT

- Sec. 201. Short title.
 Sec. 202. Findings.
 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.

1 **TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE**
 2 **ELEMENTARY AND SEC-**
 3 **ONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF**
 4 **1965**

5 **SEC. 101. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.**

6 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended by add-
 8 ing at the end the following:

9 **“PART E—AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS**
 10 **EDUCATION**

11 **“Subpart 1—Teaching Traditional American History**

12 **“SEC. 2511. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

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

18 “(1) to carry out activities to promote the
 19 teaching of traditional American history in elemen-

1 tary schools and secondary schools as a separate
2 academic subject (not as a component of social stud-
3 ies); and

4 “(2) for the development, implementation, and
5 strengthening of programs to teach traditional
6 American history as a separate academic subject
7 (not as a component of social studies) within ele-
8 mentary school and secondary school curricula, in-
9 cluding the implementation of activities—

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

11 and

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

15 “(b) REQUIRED PARTNERSHIP.—A local educational
16 agency that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall
17 carry out activities under the grant in partnership with
18 1 or more of the following:

19 “(1) An institution of higher education.

20 “(2) A nonprofit history or humanities organi-
21 zation.

22 “(3) A library or museum.

23 “(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
24 under this section, a local educational agency shall submit
25 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-

1 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may
2 require.

3 **“SEC. 2512. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

8 **“Subpart 2—Presidential and Congressional History
9 and Civics Academies**

10 **“SEC. 2521. DEFINITIONS.**

11 “In this subpart:

12 “(1) AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—The
13 term ‘American history and civics’ means the events,
14 persons, ideas, and documents that shaped the insti-
15 tutions and democratic heritage of the United States
16 of America.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
18 tity’—

19 “(A) means—

20 “(i) an institution of higher education;

21 “(ii) an educational institution created
22 by a legislative act of a State for the ex-
23 press purpose of teaching American history
24 and civics to elementary school and sec-
25 ondary school students; or

1 “(iii) a nonprofit educational institu-
2 tion, museum, library, or research center;
3 and

4 “(B) includes a consortium of entities de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A).

6 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
7 the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

8 “(4) TEACHERS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND
9 CIVICS.—The term ‘teachers of American history
10 and civics’ means kindergarten through grade 12
11 teachers who teach American history, government,
12 or civics, or who incorporate such subjects into their
13 teaching.

14 **“SEC. 2522. PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIES FOR TEACHING OF**
15 **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

16 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
17 under section 2524, the Secretary shall award grants, on
18 a competitive basis, to eligible entities to establish Presi-
19 dential Academies for Teaching of American History and
20 Civics (in this section referred to as the ‘Academies’) that
21 offer seminars or institutes for teachers of American his-
22 tory and civics—

23 “(1) to strengthen such teachers’ knowledge of
24 the subjects of American history and civics; and

25 “(2) to learn how better to teach such subjects.

1 “(b) APPLICATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that de-
3 sires to receive a grant under this section shall sub-
4 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
5 such manner, and containing such information as
6 the Secretary may reasonably require.

7 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
8 under paragraph (1) shall—

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

13 “(B) identify the individual the eligible en-
14 tity intends to appoint to be the primary schol-
15 ar at the Academy;

16 “(C) include a description of the cur-
17 riculum to be used at a seminar or institute of-
18 fered by the Academy; and

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

24 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sub-
25 part, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities

1 that coordinate or align their activities with the National
2 Park Service National Centennial Parks initiative to de-
3 velop innovative and comprehensive programs using the
4 resources of the National Parks.

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

7 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

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

11 “(A) to establish an Academy and a sem-
12 inar or institute in accordance with paragraph
13 (2);

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

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

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

20 “(2) SEMINARS AND INSTITUTES.—An eligible
21 entity that receives a grant under this section shall
22 establish an Academy that shall offer a seminar or
23 institute for teachers of American history and civics
24 that—

1 “(A) provides intensive professional devel-
2 opment opportunities for teachers of American
3 history and civics to strengthen such teachers’
4 knowledge of the subjects of American history
5 and civics;

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

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

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

12 “(3) ACADEMY STAFF.—

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

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

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

22 “(B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary
23 scholar shall appoint an appropriate number of
24 core teachers. At the direction of the primary

1 scholar, the core teachers shall teach and train
2 the seminar or institute attendees.

3 “(4) SELECTION OF TEACHERS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

5 “(i) NUMBER OF TEACHERS.—Each
6 year, each Academy shall select teachers of
7 American history and civics to attend the
8 seminar or institute offered by the Acad-
9 emy.

10 “(ii) FLEXIBILITY IN NUMBER OF
11 TEACHERS.—Each Academy shall select
12 not more than 300 and not less than 50
13 teachers under clause (i).

14 “(B) TEACHERS FROM PUBLIC AND PRI-
15 VATE SCHOOLS.—An Academy may select
16 teachers from public schools and private schools
17 to attend the seminar or institute offered by the
18 Academy.

19 “(5) TEACHER STIPENDS.—Each teacher se-
20 lected to participate in a seminar or institute funded
21 under this section shall be awarded a fixed stipend
22 based on the length of the seminar or institute to
23 help cover travel costs, books and other study ex-
24 penses, and meals and living expenses appropriate to
25 the length of the seminar or institute to ensure that

1 such teacher does not incur personal costs associated
2 with the teacher's participation in the seminar or in-
3 stitute.

4 “(f) EVALUATION.—

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

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

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

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

20 “(g) MATCH.—

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

1 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or
2 part of the matching requirement described in para-
3 graph (1) for any fiscal year for an eligible entity if
4 the Secretary determines that applying the matching
5 requirement would result in serious hardship or an
6 inability to carry out the activities described in sub-
7 section (e).

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

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
11 under section 2524, the Secretary shall award grants, on
12 a competitive basis, to eligible entities to establish Con-
13 gressional Academies for Students of American History
14 and Civics (in this section referred to as the ‘Academies’)
15 that shall offer seminars or institutes for outstanding stu-
16 dents of American history and civics to broaden and deep-
17 en such students’ understanding of American history and
18 civics.

19 “(b) APPLICATION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that de-
21 sires to receive a grant under this section shall sub-
22 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
23 such manner, and containing such information as
24 the Secretary may reasonably require.

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

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

7 “(B) identify the individual the eligible en-
8 tity intends to appoint to be the primary schol-
9 ar at the Academy;

10 “(C) include a description of the cur-
11 rriculum to be used at a seminar or institute of-
12 fered by the Academy; and

13 “(D) include a description of how the eligi-
14 ble entity will—

15 “(i) inform students served by local
16 educational agencies receiving assistance
17 under part A of title I, particularly stu-
18 dents enrolled in schools with high percent-
19 ages of students described as children to
20 be counted under section 1124(c), of the
21 Academy; and

22 “(ii) provide such students with infor-
23 mation on how to apply to attend a sem-
24 inar or institute offered by the Academy so

1 that such students may attend the seminar
2 or institute.

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

5 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

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

9 “(A) to establish an Academy and a sem-
10 inar or institute in accordance with paragraph
11 (2);

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

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

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

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

23 “(A) broadens and deepens such students’
24 understanding of American history and civics;

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

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

5 “(3) ACADEMY STAFF.—

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

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

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

14 “(B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary
15 scholar shall appoint an appropriate number of
16 core teachers. At the direction of the primary
17 scholar, the core teachers shall teach the sem-
18 inar or institute attendees.

19 “(4) SELECTION OF STUDENTS.—

20 “(A) NUMBER OF STUDENTS.—Each year,
21 each Academy shall select between 100 and 300
22 eligible students to attend the seminar or insti-
23 tute offered by the Academy.

1 “(B) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—A student
2 shall be eligible to attend a seminar or institute
3 offered by an Academy if the student—

4 “(i) is recommended by the student’s
5 secondary school principal (or other head
6 of such student’s academic program) to at-
7 tend the seminar or institute; and

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

11 “(5) STUDENT STIPENDS.—Each student se-
12 lected to participate in a seminar or institute funded
13 under this section shall be awarded a fixed stipend
14 based on the length of the seminar or institute to
15 help cover travel costs, books and other study ex-
16 penses, and meals and living expenses appropriate to
17 the length of the seminar or institute to ensure that
18 such student does not incur personal costs associ-
19 ated with the student’s participation in the seminar
20 or institute.

21 “(e) EVALUATION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—At the completion of all of
23 the seminars and institutes assisted in the third year
24 grants are awarded under this section, the Secretary
25 shall conduct an evaluation and submit a report on

1 its findings to the Committee on Health, Education,
2 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-
3 mittee on Education and Labor of the House of
4 Representatives.

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

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

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

12 “(f) MATCH.—

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

18 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or
19 part of the matching requirement described in para-
20 graph (1) for any fiscal year for an eligible entity if
21 the Secretary determines that applying the matching
22 requirement would result in serious hardship or an
23 inability to carry out the activities described in sub-
24 section (d).

1 **“SEC. 2524. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

5 **“Subpart 3—Civic Education**

6 **“SEC. 2531. SHORT TITLE.**

7 “This subpart may be cited as the ‘Education for De-
8 mocracy Act’.

9 **“SEC. 2532. PURPOSE.**

10 “It is the purpose of this subpart—

11 “(1) to improve the quality of civics and gov-
12 ernment education by educating students about the
13 history and principles of the Constitution of the
14 United States, including the Bill of Rights;

15 “(2) to foster civic competence and responsi-
16 bility; and

17 “(3) to improve the quality of civic education
18 and economic education through cooperative civic
19 education and economic education exchange pro-
20 grams with emerging democracies.

21 **“SEC. 2533. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

22 “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary is authorized to
23 award grants to, or enter into contracts with—

24 “(1) the Center for Civic Education, to carry
25 out civic education activities under sections 2534
26 and 2535;

1 “(2) the National Council on Economic Edu-
2 cation, to carry out economic education activities
3 under section 2535; and

4 “(3) organizations experienced in the develop-
5 ment of curricula and programs in civics and gov-
6 ernment education or economic education for stu-
7 dents in elementary schools and secondary schools in
8 countries other than the United States, to carry out
9 civic education or economic education activities
10 under section 2535.

11 “(b) DISTRIBUTION FOR COOPERATIVE CIVIC EDU-
12 CATION AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION EXCHANGE PRO-
13 GRAMS.—

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

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

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

22 “(B) 37.5 percent for a grant or contract
23 for the National Council on Economic Edu-
24 cation; and

1 “(C) 25 percent for not less than 1, but
2 not more than 3, grants or contracts for organi-
3 zations described in subsection (a)(3).

4 **“SEC. 2534. WE THE PEOPLE PROGRAM.**

5 “(a) THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION.—

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

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

10 “(i) to continue and expand the edu-
11 cational activities of the program entitled
12 the We the People . . . The Citizen and
13 the Constitution program administered by
14 such center;

15 “(ii) to carry out activities to enhance
16 student attainment of challenging aca-
17 demic content standards in civics and gov-
18 ernment;

19 “(iii) to provide a course of instruc-
20 tion on the basic principles of the Nation’s
21 constitutional democracy and the history of
22 the Constitution of the United States, in-
23 cluding the Bill of Rights;

24 “(iv) to provide, at the request of a
25 participating school, school and community

1 simulated congressional hearings following
2 the course of instruction described in
3 clause (iii); and

4 “(v) to provide an annual national
5 competition of simulated congressional
6 hearings for secondary school students who
7 wish to participate in such a program; and

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

10 “(i) to provide advanced, sustained,
11 and ongoing training of teachers about the
12 Constitution of the United States and the
13 political system of the United States;

14 “(ii) to implement a comprehensive
15 program to improve public knowledge, un-
16 derstanding, and support of American
17 democratic institutions; and

18 “(iii) to provide materials and meth-
19 ods of instruction, including teacher train-
20 ing, that utilize the latest advancements in
21 educational technology.

22 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.—The edu-
23 cation program authorized under this subsection
24 shall be made available to public and private elemen-
25 tary schools and secondary schools, including Bu-

1 reau-funded schools, in the 435 congressional dis-
2 tricts, and in the District of Columbia, the Common-
3 wealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Is-
4 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
5 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6 “(b) PROJECT CITIZEN.—

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

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

11 “(i) to continue and expand the edu-
12 cational activities of the program entitled
13 the We the People . . . Project Citizen
14 program administered by the Center;

15 “(ii) to carry out activities to enhance
16 student attainment of challenging aca-
17 demic content standards in civics and gov-
18 ernment;

19 “(iii) to provide a course of instruc-
20 tion at the middle and high school levels on
21 the roles of State and local governments in
22 the Federal system established by the Con-
23 stitution of the United States;

24 “(iv) to provide an annual national
25 showcase or competition; and

1 “(v) to provide civic education mate-
2 rials and services to address the needs of
3 immigrants, new citizens, and other post-
4 secondary and adult populations; and

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

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

10 “(ii) to provide advanced, sustained,
11 and ongoing training of teachers on the
12 roles of State and local governments in the
13 Federal system established by the Con-
14 stitution of the United States; and

15 “(iii) to provide materials and meth-
16 ods of instruction, including teacher train-
17 ing, that utilize the latest advancements in
18 educational technology.

19 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.—The edu-
20 cation program authorized under this subsection
21 shall be made available to public and private middle
22 schools, including Bureau-funded schools, in the 50
23 States of the United States, the District of Colum-
24 bia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United
25 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and

1 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
2 lands.

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

7 **“SEC. 2535. COOPERATIVE CIVIC EDUCATION AND ECO-
8 NOMIC EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.**

9 “(a) COOPERATIVE EDUCATION EXCHANGE PRO-
10 GRAMS.—The Center for Civic Education, the National
11 Council on Economic Education, and organizations de-
12 scribed in section 2533(a)(3) shall use funds made avail-
13 able under grants or contracts under section 2533 to carry
14 out cooperative education exchange programs in accord-
15 ance with this section.

16 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the cooperative edu-
17 cation exchange programs carried out under this section
18 shall be—

19 “(1) to make available to educators from eligi-
20 ble countries exemplary curriculum and teacher
21 training programs in civics and government edu-
22 cation, and economics education, developed in the
23 United States;

1 “(2) to assist eligible countries in the adapta-
2 tion, implementation, and institutionalization of such
3 programs;

4 “(3) to create and implement civics and govern-
5 ment education, and economic education, programs
6 for students that draw upon the experiences of the
7 participating eligible countries;

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

13 “(5) to provide support for—

14 “(A) independent research and evaluation
15 to determine the effects of educational pro-
16 grams on students’ development of the knowl-
17 edge, skills, and traits of character essential for
18 the preservation and improvement of constitu-
19 tional democracy; and

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

23 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the cooperative
24 education exchange programs assisted under this section,
25 the Center for Civic Education, the National Council on

1 Economic Education, and organizations described in sec-
2 tion 2533(a)(3) shall—

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

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

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

16 “(C) translations and adaptations with re-
17 spect to United States civics and government
18 education, and economic education, curricular
19 programs for students and teachers, and in the
20 case of training programs for teachers, trans-
21 lations and adaptations into forms useful in
22 schools in eligible countries, and joint research
23 projects in such areas; and

24 “(D) independent research and evaluation
25 assistance—

1 “(i) to determine the effects of the co-
2 operative education exchange programs on
3 students’ development of the knowledge,
4 skills, and traits of character essential for
5 the preservation and improvement of con-
6 stitutional democracy; and

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(D) opportunities to provide onsite dem-
25 onstrations of United States curricula and ped-

1 agogy for educational leaders in eligible coun-
2 tries; and

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

5 “(i) the effects of the cooperative edu-
6 cation exchange programs assisted under
7 this section on students’ development of
8 the knowledge, skills, and traits of char-
9 acter essential for the preservation and im-
10 provement of constitutional democracy;
11 and

12 “(ii) effective participation in, and im-
13 provement of, an efficient market economy;
14 and

15 “(3) assist participants from eligible countries
16 and the United States to participate in international
17 conferences on civics and government education, and
18 economic education, for educational leaders, teacher
19 trainers, scholars in related disciplines, and edu-
20 cational policymakers.

21 “(d) PARTICIPANTS.—The primary participants in
22 the cooperative education exchange programs assisted
23 under this section shall be educational leaders in the areas
24 of civics and government education, and economic edu-
25 cation, including teachers, curriculum and teacher train-

1 ing specialists, scholars in relevant disciplines, and edu-
2 cational policymakers, and government and private sector
3 leaders from the United States and eligible countries.

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

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

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

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

23 “(g) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section,
24 the term ‘eligible country’ means a Central European
25 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 “(1) develop a framework for hands-on, stu-
2 dent-centered learning that guides classroom teach-
3 ing as well as continuous professional development;

4 “(2) enable students to conduct extensive pri-
5 mary and secondary research through libraries, ar-
6 chives, museums, oral history interviews, and his-
7 toric sites;

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

11 “(4) enable students, through educational op-
12 portunities, training, and mentoring, to develop—

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

15 “(B) research and reading skills;

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

18 “(D) a sense of responsibility for and in-
19 volvement in the democratic process;

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

23 “(6) conduct competitions at local, State, and
24 national levels where entries are evaluated by profes-
25 sional historians and educators; and

1 “(7) assist teachers and schools in meeting
2 State educational standards.

3 **“SEC. 2542. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this subpart such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
6 2010 and for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

7 **“Subpart 5—Close Up Fellowship Program**

8 **“SEC. 2551. CLOSE UP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SEC-
10 ONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12 “(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In accord-
13 ance with this subsection, the Secretary may
14 make grants to the Close Up Foundation of
15 Washington, District of Columbia, a non-
16 partisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose
17 of assisting the Close Up Foundation in car-
18 rying out its programs of increasing civic re-
19 sponsibility and understanding of the Federal
20 Government among middle school and sec-
21 ondary school students.

22 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants under this
23 subsection shall be used only to provide finan-
24 cial assistance to economically disadvantaged

1 students who participate in the programs de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A).

3 “(C) NAME OF FELLOWSHIPS.—Financial
4 assistance received by students pursuant to this
5 subsection shall be known as Close Up fellow-
6 ships.

7 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

16 “(i) Close Up fellowships provided
17 under this subsection shall be made to eco-
18 nomically disadvantaged middle school and
19 secondary school students;

20 “(ii) every effort shall be made to en-
21 sure the participation of students from
22 rural, small town, and urban areas;

23 “(iii) in awarding the fellowships to
24 economically disadvantaged students, spe-
25 cial consideration shall be given to the par-

1 participation of those students with special
2 educational needs, including students with
3 disabilities, ethnic minority students, and
4 students with migrant parents; and

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

7 “(b) PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SEC-
8 ONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

10 “(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In accord-
11 ance with this subsection, the Secretary may
12 make grants to the Close Up Foundation of
13 Washington, District of Columbia, a non-
14 partisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose
15 of assisting the Close Up Foundation in car-
16 rying out its programs of professional develop-
17 ment for middle school and secondary school
18 teachers and its programs to increase civic re-
19 sponsibility and understanding of the Federal
20 Government among the teachers’ students.

21 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants under this
22 subsection shall be used only to provide finan-
23 cial assistance to teachers who participate in
24 the programs described in subparagraph (A).

1 “(C) NAME OF FELLOWSHIPS.—Financial
2 assistance received by teachers pursuant to this
3 subsection shall be known as Close Up fellow-
4 ships.

5 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

25 “(c) PROGRAMS FOR NEW AMERICANS.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

2 “(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In accord-
3 ance with this subsection, the Secretary may
4 make grants to the Close Up Foundation of
5 Washington, District of Columbia, a non-
6 partisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose
7 of assisting the Close Up Foundation in car-
8 rying out its programs of increasing civic re-
9 sponsibility and understanding of the Federal
10 Government among economically disadvantaged
11 middle school and secondary school recent im-
12 migrant students.

13 “(B) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the
14 term ‘recent immigrant student’ means a stu-
15 dent who is a member of a family that immi-
16 grated to the United States within 5 years of
17 the student’s participation in such a program.

18 “(C) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants under this
19 subsection shall be used only to provide finan-
20 cial assistance to economically disadvantaged
21 recent immigrant students and their teachers
22 who participate in the programs described in
23 subparagraph (A).

24 “(D) NAME OF FELLOWSHIPS.—Financial
25 assistance received by students and teachers

1 pursuant to this subsection shall be known as
2 Close Up Fellowships for New Americans.

3 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

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

16 “(ii) every effort shall be made to en-
17 sure the participation of recent immigrant
18 students from rural, small town, and urban
19 areas;

20 “(iii) in awarding the fellowships to
21 economically disadvantaged recent immi-
22 grant students, special consideration shall
23 be given to the participation of those stu-
24 dents with special educational needs, in-
25 cluding students with disabilities, students

1 with migrant parents, and ethnic minority
2 students;

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

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

8 “(d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

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

14 “(A) Providing young people with an in-
15 creased understanding of the Federal Govern-
16 ment.

17 “(B) Heightening a sense of civic responsi-
18 bility among young people.

19 “(C) Enhancing the skills of educators in
20 teaching young people about civic responsibility,
21 the Federal Government, and attaining citizen-
22 ship competencies.

23 “(2) GENERAL RULE.—Payments under this
24 section may be made in installments, in advance, or
25 by way of reimbursement, with necessary adjust-

1 ments on account of underpayments or overpay-
2 ments.

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

9 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 and
12 for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

13 **SEC. 102. STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS IN UNITED**
14 **STATES HISTORY.**

15 (a) CHALLENGING ACADEMIC STANDARDS.—Section
16 1111(b)(1)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
17 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)(C)) is amended
18 by striking “and (beginning in the 2005–2006 school
19 year) science,” and inserting “(beginning in the 2005–
20 2006 school year) science, and (beginning in the 2011–
21 2012 school year) United States history,”.

22 (b) ACADEMIC ASSESSMENTS.—Section
23 1111(b)(3)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
24 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)(A)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) by striking “and science” and inserting
2 “science, and United States history”; and

3 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
4 following: “and no State shall be required to meet
5 the requirements of this part relating to United
6 States history assessments until the beginning of the
7 2012–2013 school year”.

8 (c) ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section
9 1111(b)(3)(C)(v) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
10 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)(C)(v)) is
11 amended by adding at the end the following:

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

17 “(aa) grades 3 through 5;

18 “(bb) grades 6 through 9;

19 and

20 “(cc) grades 10 through
21 12;”.

22 **SEC. 103. REPEALS.**

23 The following provisions of law are repealed:

24 (1) Section 1504 of the Elementary and Sec-
25 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6494).

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

4 (3) Subpart 4 of part C of title II of the Ele-
5 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 6721 et seq.).

7 (4) The American History and Civics Education
8 Act of 2004 (20 U.S.C. 6713 note).

9 **SEC. 104. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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

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

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

16 (3) by inserting after the items relating to part
17 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. 2522. Presidential Academies for Teaching of American History and
 Civics.

 “Sec. 2523. Congressional Academies for Students of American History and
 Civics.

 “Sec. 2524. Authorization of appropriations.

 “SUBPART 3—CIVIC EDUCATION

 “Sec. 2531. Short title.

“Sec. 2532. Purpose.

“Sec. 2533. General authority.

“Sec. 2534. We the People Program.

“Sec. 2535. Cooperative civic education and economic education exchange programs.

“Sec. 2536. Authorization of appropriations.

“SUBPART 4—NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

“Sec. 2541. National History Day programs.

“Sec. 2542. Authorization of appropriations.

“SUBPART 5—CLOSE UP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

“Sec. 2551. Close Up fellowship program.”.

1 **TITLE II—AMERICAN HISTORY**
 2 **AND CIVICS ACHIEVEMENT**

3 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “Improving the Teach-
 5 ing and Learning of American History and Civics Act of
 6 2009”.

7 **SEC. 202. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

9 (1) the 2006 National Assessment of Edu-
 10 cational Progress assessments in United States his-
 11 tory and civics demonstrated high percentages of
 12 students scoring below basic even though there were
 13 increases in scores, particularly for lower-performing
 14 students, compared to previous such assessments;

15 (2) in the 2006 National Assessment of Edu-
 16 cational Progress assessment in United States his-
 17 tory—

18 (A) 30 percent of students in grade 4
 19 scored below basic, 35 percent of students in

1 grade 8 scored below basic, and 53 percent of
2 students in grade 12 scored below basic;

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

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

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

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

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

23 (A) 27 percent of students in grade 4
24 scored below basic, 30 percent of students in

1 grade 8 scored below basic, and 34 percent of
2 students in grade 12 scored below basic;

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

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

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

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

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

24 (6) the strength of American democracy and
25 our standing in the world depend on ensuring that

1 our children have a strong understanding of our Na-
2 tion’s past.

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

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

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

13 (2) in paragraph (3)(A)—

14 (A) in clause (iii)—

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

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

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

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

23 “(iv) shall conduct trial State aca-
24 demic assessments of student achievement
25 in United States history in grades 8 and

1 12 in not less than 10 States representing
2 geographically diverse regions of the
3 United States and in civics in grades 8 and
4 12 in not less than 10 States representing
5 geographically diverse regions of the
6 United States (with a priority given to con-
7 ducting assessments in United States his-
8 tory); and”.

9 **SEC. 204. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.**

10 Section 302(e)(1) of the National Assessment of
11 Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C.
12 9621(e)(1)) is amended—

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

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

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

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

22 “(J) in consultation with the Commissioner
23 for Education Statistics, identify and select the
24 States that will participate in the trial State

1 academic assessments described in section
2 303(b)(3)(A)(iv); and”.

3 **SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 Section 305 of the National Assessment of Edu-
5 cational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9624) is
6 amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
8 section (c); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
10 lowing:

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

13 “(1) \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010
14 and 2011 to carry out sections 303(b)(3)(A)(iv) and
15 302(e)(1), of which not more than \$500,000 for
16 each fiscal year shall be available to carry out sec-
17 tion 302(e)(1); and

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

20 **SEC. 206. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

21 Section 113(a)(1) of the Education Sciences Reform
22 Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9513(a)(1)) is amended by strik-
23 ing “section 302(e)(1)(J)” and inserting “section
24 302(e)(1)(K)”.

○