

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 611

To amend part F of title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and refocus civic education, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

# A BILL

To amend part F of title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and refocus civic education, and for other purposes.

- 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 “Education for Democ-
- 5        racy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CIVIC EDUCATION.**

2       Part F of title X of the Elementary and Secondary  
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8141 et seq.) is amend-  
4 ed to read as follows:

5           **“PART F—CIVIC EDUCATION**6 **“SEC. 10601. SHORT TITLE.**

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

9 **“SEC. 10602. FINDINGS.**

10       “The Congress finds that—

11       “(1) college freshmen surveyed in 1999 by the  
12 Higher Education Research Institute at the Univer-  
13 sity of California at Los Angeles demonstrated high-  
14 er levels of disengagement, both academically and  
15 politically, than any previous entering class of stu-  
16 dents;

17       “(2) college freshmen in 1999 demonstrated the  
18 lowest levels of political interest in the 20-year his-  
19 tory of surveys conducted by the Higher Education  
20 Research Institute at the University of California at  
21 Los Angeles;

22       “(3) United States secondary school students  
23 expressed relatively low levels of interest in politics  
24 and economics in a 1999 Harris survey;

25       “(4) the 32d Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup  
26 Poll of 2000 indicated that preparing students to be-

1 come responsible citizens was the most important  
2 purpose of public schools;

3 “(5) Americans surveyed by the Organization of  
4 Economic Cooperation and Development indicated  
5 that only 59 percent had confidence that schools  
6 have a major effect on the development of good citi-  
7 zenship;

8 “(6) teachers too often do not have sufficient  
9 expertise in the subjects that they teach, and half of  
10 all secondary school history students in America are  
11 being taught by teachers with neither a major nor  
12 a minor in history;

13 “(7) secondary school students correctly an-  
14 swered less than half of the questions on a national  
15 test of economic knowledge in a 1999 Harris survey;

16 “(8) the 1998 National Assessment of Edu-  
17 cational Progress indicated that students have only  
18 superficial knowledge of, and lacked a depth of un-  
19 derstanding regarding, civics;

20 “(9) civic and economic education are impor-  
21 tant not only to developing citizenship competencies  
22 in the United States but also are critical to sup-  
23 porting political stability and economic health in  
24 other democracies, particularly emerging democratic  
25 market economies;

1               “(10) more than three quarters of Americans  
2       surveyed by the National Constitution Center in  
3       1997 admitted that they knew only some or very lit-  
4       tle about the Constitution of the United States; and

5               “(11) the Constitution of the United States is  
6       too often viewed within the context of history and  
7       not as a living document that shapes current events.

8       **“SEC. 10603. PURPOSE.**

9               “It is the purpose of this part—

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

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

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

20       **“SEC. 10604. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

21               “(a) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

22               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized  
23       to award grants to or enter into contracts with—

1                   “(A) the Center for Civic Education to  
2                   carry out civic education activities under sec-  
3                   tions 10605 and 10606; and

4                   “(B) the National Council on Economic  
5                   Education to carry out economic education ac-  
6                   tivities under section 10606.

7                   “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall  
8                   award the grants and contracts under section 10606  
9                   in consultation with the Secretary of State.

10                  “(b) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall use not  
11                  more than 50 percent of the amount appropriated under  
12                  section 10607(b) for each fiscal year to carry out economic  
13                  education activities under section 10606.

14                  **“SEC. 10605. WE THE PEOPLE PROGRAM.**

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

16                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center for Civic Edu-  
17                  cation shall use funds awarded under section  
18                  10604(a)(1)(A) to carry out The Citizen and the  
19                  Constitution program in accordance with this sub-  
20                  section.

21                  “(2) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Citizen  
22                  and the Constitution program—

23                  “(A) shall continue and expand the edu-  
24                  cational activities of the ‘We the People . . .

1 The Citizen and the Constitution' program ad-  
2 ministered by the Center for Civic Education;

3                   “(B) shall enhance student attainment of  
4 challenging content standards in civics and gov-  
5 ernment;

6                     “(C) shall provide a course of instruction  
7                     on the basic principles of our Nation’s constitu-  
8                     tional democracy and the history of the Con-  
9                     stitution of the United States and the Bill of  
10                    Rights;

11                   “(D) shall provide, at the request of a par-  
12                   ticipating school, school and community simu-  
13                   lated congressional hearings following the  
14                   course of study;

15                   “(E) shall provide an annual national com-  
16                   petition of simulated congressional hearings for  
17                   secondary school students who wish to partici-  
18                   pate in such a program; and

24 “(ii) materials and methods of in-  
25 struction, including teacher training, that

1 utilize the latest advancements in edu-  
2 cational technology; and

16        "(b) PROJECT CITIZEN.—

17                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center for Civic Edu-  
18                   cation shall use funds awarded under section  
19                   10604(a)(1)(A) to carry out The Project Citizen  
20                   program in accordance with this subsection.

21                   “(2) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Project  
22                   Citizen program—

23                         “(A) shall continue and expand the edu-  
24                         cational activities of the ‘We the People . . .

1           Project Citizen' program administered by the  
2           Center for Civic Education;

3                   “(B) shall enhance student attainment of  
4 challenging content standards in civics and gov-  
5 ernment;

6                     “(C) shall provide a course of instruction  
7                     at the middle school level on the roles of State  
8                     and local governments in the Federal system es-  
9                     tablished by the Constitution of the United  
10                    States;

11                           “(D) shall provide an annual national  
12                           showcase or competition; and

13                           “(E) shall provide—

1                             “(iv) civic education materials and  
2                             services to address specific problems such  
3                             as the prevention of school violence and the  
4                             abuse of drugs and alcohol.

5                             “(3) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.—The edu-  
6                             cation program authorized under this subsection  
7                             shall be made available to public and private middle  
8                             schools, including Bureau funded schools, in the 50  
9                             States of the United States, the District of Colum-  
10                            bia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United  
11                            States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and  
12                            the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-  
13                            lands.

14                             “(c) DEFINITION OF BUREAU FUNDED SCHOOL.—  
15                             In this section the term ‘Bureau funded school’ has the  
16                             meaning given the term in section 1146 of the Education  
17                             Amendments of 1978.

18                             **“SEC. 10606. COOPERATIVE CIVIC EDUCATION AND ECO-  
19                                     NOMIC EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.**

20                             “(a) COOPERATIVE EDUCATION EXCHANGE PRO-  
21                             GRAMS.—The Center for Civic Education and the National  
22                             Council on Economic Education shall use funds awarded  
23                             under section 10604(a)(1) to carry out Cooperative Edu-  
24                             cation Exchange programs in accordance with this section.

1       “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Cooperative  
2 Education Exchange programs provided under this section  
3 shall be to—

4           “(1) make available to educators from eligible  
5 countries exemplary curriculum and teacher training  
6 programs in civics and government education, and  
7 economics education, developed in the United States;

8           “(2) assist eligible countries in the adaptation,  
9 implementation, and institutionalization of such pro-  
10 grams;

11           “(3) create and implement civics and govern-  
12 ment education, and economic education, programs  
13 for students that draw upon the experiences of the  
14 participating eligible countries;

15           “(4) provide a means for the exchange of ideas  
16 and experiences in civics and government education,  
17 and economic education, among political, edu-  
18 cational, governmental, and private sector leaders of  
19 participating eligible countries; and

20           “(5) provide support for—

21            “(A) independent research and evaluation  
22 to determine the effects of educational pro-  
23 grams on students’ development of the knowl-  
24 edge, skills, and traits of character essential for

1           the preservation and improvement of constitu-  
2           tional democracy; and

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

6        “(c) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The Secretary

7    shall consult with the Secretary of State to ensure that—

8           “(1) activities under this section are not dupli-  
9           cative of other efforts in the eligible countries; and

10           “(2) partner institutions in the eligible coun-  
11           tries are creditable.

12        “(d) ACTIVITIES.—The Cooperative Education Ex-

13    change programs shall—

14           “(1) provide eligible countries with—

15           “(A) seminars on the basic principles of  
16           United States constitutional democracy and ec-  
17           onomics, including seminars on the major gov-  
18           ernmental and economic institutions and sys-  
19           tems in the United States, and visits to such in-  
20           stitutions;

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

1                     “(C) translations and adaptations regard-  
2                     ing United States civic and government edu-  
3                     cation, and economic education, curricular pro-  
4                     grams for students and teachers, and in the  
5                     case of training programs for teachers trans-  
6                     lations and adaptations into forms useful in  
7                     schools in eligible countries, and joint research  
8                     projects in such areas; and

9                     “(D) independent research and evaluation  
10                     assistance to determine—

11                     “(i) the effects of the Cooperative  
12                     Education Exchange programs on stu-  
13                     dents’ development of the knowledge,  
14                     skills, and traits of character essential for  
15                     the preservation and improvement of con-  
16                     stitutional democracy; and

17                     “(ii) effective participation in and the  
18                     preservation and improvement of an effi-  
19                     cient market economy;

20                     “(2) provide United States participants with—

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

23                     “(B) visits to school systems, institutions  
24                     of higher education, and organizations con-  
25                     ducting exemplary programs in civics and gov-

1 ernment education, and economic education, lo-  
2 cated in eligible countries;

3                     “(C) assistance from educators and scholars in eligible countries in the development of  
4                     curricular materials on the history, government,  
5                     and economy of such countries that are useful  
6                     in United States classrooms;

8                     “(D) opportunities to provide onsite dem-  
9                     onstrations of United States curricula and ped-  
10                    agogy for educational leaders in eligible coun-  
11                    tries; and

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

23                   “(3) assist participants from eligible countries  
24                   and the United States to participate conferences on  
25                   civics and government education, and economic edu-

1 cation, for educational leaders, teacher trainers,  
2 scholars in related disciplines, and educational pol-  
3 icymakers.

4 “(e) PARTICIPANTS.—The primary participants in  
5 the Cooperative Education Exchange programs assisted  
6 under this section shall be educational leaders in the areas  
7 of civics and government education, and economic edu-  
8 cation, including teachers, curriculum and teacher train-  
9 ing specialists, scholars in relevant disciplines, and edu-  
10 cational policymakers, and government and private sector  
11 leaders from the United States and eligible countries.

12 “(f) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section,  
13 the term ‘eligible country’ means a Central European  
14 country, an Eastern European country, Lithuania, Latvia,  
15 Estonia, the independent states of the former Soviet  
16 Union as defined in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support  
17 Act (22 U.S.C. 5801), and may include the Republic of  
18 Ireland, the province of Northern Ireland in the United  
19 Kingdom, and any developing country, as defined in sec-  
20 tion 209(d) of the Education for the Deaf Act, that has  
21 a democratic form of government as determined by the  
22 Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of State.

23 **“SEC. 10607. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 “(a) SECTION 10605.—There are authorized to be  
25 appropriated to carry out section 10605, \$15,000,000 for

1 fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may be necessary for  
2 each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

3       “(b) SECTION 10606.—There are authorized to be  
4 appropriated to carry out section 10606, \$12,000,000 for  
5 fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may be necessary for  
6 each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2006.”.

7 **SEC. 3. REPEAL.**

8       Title VI of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (20  
9 U.S.C. 5951 et seq.) is repealed.

○