

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3464

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote civic learning and engagement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Mr. HONDA (for himself and Mr. COLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote civic learning and engagement, 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 “Sandra Day O’Connor
5 Civic Learning Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that the Commissioner
8 for Education Statistics, in administering the National As-
9 sessment of Educational Progress, should increase the
10 sample size of students tested to improve disaggregation

1 and analysis of data regarding progress in history and
2 civics.

3 **SEC. 3. CIVIC LEARNING GRANTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 3 of part C of title II
5 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 6711 et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) by repealing sections 2341 through 2344
8 and inserting the following:

9 **“SEC. 2341. CIVIC LEARNING GRANTS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award com-
11 petitive grants to eligible entities for the development and
12 implementation of programs to promote civic learning and
13 engagement.

14 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use a
15 grant received under this section to develop and implement
16 a program to promote civic learning and engagement
17 through instruction, professional development, and evalua-
18 tion activities that promote any of the following:

19 “(1) Equity through access to funding and pro-
20 gram benefits, including—

21 “(A) programs that meet the needs of stu-
22 dents with divergent learning styles, students of
23 varying ethnic, racial, and socio-economic back-
24 grounds, and students who are English lan-
25 guage learners; and

1 “(B) resources that serve student popu-
2 lations that have not traditionally received op-
3 portunities for high quality, engaging civic
4 learning, with a special emphasis on inner-city
5 and rural underserved students.

6 “(2) Innovation through design, settings, and
7 delivery, including service learning, interactive on-
8 line programming, and other approaches to engaging
9 students in active learning and civic participation.

10 “(3) Scalability through broad, cost-effective
11 implementation and institutionalization, including—

12 “(A) use of the latest technological devel-
13 opments;

14 “(B) an emphasis on programs designed to
15 address relevant State and National educational
16 standards; and

17 “(C) utilization of low per-participant cost
18 models of expanding the number of active stu-
19 dents and teachers.

20 “(4) Accountability through assessment and
21 identification of best practice models, including—

22 “(A) independent research and evaluation
23 to help assess the effects of civic education pro-
24 grams on students’ knowledge, skills, and traits

1 of character essential for the preservation and
2 improvement of constitutional democracy;

3 “(B) identifying techniques that succeed
4 with traditionally underserved student popu-
5 lations; and

6 “(C) evaluation of teachers’ knowledge and
7 the adequacy of the teaching facility.

8 “(c) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
9 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a nonprofit edu-
10 cational organization.”; and

11 (2) by redesignating sections 2345 and 2346 as
12 sections 2342 and 2343, respectively.

13 (b) CONFORMING CHANGES.—

14 (1) Section 2342 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6715),
15 as redesignated by subsection (a)(2), is amended—

16 (A) in subsection (a)—

17 (i) by striking “organizations de-
18 scribed in section 2343(a)(3)” each place it
19 appears and inserting “organizations expe-
20 rienced in the development of curricula and
21 programs in civics and government edu-
22 cation and economic education for students
23 in elementary schools and secondary
24 schools in countries other than the United
25 States”; and

1 (ii) by striking “use funds made avail-
2 able under grants or contracts under sec-
3 tion 2343 to”;

4 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “the
5 Center for Civic Education, the National Coun-
6 cil on Economic Education, and organizations
7 described in section 2343(a)(3)” and inserting
8 “an entity specified in subsection (a)”;

9 (C) in subsection (e), by striking “de-
10 scribed in section 2343” and inserting “speci-
11 fied in subsection (a)”;

12 (D) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “the
13 Center for Civic Education, the National Coun-
14 cil on Economic Education, or organizations de-
15 scribed in section 2343(a)(3)” and inserting
16 “an entity specified in subsection (a)”.

17 (2) The table of contents of such Act (20
18 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by striking the
19 items relating to sections 2341 through 2346 and
20 inserting the following:

“2341. Civic learning grants.

“2342. Cooperative civic education and economic education exchange programs.

“2343. Authorization of appropriations.”.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
22 2343 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6716), as redesignated by
23 subsection (a)(2), is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 2343. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated for each of
3 fiscal years 2013 through 2018—

4 “(1) \$28,500,000 for grants under section
5 2341; and

6 “(2) \$1,500,000 for programs under section
7 2342.”.

○