

Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Civics, along with other courses in the Social Studies, the Arts, and even Sciences have been given short shrift for the past two decades due to the lopsided focus on Math and English Language Arts to the exclusion of everything else, thanks to an inordinate focus on the tests required by the federal government in those two tested areas. For example, every student must now take Algebra II in high school, yet they have no requirement to take a Civics course. The results of this are in: this hasn't worked.

Many people in our communities have no idea how their local, state, or federal governments work. They can't name the three branches of the federal government nor do they know who their city councilors are, let alone understand how they can productively contribute to civic discourse. This fact is are apparent in our current political climate.

While I do not support adding yet another standardized test coming from the state that will suck up even more actual learning time from our classrooms, I do support making sure that all students have the opportunity to learn about civics throughout their K-12 public school. I believe that, with some amendment, this bill would help move towards that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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