



## **Teaching Engaged Citizenship Act**

***Representatives Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA) and Peter Meijer (R-MI)***

Our system of government relies on civic strength. Leaders in military, national, and public service, and Americans across the political spectrum, agree that civic education has the power to cultivate a culture of service in our young people and create engaged citizens who make a positive impact on our nation.

Despite the importance of civic education, we as a nation are failing to prioritize it. Recent findings indicate that only about one in four of our students are testing “proficient” in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) civics assessment. It’s clear that now is the time to invest in civic education to sustain our democracy for generations to come.

### **The Teaching Engaged Citizenship Act will:**

- Create a Civic Education and Service Learning Grant Program to:
  - Support the development and implementation of high-quality, evidence-based civic education and service learning programming in K-12 public schools and promote hands-on civic learning activities like simulated Congressional hearings, simulated public hearings, and courtroom simulations.
  - Provide teacher development with respect to civic education and service learning programming in K-12 public schools.
  - Assist states, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations in supporting civic education and service learning in K-12 public schools.
- Establish an Office of Civic Education within the Department of Education to promote civic education throughout the United States.
- Require the administration of National Assessments of Education Progress (NAEPs) in civics and history at the same frequency as reading and mathematics in grades 4, 8, and 12; and require that civics and history assessment data is published in the aggregate for the United States and separately for each state.
- Establish an annual Excellence in Civics Award to highlight excellence in the development and teaching of civic education and service learning.
- Support the development and distribution of educational materials and teaching resources related to civic education and effective citizenship by the Library of Congress, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Archives.