

EDUCATING FOR DEMOCRACY
California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

April 21, 2010

Honorable Julia Brownley, Chair
Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Rm 159
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 319-2187

Re: Support AJR 39 (Beall/Torlakson): Common Core State Standards

Dear Chairwoman Brownley:

On behalf of Educating for Democracy, the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools I submit this letter in strong support of Assembly Joint Resolution 39. To ensure the future of America and our democratic institutions, we believe it is critically important to develop common core state standards in the core academic disciplines of English-Language Arts, mathematics, history-social science, and science.

AJR 39 calls upon the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers to replicate the process used to adopt Common Core State Standards for English and Mathematics for the adoption of standards for the other two core academic disciplines, Social Studies and Science.

In order for our students to graduate secondary school ready for college, work and success in the global economy, all American K-12 students need access to all four core academic subject matters. By including history/social science and science in the Common Core State Standards initiative, we will be providing all students the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to become responsible citizens with a strong understanding of the physical world around them.

Each new generation of pupils must be equipped with the knowledge of history, geography, economics, and government, skills needed to make informed decisions about complex public issues, attitudes that support democratic practices, and a commitment to engage in civic life. And each new generation of Americans need a strong understanding of the material world, including biology, chemistry, geology, astronomy and physics, and a firm grasp of the scientific method of discovery.

We therefore urge you and your Education Committee members to support this resolution, calling for the creation of Common Core State Standards for Social Studies and Science. We call upon our state representatives to protect and preserve the fundamental nature of all four core academic disciplines as our nation races toward education reform.

Sincerely,

Co-Director, California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools