

April 9, 2010

Gene Wilhoit
Council of Chief State School Officers
Executive Director
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-1431

Dear Mr. Wilhoit:

Educating for Democracy, the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is an effort of a group of concerned California individuals and organizations seeking to enlist support of education, business, law, veterans, labor, parents, and service groups around the state to promote civic education in California. We believe that K-12 social studies classrooms across California play a critical role in educating our young people to become the informed, committed and participatory citizens that are the life's blood of our country's democratic system.

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. We urge you to replicate the process used to develop Common Core State Standards for English-Language Arts and Mathematics for the development of Common Core State Standards for Social Studies and Science.

We agree that the Common Core State Standards Initiative is a significant and historic opportunity for states to collectively accelerate and drive education reform toward the ultimate goal of college and career ready children graduating from high school. While we support the draft of the K-12 Common Core ELA standards that includes literacy in History/Social Science and Science, we believe that it is essential that all students across our great nation have access to high quality social studies education that will provide them with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to become effective, responsible citizens and members of a global economy.

Each new generation needs to be equipped with the knowledge of history, geography, economics, civics and government, skills needed to make informed decisions about complex public issues, attitudes that support democratic practices, and commitment to engage in civic life. With the development and adoption of Common Core State Standards in Social Studies, we can achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

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

EDUCATING FOR DEMOCRACY

California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

April 9, 2010

Dane Linn
Education Division Director
National Governor's Association
Hall of States
444 N. Capitol St. Ste. 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

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