

Senate Engrossed

**FILED**

**MICHELE REAGAN  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-third Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2017

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1026**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING A COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF CIVICS EDUCATION IN ARIZONA SCHOOLS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           Whereas, in 2014, the National Assessment of Educational Progress  
2 (NAEP), which is administered by the National Center for Education  
3 Statistics in the United States Department of Education, found that only  
4 23% of eighth graders performed at or above the proficient level in  
5 civics; and

6           Whereas, a 2014 survey of 1,416 adults conducted by the Annenberg  
7 Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania (Annenberg survey)  
8 found that only 36% of respondents could name all three branches of  
9 government and that 35% of respondents could not name a single one; and

10           Whereas, the Annenberg survey also found that only 27% of Americans  
11 know that it takes a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate to override a  
12 presidential veto, that 21% of Americans incorrectly think that a 5-4  
13 Supreme Court decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration and  
14 that more than half of Americans do not know which party controls the  
15 House and Senate; and

16           Whereas, in the words of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, "[t]he  
17 practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must  
18 be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens"; and

19           Whereas, the lack of an educational foundation regarding the  
20 fundamentals of the democracy established by this country's founders and  
21 defended by generations of American soldiers increases the potential for  
22 incivility and threatens the sustainability of the American Democracy; and

23           Whereas, civics education produces an enlightened citizenry through  
24 increased knowledge of this nation's form and execution of government  
25 along with its historical significance as a protector of civility and  
26 freedom; and

27           Whereas, there are a number of civics education programs that are  
28 free and available for use in the Arizona K-12 public school system; and

29           Whereas, affording Arizona students a proper and thorough civics  
30 education using contemporary teaching and learning methods is vital to  
31 ensuring the success of this great nation.

32 Therefore

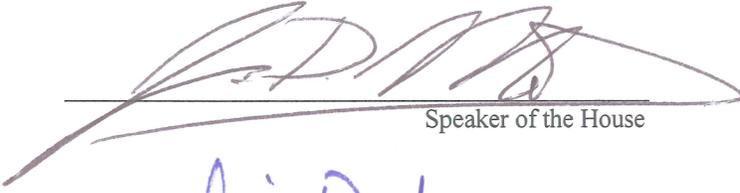
33 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of  
34 Representatives concurring:

35           That the Members of the Legislature express a continuing commitment  
36 to the promotion of civics education in Arizona schools.

**UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 15, 2017.**  
**UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE SENATE MARCH 15, 2017.**  
**FILED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE MARCH 16, 2017.**

READ IN FULL AND  
UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Passed the House March 15, 20 17

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

Jini Drake  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

READ IN FULL AND  
UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Passed the Senate March 15, 20 17

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

Season Oakes  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill was received by the Governor this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State

this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 20 17,

at 2:21 o'clock P M.

Michele Reagan  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

S.C.R. 1026