

July 23, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
United States House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

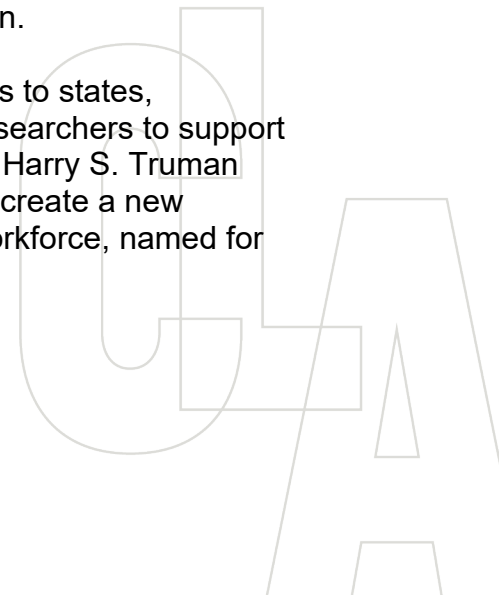
Re: Civics Secures Democracy Act of 2021 – H.R. 1814 and S. 879

Dear Representatives and Senators:

We write on behalf of the California Lawyers Association (CLA) to endorse the Civics Secures Democracy Act. CLA is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization dedicated to the professional advancement of attorneys practicing law in California. CLA's mission is promoting excellence, diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and fairness in the administration of justice and the rule of law. One of CLA's priorities, facilitated by our Civics Engagement and Outreach Committee, is to help increase the civic awareness, knowledge, and engagement of Californians.

Over the last several decades, civics education in American schools has been on the decline. The Civics Secures Democracy Act represents a bipartisan commitment to strengthening civics education, from K–12 through higher education.

The Civics Secures Democracy Act would create a variety of grants to states, nonprofits, institutions of higher education, and civics education researchers to support and expand access to civics and history education; strengthen the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation and James Madison Fellowship Program; create a new fellowship designed to diversify the civics and history education workforce, named for



The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Tom Cole, Earl Blumenauer, Chris Coons, John Cornyn

July 23, 2021

Page 2

Prince Hall, an abolitionist and leader during the Revolutionary War; reauthorize and modernize an existing Higher Education Act grant program with an eye toward strengthening civics and history education in higher education and institutions' partnerships with local school districts; and require the administration every two years of the National Assessments of Education Progress (NAEP) in civics and history to students in grades four, eight, and twelve.

CLA strongly supports this robust investment in civics education. The Civics Secures Democracy Act properly prioritizes American history and civics in our nation's schools, restoring the importance placed on civics education in American classrooms and investing in the future of our democracy.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Ona Alston Dosunmu
C.E.O. & Executive Director



Emilio Varanini
President