

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 894

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that strong public education in United States history and civics is essential to preserving the Nation’s founding ideals on the eve of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Mr. COSTA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that strong public education in United States history and civics is essential to preserving the Nation’s founding ideals on the eve of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Whereas the Declaration of Independence famously states that “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,” and that governments derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed”;

Whereas the American Revolution was a turning point in world history that helped transform subjects into citizens and launched a new experiment in self-government based on natural rights and the rule of law, reminding future generations that democracy is not automatic, but rather

the consequence of citizens willing to defend and renew those ideals;

Whereas George Washington, drawing on experience in earlier conflicts and enduring hardships alongside his troops, and learning from early military setbacks and failures, helped hold together the Continental Army and our fragile new Nation;

Whereas Washington set enduring essential precedents by resigning his commission as commander of the military and facilitated an historic and peaceful transfer of power as the first President of the United States;

Whereas historic places such as Mount Vernon, Independence Hall, and other sites across the United States remind United States citizens that the Nation's founding ideals were forged not in abstraction but through the choices and sacrifices of real people and communities, including ordinary soldiers, families, and neighbors whose lives were upended by the violence and uncertainty of war;

Whereas strong instruction in United States history and civics in our Nation's schools helps ensure that every student, regardless of background or zip code, learns how the United States was founded, how its institutions work, and what it means to be an informed and responsible citizen, recognizing that civic learning is a lifelong pursuit and a safeguard of the Republic;

Whereas high-quality education in United States history and civics helps students understand core principles of the Nation's founding, including individual liberty, equality under the law, representative democracy, and the responsibilities of citizenship such as cultivating virtue, integrity, and a sense of duty to the common good;

Whereas learning about the founding era, including the American Revolution and the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, equips students and adults alike to place current events in historical context and to better appreciate the ongoing work of forming “a more perfect Union”, including the courage, conflicts, and sacrifices that marked the Nation’s earliest years;

Whereas historians, classroom teachers, museums, historic sites, and documentary filmmakers have all helped United States citizens see the Nation’s past more clearly by telling stories that combine well-known leaders with the experiences of everyday people who also shaped the course of events, including through major documentary series and educational programs that present first-person perspectives on the founding era;

Whereas the year 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and the America 250 Caucus and other bipartisan efforts are working to ensure that this milestone strengthens civic knowledge, patriotism, and national unity; and

Whereas the semiquincentennial presents a unique opportunity to renew the Nation’s commitment to the founding ideals that, while not always perfectly realized, have inspired United States citizens and peoples around the world for nearly 250 years: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) reaffirms that strong history and civics edu-
- 3 cation in our Nation’s schools is essential to pre-
- 4 serving the United States founding ideals of liberty,

1 equality, and self-government, and to preparing the
2 next generation to carry those ideals forward;

3 (2) recognizes the upcoming 250th anniversary
4 of the Declaration of Independence as an oppor-
5 tunity to strengthen civic knowledge, patriotism, and
6 a shared understanding of the American story
7 among students and the public at large, including a
8 fuller appreciation of both the Nation's achievements
9 and its struggles during the Revolutionary era;

10 (3) encourages States, territories, Indian
11 Tribes, and local educational agencies to provide
12 age-appropriate, fact-based instruction about the
13 American Revolution, the Declaration of Independ-
14 ence, the Constitution, and key leaders such as
15 George Washington and other figures who helped
16 hold the early Republic together;

17 (4) supports voluntary partnerships among pub-
18 lic schools, museums, libraries, historic sites, includ-
19 ing places such as Mount Vernon, veteran and civic
20 organizations, and educational media producers to
21 help students better understand how the United
22 States was founded and how its institutions work;

23 (5) recognizes the work of teachers, historians,
24 and educational professionals, including those who
25 produce classroom materials, documentaries, and

1 museum exhibits, who devote their careers to ensur-
2 ing that students learn about the Nation's founding
3 principles, its challenges, and the responsibilities of
4 citizenship; and

5 (6) encourages all United States citizens, and
6 especially young people, to study and reflect on the
7 examples of George Washington and other founding
8 leaders, as well as the ordinary men and women
9 whose courage and perseverance helped secure
10 United States independence, and to strive in their
11 own lives to live up to enduring American ideals of
12 duty, integrity, public service, and placing country
13 above self.

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