EDUCATING FOR DEMOCRACY

California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION APPROVED BY CA LEGISLATURE AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

July 1, 2005, Los Angeles—Just in time for the Fourth of July, a Resolution has been approved and signed that promotes and encourages more effective civic education in the public schools of California. Resolution Chapter 54, Statutes of 2005 is designed to help California's diverse student population embrace the rights and responsibilities of citizens and learn more about national, state and local government as well as their constitutional heritage.

The Resolution was approved as ACR Bill Number 30 by the CA State Assembly in May and then by the CA State Senate in June and recently signed by the Governor. Recognizing that civics needs to be a bigger priority in education and recognizing the need for effective and engaged citizens for our state's future, the Resolution states that

WHEREAS, State law requires that secondary pupils complete only a single semester-long course in government/civics; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature urges the State Board of Education and all local school governing bodies to examine current practice and develop plans to increase and broaden emphasis on principles and practices of democracy in the schools of this state.

The Resolution was promoted by a coalition of civic leaders, lawyers, judges, business and community leaders and educators who are involved in *Educating for Democracy: the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools*, a project of Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) in collaboration with the Center for Civic Education and the Alliance for Representative Democracy. Convened by CRF and funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Annenberg Foundation and the Hearst Foundation, the goal of the coalition is to strengthen civic education in California's public schools consistent with the recommendations in the Civic Mission of schools report released by Carnegie 2003.

Specifically, the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools will:

- Conduct research to determine the effect of current educational practices in CA on the
 development of student civic knowledge, skills, and attitudes and their capacity for
 effective civic engagement.
- Work with the schools to assess their current civic education practices and improve them
 by developing and implementing promising practices and providing teacher preparation
 and resources.
- Build upon public support to make effective civic education a greater priority in CA public schools and adopt policies to implement more effective practices.

For more information, please refer to the CRF website at www.crf-usa.org or call Lisa Cleri Reale at (323) 938-6170.