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As the Director of the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware, I strongly encourage the Senate to support the USA Civics Act- American Civics Education (ACE) grant program. We currently provide the following programs:

- Through the School's Institute for Public Administration, we offer professional development opportunities for K12 teachers so that they are better prepared to integrate the [National Civics Standards](#) into their classroom curriculum, no matter the subject. For 21 years, the [Democracy Project Institute](#) has provided a weeklong, summer professional development session, specific to civics education and lesson planning. Through the Institute, we have reached over 400 K12 educators and hundreds more with 1-day "book talks" or lesson planning opportunities throughout the year.
- Our [2019 Civics Summit](#), which brought together over 100 educators from around our state, showed that teachers need access to more resources and dedication of more classroom time to cover these extremely important topics.
- In addition, the Biden School funds and staffs the undergraduate [Spring Semester in Washington, D.C. Program](#), which allows 15 undergraduate students to live, intern, and take classes in the heart of Washington D.C. These [students say](#) that this experience is "life changing," that it "helped them to understand how "politics and policy work in the real world," and "put classroom learning into practice."

Programs like the Democracy Project Institute, Washington, D.C. Program, and Civics Summit are invaluable and rare resources. At the Biden School, we are committed to making them accessible to everyone regardless of background and financial means. The American Civics Education Program will expand programs, like the ones mentioned above, in the State and throughout the Nation. Please support the ACE Program to ensure the next generation of elected officials, teachers, and community stakeholders are empowered to continue protecting our history and democracy.

Sincerely,



Maria P. Aristigueta

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