



March 8, 2024

Representative Robert Duvall  
Kentucky House of Representatives  
Kentucky State Capitol  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Representative Duvall:

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence writes to express support for House Bill 535 ([HB 535](#)). The bill will strengthen civic education in the commonwealth by providing an option for a one-half credit course in secondary schools. This additional course option will support student understanding of the principles of government and underscore the responsibilities of citizenship.

We believe HB 535 is needed because:

- The [2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#) recorded its lowest student achievement rate in civics since the assessment began in the 1990s with only 22% of students nationally scoring proficient in civics.
- According to NAEP, only 29% of assessed students said they had a teacher whose primary responsibility is teaching civics. Students who learned about civics in a designated class outperformed students who had civics embedded in another class and those with no civics instruction.
- Additionally, the 2022 NAEP data showed that quality [teaching matters most](#) in students' ability to glean a solid understanding of government and their responsibilities as citizens. The data showed that teachers who have confidence in their ability to explain the importance of participation in the political process and government correlate with a 35-point difference in student performance.

HB 535 is an integral first step in developing and encouraging the voice of the most relevant stakeholder in education—the student. We support HB 535 as a measure aimed at improving dismal civic readiness metrics in Kentucky and across the nation.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Blom  
President & CEO

# Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

*Building a Groundswell for a Big, Bold Future*

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