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## 1999 SENATE RESOLUTION 5

March 23, 2000 - Introduced by Senator Grobschmidt. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

<b>Relating to:</b> proclaiming	g September a	s "Citizenship	Month".
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Whereas, the American experiment of representative, self-governing democracy can only function effectively with the consent and participation of an enlightened, competent and responsible citizenry; and

Whereas, the various levels of governing — local, state, federal — must be understood by citizens if they are to communicate their views and ideas to representatives to shape and implement public policy; and

Whereas, overwhelming evidence exists that citizens have low opinions about the work of state legislatures and have relatively little knowledge about what their representatives do; and

Whereas, civic education is essential for citizens to develop a common language and understanding of politics and governing; and

Whereas, civic education is an important tool to develop the habits of civic virtue including civility, individual responsibility, self-discipline, open-mindedness,

1	compromise, tolerance of others, patience, persistence, compassion, generosity and
2	loyalty to one's nation and community; and
3	Whereas, civic education is most effective when the principles that sustain
4	representative democracy are instilled at an early age; and
5	Whereas, civic education programs in school classes, such as We the People
6	Project Citizen for middle school classes, are effective, successful tools for teaching
7	young citizens how to address state and local community public policy issues by
8	identifying a public policy problem in their community, gathering and evaluating
9	information on the problem, examining and evaluating solutions, selecting or
10	developing a proposed public policy and developing an action plan; and
11	Whereas, classes participating in such programs learn that government and
12	public service cannot just be observed, but must be experienced with hands-on
13	action and communication; and
14	Whereas, participation in such programs involves numerous segments of the
15	community in teaching students about the legislative process; and
16	Whereas, the federal government has proclaimed September 17 as Citizenship
17	Day, and the week of September 17 is Constitution Week; now, therefore, be it
18	Resolved by the senate, That civic education programs are ideal tools to teach
19	students about the reality and promise of citizenship in a representative democracy;
20	and, be it further
21	<b>Resolved, That</b> September is proclaimed "Citizenship Month" in Wisconsin.
22	(END)