

1999 SENATE RESOLUTION 5

March 23, 2000 – Introduced by Senator GROBSCHMIDT. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming September as “Citizenship Month”.

2 Whereas, the American experiment of representative, self-governing
3 democracy can only function effectively with the consent and participation of an
4 enlightened, competent and responsible citizenry; and

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

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

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

13 Whereas, civic education is an important tool to develop the habits of civic
14 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 ***Resolved, That*** September is proclaimed "Citizenship Month" in Wisconsin.

22 (END)