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NHBSR Hosts an Interactive Discussion on the Importance of Civics Education

Many school-age children lack an understanding of how the government works or the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen. This adversely impacts our future workforce. The interdependency of our market economy and constitutional democracy makes political instability a particular threat to economic sustainability and prosperity, putting at risk our businesses and employees.

“If our employees, don’t understand how our government works and their role and responsibilities as citizens, it won’t take long for government to break down. When government breaks down, our businesses and our entire economy will falter as well,” said Stephen Duprey of Foxfire NH. “Civics education is an absolute necessity.”

The Civics Secures Democracy (CSD) Act is an important step toward addressing these challenges. The CSD would authorize a historic investment to support K-12 civics and American history education. U.S. business leaders with diverse economic interests and a range of political views have a shared interest in improving the state of civics education in our schools.

Business for America (BFA) has been mobilizing companies to [sign a letter](#) of support for the bipartisan CSD act. Signatories include Allstate Insurance Co., Patagonia, Salesforce, the San Francisco 49ers and locally, New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR).

“Continued neglect of civics education will further weaken both our democratic institutions and our economic competitiveness. An investment in civics education produces a more informed and engaged citizenry, which leads to a more educated workforce, greater market stability and better economic outcomes,” said Sarah Bonk, founder of Business for America.

Join leaders in New Hampshire and NHBSR for a free webinar to discuss the importance of civics education to our communities and our businesses on Tuesday, August 30, from noon to 1 p.m. [Click to learn more and register](#) or visit our website at www.nhbsr.org.

“In a time when 70 percent of people born since 1980 think democracy is unessential, it is past time to redouble our efforts to provide ourselves and our children high-quality civics education aligned with best practices,” said Martha Madsen, executive director of NH Civics. “Employees most valued by businesses are those who have the skills taught in civics: collaboration,

leadership, negotiation, the ability to have a civil discussion and problem-solve across differences of opinion.”

Carisa Corrow, owner of Educating for Good, said for New Hampshire to thrive, we must change the way we approach civics education. “Public education is the collective opportunity for our youth to learn, practice and make mistakes as community members before they are voting age adults.”

She added that missing the opportunity to educate our youth will result in adult citizens who don’t exercise their right to vote, participate in local government or understand how the system works.

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