

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2021

Dear Students, Teachers & Friends,

Happy Civics Awareness Month! This month is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the importance of civics and encourage active citizenship. Thank you to the teachers who work each year to educate students about our country's history and the organization and political theories behind our governmental institutions. And, of course, thank you to each student for your willingness to learn and your eagerness to play a part in our system of self-government.

Civics is taught in schools throughout the country to educate students about the privileges and obligations of citizenship. For most, the title of citizen is one we carry throughout our long lives. It follows us through our early years as we learn the values and ideals that shaped this country, and it stays with us as we grow to exercise the rights and duties of citizenship. For others, the title of citizen is earned, and it is only given after leaving one country and pledging true faith and allegiance to the United States. Regardless of geography, ethnic background or economic circumstances, our citizenship is something that unites us. It is something that joins and literally defines us as Americans.

My message to students this month is this: Civics is not a subject found in dusty textbooks. It's not something to be learned one month and forgotten the next. It's the story of people coming together, working together and making decisions that affect the lives of each and every one of us. Writing your own chapter in this American story requires not only an understanding of the past but also a vision of how our country will fulfill its highest ideals in the future. It's up to your generation to continue the meaningful progress we've made in this important endeavor. I'm confident that you're all up to the task.

I hope this is the start of a long life of civic engagement and participation for each of you.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator