

CIVICS RENEWAL NETWORK

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Issue The civic issue that my class identified was wasteful government spending. We found that in 2011, \$35 million that used to fund the Center for Civic Education was cut when the Education for Democracy Act was labeled an earmark. And, we found that in 2013, the federal government spent \$58 million producing pennies. Civic Education could be funded and taxpayers could still save \$23 million!

Project Description My class of 21 students presented to a local panel in New Holstein that consisted of the Mayor, Superintendent, School Board Member and a few citizens. We also presented our idea to the entire Middle School Student body. We all mailed letters to Wisconsin Representatives Tammy Baldwin, Ron Johnson and Thomas Petri. Many of my classmates got responses from these representatives. We shared our stories on the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools website. We sent our essays to Mr. Jack Jarmes, the coordinator of Project Citizen for Wisconsin and Mr. Mark Molli at the Center for Civic Education. We also sent a request via e-mail to Wisconsin Public Television/Radio and Fox 11 news to take an interest in our story, but we did not hear back. Through our research we found that President Barack Obama has been very vocal in his support of a plan that would get rid of the penny but we have not attempted to contact him. Nor have we contacted the Sponsors of the 2006 Currency Overhaul Act Mr. Tom Feeney, Jeb Hensarling, and Roger Wicker. Or the sponsor of the 2001, Legal Tender Modernization Act representative James "Jim" Kolbe a Republican from Arizona. We should do that!

Project Outcome We are hoping that by presenting here, in Washington D.C., at the Civics Renewal Network's Constitution Day program 2014, we can garner more support from others who have been affected by the devastating cuts to civic education. We hope to meet legislators who like our idea and who will create and pass a bill to Ditch the Penny to Educate Many!

Request It would be wonderful if a senator or representative read our essays, asked us to help him draft a bill and created a solid plan to start eliminating the penny from production. It would be even more wonderful if one of them helped us create a plan to get federal funding for civic education restored to 2011 levels so that teachers can continue to be trained and students can continue to be educated.