Arming Students with the Constitution

Cato’s pocket Constitutions are a cornerstone of the Institute’s outreach—over six million have been distributed to date. And thanks to the generosity of Cato’s Sponsors, including those who have created planned gifts for our educational programs, we are able to donate copies to students across the country.

In some cases, our pocket Constitutions—which also contain the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the subsequent amendments, and a preface on the meaning of these documents by Cato’s Roger Pilon—are students’ first introduction to these vitally important writings. Like so many generations of Americans before them, these young people are profoundly affected by learning about the timeless principles of freedom and equality that animated the Founding.

Here are just a few thank-you notes we’ve received recently, from students at Slidell High School in Louisiana:

“[Our teacher] gave each of us one at the beginning of the school year and we’ve used them for class ever since. I would like to thank you for donating them. I’m not quite sure what I’d do without mine.”

“Thank you for providing a way for us to learn more about our nation’s great principles. . . . I have used my mini Constitution so much—this book has helped me have a better understanding of what our government is doing right and wrong according to the different amendments and the Constitution. . . . I have been able to learn numerous things that I had never known before about the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and the Bill of Rights.”

“I did not have a very good understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. . . . but thanks to you I was able to actually learn and understand more. I really do appreciate the generous donations because now I have a little Constitution with me that I can use and refer to very quickly if I ever need to.”

We thank our Sponsors for helping us empower these students with the knowledge of their rights and liberties. Getting the Constitution into the hands of the next generation is an important step in our shared battle to secure a future of freedom, prosperity, and limited government.

If you would like to discuss the vision and intent of your legacy at Cato, please contact Brian Mullis at bmullis@cato.org or 202-789-5263.