

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today commended students from Vestavia Hills High School for finishing second in the nation in the “We the People” competition in Washington.

Teacher Amy Maddox’s class represented the State of Alabama in the national civic competition, which is designed to enhance student understanding of American constitutional democracy. The students concluded three days of competition with a judged presentation in a congressional hearing room yesterday.

“The strength of American democracy depends on our citizens. The students put a tremendous amount of work into this project and have gained a great appreciation for our great gift of self-government. The high finish is a testament to their dedication and determination. My congratulations go to the students and their teacher, Amy Maddox, for representing the 6<sup>th</sup> District and Alabama with honor and distinction,” said Congressman Bachus.

The “We the People” program involves high school classes presenting testimony and answering questions about historical, political, and constitutional issues. In recognition of the Lincoln Bicentennial, Ms. Maddox’s class focused on the Emancipation Proclamation.

“This is the highest ranking that we have ever had in the competition. Our students worked very hard on this project. In fact, some have been preparing three years for this opportunity. I am very proud of our students and how they represented Alabama here in our nation’s capital,” said Maddox.

By coincidence, the students held their final presentation in a hearing room located adjacent to Congressman Bachus’ personal office in the Rayburn House Office Building.