



**Chiesman Center**  
*for DEMOCRACY, INC.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Wall eighth grade students present their South Dakota Project Citizen portfolios to the Wall School Board**

Wall, SD – On March 15th, Wall Middle School’s students presented their Project Citizen portfolios and documentation binders “*Fight for Less Appetite*” and “*No Pay, No Weigh*” to the Wall School Board. Also attending the presentation was the South Dakota Project Citizen State Coordinator Ms. DeVee Dietz and Dr. Helen Usera, President/CEO of the Chiesman Foundation for Democracy, Inc.

The portfolio “*Fight for Less Appetite*” scored an achievement level of Superior, which placed them third, earlier in the month at the South Dakota Project Citizen State Showcase that was held at the King’s Inn and Convention Center, in Pierre. The other portfolio “*No Pay, No Weigh*” received an achievement level of Exceptional competing against six other middle school portfolios. The event was held in conjunction with the Legislative Session and Civic Education Day at the Capitol.

South Dakota Project Citizen is a program of the Center for Civic Education and The Chiesman Center for Democracy. The South Dakota Project Citizen State Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentations are the culmination of an interactive civic education program designed to actively engage students in the civic life of their communities. In Project Citizen, a group of participating students identify and analyze issues facing their community (school, neighborhood, town or state). After they complete their research and evaluating the pros and cons, they propose a public policy to address the issue and develop an action plan detailing the steps to take to have their proposal adopted by the appropriate governing authority. Students develop a four panel portfolio based on their research made up of two components – a display and documentation binder. The portfolios are then evaluated by a panel of civically minded adults.

*The Chiesman Center for Democracy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that serves as a forum to provide greater awareness of the meaning of democracy and the importance of active citizen participation in the democratic process. The Center promotes and supports greater awareness of democratic ideals by citizens and organizations by providing programming for civic participation, education and research.*

**Photo Caption:** Wall Middle School eighth grade students present “*Fight for Less Appetite*” portfolio at the recent Wall School Board meeting.

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For more information on the event or about South Dakota Project Citizen please **contact:**

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