

**A Resolution to Eliminate Cash Bail**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The cash bail system functions by allowing pre-trial defendants, who are not  
2 released on their own recognizance, to post some amount of bail; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** People of color disproportionately receive higher bail amounts as well as an increased  
4 chance of being detained without bail; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** By eliminating the cash bail system, low-risk pretrial defendants have the ability to  
6 get released without having to worry about the burden of posting bail; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Lower-income Americans who cannot afford to stay in jail often plead guilty to  
8 crimes they did not commit in order to be released; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Bail inefficiently and unjustly detains people since the majority of defendants  
10 detained in jail are not convicted but awaiting trial; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The for-profit bail industry traps defendants unable to afford bail by establishing  
12 required non-refundable fees whether the defendant flees or does not flee; and
- 13 **WHEREAS,** It is for the common interest of all American citizens to ensure that the criminal  
14 justice system is fair and efficient; now, therefore, be it
- 15 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled calls for the elimination of cash bail.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Eric Xie  
Hillsborough High School*

**A Bill to Invest in High-Speed Rail**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall provide funding to create high-speed rail lines in excess of  
3 250 miles to the 65 most populous cities in the United States and to research future  
4 methods of rail travel.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. Research funded under this bill must study technologies or methods that improve  
6 the safety, efficiency, or affordability of passenger rail travel.

7 B. Rail travel is defined as any form of transportation that follows a pre-built track,  
8 rail, path, or tube. High-speed rail is any rail vehicle that has a cruising speed in  
9 excess of 180 miles per hour.

10 **SECTION 3.** A. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) shall be responsible for enforcing  
11 the provisions of this bill.

12 B. All funding will be provided by a Railroad Investment Tax, which will be an  
13 extra 0.1% tax on corporate and individual incomes. Five percent of the tax revenue  
14 will be allocated to the FRA for research and the remaining 95 percent will be  
15 allocated to Amtrak.

16 C. The provisions of this bill shall terminate on January 1, 2049.

17 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.

18 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Andrew Jung  
Jesuit High School*

**A Resolution to Promote a Security Alliance in the Middle East**

1 **WHEREAS,** Global security and stability are at risk because of individual interests to control the  
2 Middle East; and

3 **WHEREAS,** The United States’ interest in preventing nuclear proliferation and ending  
4 government support for terrorist organizations that plague our strongest ally in the  
5 region is consistent with the goals and aims of other states in the Middle East; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Ensuring access to resources in the Middle East and the enforcement of shipping  
7 rights in the Strait of Hormuz requires constant presence; and

8 **WHEREAS,** A unified security alliance allows the United States to have greater influence in  
9 Middle East governance and protect American interests; now, therefore, be it

10 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled officially supports the creation of, and  
11 alliance with, a Middle East Security Alliance (MESA) consisting of Bahrain,  
12 Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the United Arab  
13 Emirates, and including a collective defense agreement similar to NATO Article 5;  
14 and, be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Student Congress encourages the president to host a MESA  
16 conference before the end of the year.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Darren Peters  
King High School*

**A Resolution to Require Foreign Language Courses in High Schools**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Not all states require high school students to take a foreign language class to  
2 graduate; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Being multilingual increases the chances of a job candidate being hired; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** Making foreign language classes a graduation requirement forces students to learn  
5 another language; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Foreign language classes will better prepare students for the workforce; now,  
7 therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled urges high schools to require students to  
9 have six semesters of foreign language classes to graduate.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dana Molina  
Riverview High School*

**A Bill to Ban Semi-Automatic Firearms**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** For civilians, it shall be unlawful to use, sell, redistribute, and maintain  
3 semi-automatic firearms publicly and privately.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. "Semi-automatic firearms" shall be defined as firearms which use the force  
5 of recoil or gas to eject the empty case and load a fresh cartridge into the firing  
6 chamber for the next shot and which allow repeat shots solely through the action of  
7 pulling the trigger.

8 B. "Civilians" shall be defined as people not in the armed services or the police  
9 force.

10 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Justice shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of  
11 this bill.

12 B. The Attorney General shall designate a program to buyback individual  
13 semi-automatic firearms from civilians.

14 C. The aforementioned program shall obtain 3 billion dollars in annual funding from  
15 the Department of Justice until the buyback is complete.

16 D. A civilian who fails to comply with the provisions of this bill shall be charged  
17 500 dollars and will have his or her gun confiscated.

18 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.

19 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jorge Hernandez  
Riverview High School*

**A Resolution to Increase Funding Towards Nuclear Energy Research**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Sources of reliable energy are becoming increasingly limited; and  
2 **WHEREAS,** Cheap fossil fuels continue to take a massive toll on the planet’s environment;  
3 and  
4 **WHEREAS,** Environmental threats such as the greenhouse effect, air pollution, acid rain, and  
5 climate change continue to escalate in severity; now, therefore, be it  
6 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled demand that there be an increased  
7 funding towards nuclear energy research.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Alexander Stephan  
Sarasota High School*

**A Resolution to Ban the Use of E-Cigarette Products by Minors**

1 **WHEREAS,** In America, the health of many minors is being threatened by use of electronic  
2 cigarettes; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Use of previously mentioned products are causing minors to develop nicotine  
4 addiction, respiratory health issues, and brain developmental issues; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Banning the use of e-cigarettes for minors would help decrease the number of  
6 minors who develop harmful tobacco habits in later years; now, therefore, be it

7 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled calls for a ban on the use of Electronic  
8 cigarette products by any person under the age of eighteen.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Elizabeth Jeffrey  
Sarasota High School*

**A Resolution to Remove Economic Sanctions on Iran**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The United States has imposed unfair sanctions on Iran; and
- 2 **WHEREAS,** These economic sanctions are not the most effective method for achieving the goals
- 3 the United States has set forth in Iran; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The international community, and especially the European Union has heavily
- 5 criticized the imposition of sanctions; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Removing the sanctions would be beneficial to the Iranian economy and please the
- 7 international community; now, therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled calls for the removal of United States
- 9 sanctions on Iran.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marco Scalera  
Southeast High School*

**A Resolution to Remove the Citizenship Question from the 2020 Census**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The Census is obligated to count “all persons” in the United States, regardless  
2 of citizenship or documentation, for purposes of apportionment; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** The Commerce Department has announced that the 2020 Census questionnaire will  
4 include a question about respondents’ citizenship; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** This question is not necessary for any function of the Census; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The Trump Administration’s immigration enforcement actions provide reason to  
7 fear that citizenship or residency data could be used in support of removals; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** This fear will drive down response rates, increasing nonresponse follow-up costs;  
9 and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** The decreased response will result in an undercount in places with high immigrant  
11 populations, depriving those places of representation and federal funds to which  
12 they are entitled; now, therefore, be it
- 13 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled calls for the removal of the citizenship  
14 question from the 2020 Census.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Florida Gulf Coast CFL*

**A Bill to Prohibit Gun Ownership by Domestic Abusers**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** It shall be unlawful for any domestic abuser or accused domestic abuser to possess a  
3 firearm for any reason.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. As used herein, a “domestic abuser” is any person convicted of a crime of  
5 domestic violence as defined by applicable state law.

6 B. As used herein, an “accused domestic abuser” is any person against whom  
7 domestic violence charges, as defined by applicable state law, are pending.

8 C. An accused domestic abuser may surrender his/her firearms to a duly constituted  
9 law enforcement authority and reclaim them if acquitted.

10 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Justice shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of  
11 this bill.

12 B. Violation of the provisions of this bill shall be punishable by imprisonment for a  
13 term of 5 years. Multiple sentences for violations of this bill shall be served  
14 consecutively.

15 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect 30 days after passage.

16 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Florida Gulf Coast CFL*

**A Resolution to Create a “Notwithstanding Clause” for Legislation**

1 **WHEREAS,** An activist judiciary has made ordinary policymaking nearly impossible in such  
2 vital areas as campaign finance reform; and

3 **WHEREAS,** The Congress has the power over both the inferior courts and the appellate  
4 jurisdiction of the Supreme Court; and

5 **WHEREAS,** The Congress, in extraordinary circumstances, should therefore have the power to  
6 legislate without regard to the judiciary; now, therefore, be it

7 **RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed  
8 as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all  
9 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of  
10 the several states within ten years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

11 **ARTICLE --**

12 SECTION 1. The Congress may exempt a newly enacted law from constitutional  
13 review by declaring, upon passage, that the law shall take effect  
14 notwithstanding any other ruling of law, but such laws shall  
15 terminate five years after passage.

16 SECTION 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate  
17 legislation, the provisions of this article.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Florida Gulf Coast CFL*

**A Bill to Abolish ICE**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Homeland Security agency named U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
3 (hereinafter “ICE”) shall be abolished.

4 **SECTION 2.** All of ICE’s investigatory and removal authority shall be transferred to the  
5 Department of Justice. All of ICE’s enforcement authority shall be transferred to  
6 Customs and Border Protection.

7 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice shall be  
8 responsible for enforcing the provisions of this bill.

9 B. All appropriations not related to the authorities transferred in Section 2 of this bill  
10 shall be transferred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

11 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect October 1, 2019.

12 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Florida Gulf Coast CFL*

## Rejected Legislation

The following legislation was timely but has been deemed unsatisfactory for the reasons given below. This legislation MAY NOT be debated at this tournament, but if it can be repaired to address ALL of the issues below, it MAY be submitted to the next tournament. ADVANCE REVIEW OF LEGISLATION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

Coaches may email further inquiries to the Congress Coordinator.

### **A Bill to Deny Recognition to Artificial Expansionary Islands**

Incorrect format (topic requires a resolution)

### **A Resolution to Reduce Carbon Pollution**

Incorrect template

### **A Resolution to Require Comprehensive Sexual Education Classes in Public High Schools**

No text

### **A Bill to Reform the Nuclear Policy (Convert Weapons to Energy)**

Does not conform to FGCCFL bill structure

### **A Bill to Admit Puerto Rico to the Union**

Incorrect format (topic requires a resolution)

### **A Bill to Nationalize Health Insurance**

Insufficient content to allow for preparation and debate