



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

**SEPTEMBER 2019
LEGISLATION DOCKET**



A Resolution to Raise the Poverty Line

A Resolution to Raise the Poverty Line

1 **WHEREAS,** The current poverty line for a family of four in the continental United
 2 States is \$25,750, +/- \$4,420 for addition or fewer family members; and
 3 **WHEREAS,** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is only available to those
 4 who earn 130% of the federal poverty level. Households must also have
 5 less than \$3,500 in assets with an elderly or disabled person, or \$2,250 or
 6 less in households without an elderly or disabled member.; and
 7 **WHEREAS,** Medicaid is only available to families whose income is 138% of the
 8 poverty level; and
 9 **WHEREAS,** The Affordable Care Act provides insurance subsidies for households
 10 between 138% and 400% of the poverty level; and
 11 **WHEREAS,** The poverty guidelines are the same across the nation, except for Hawaii
 12 and Alaska. They ignore the wide difference in the cost of living between
 13 states; and
 14 **WHEREAS,** As a result, benefits buy more in rural areas, but the opportunities to find
 15 a good job and escape poverty are in more urban areas; now, therefore,
 16 be it
 17 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the current poverty line rates be
 18 increased by 25% (5% each year) by July 1st, 2024.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association

A Resolution to Slash the United States Military Budget**A Resolution to Slash the United States Military Budget**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The current United States military budget is \$740 billion dollars; and
- 2 **WHEREAS,** The United States military budge accounts for over half of all federal
- 3 discretionary spending; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The Pentagon is asking for \$989 billion in its fiscal 2020 budget; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Military spending is the second largest item in the federal
- 6 budget after Social Security; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** The United States spends more on defense than the next nine countries
- 8 combined; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** The defense base budget of \$576 billion funds the National Security
- 10 Strategy and National Defense Strategy.; now, therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States military budget
- 12 shall be reduced to only 10% over the defense base budget by the 2021
- 13 fiscal year.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association

A Resolution to Reduce the Congressional Pension Benefit

A Resolution to Reduce the Congressional Pension Benefit

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Currently, Congressional pay is \$174,000 per year, which, at an 80-
2 percent rate, equates to a lifelong pension benefit of \$139,200; and
3 **WHEREAS,** All benefits are taxpayer-funded; and
4 **WHEREAS,** Members of Congress enjoy the same Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) as all
5 other federal employees, which is similar to a 401(k); and
6 **WHEREAS,** As of 2019, members who participated in the congressional pension
7 system are vested after five (5) years of service; and
8 **WHEREAS,** A full pension is available to members 62 years of age with 5 years of
9 service; 50 years or older with 20 years of service; or 25 years of service
10 at any age; and
11 **WHEREAS,** This costs U.S. taxpayers over \$75 million dollars each year; now,
12 therefore, be it
13 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the Congressional Pension benefit
14 be reduced by 25% (5% each year) by July 1st, 2024.

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A Bill to Forgive All Student Loan Debt after Five Years

A Bill to Forgive All Student Loan Debt after Five Years

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All current and future student loan debt held by individuals after five
3 years of qualifying payments shall be forgiven.

4 **SECTION 2.** Student loan debt refers to debt from loans for higher education,
5 qualifying payments refer to timely payments made toward paying off
6 student loans, forgiven means that the remaining money owed will be
7 the burden of the lender to cover.

8 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Education and the United States
9 Treasury will oversee the enforcement of the bill to ensure no violations
10 occur by lenders and that all qualifying payments are processed.

11 A. Any lenders found to still be collecting payments after the five years
12 of qualifying payments will be fined \$1 million per incidence.

13 B. All money collected from fines will be used to fund materials for
14 public schools in the United States.

15 **SECTION 4.** This policy will go into effect at the start of the 2021 fiscal year.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Remove United States Military from the US-Mexico Border

**A Bill to Remove United States Military
from the U.S.-Mexico Border**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All none required United States military personal shall be removed from
3 the U.S.-Mexico border.

4 **SECTION 2.** Required military personal refers to the military presence needed to
5 maintain boarder security.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Homeland Security Department and the Department of Defense will
7 oversee the enforcement of the bill.

8 A. All none required troops must be stationed in a new assignment
9 within 30 days of removal from the boarder.

10 B. No new military personal can be added to the United States border
11 patrol for at least three years after this legislation passes.

12 **SECTION 4.** This policy will go into effect at the start of the 2020 fiscal year.

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

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A Resolution to Create a More Sustainable United States Healthcare System**A Resolution to Create a More Sustainable United States Healthcare System**

1 **WHEREAS,** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) introduced
2 the prospects for major reforms in payment for and organization of care,
3 in prevention and population health, and in approaches to continuous
4 improvement. Yet it remains under legal assault and a cloud of
5 controversy; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Although annual health care spending in the United States nears \$10,739
7 per person (\$3.5 trillion), the current system is eroding—often denying
8 patients basic services; and

9 **WHEREAS,** Inequitable distribution of resources continues, and an increasing
10 number of American families do not have access to adequate care; and

11 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. has higher prices for most health care services and prescription
12 drugs, and spends almost double per person than any other comparable
13 wealthy country according to available internationally comparable data.
14 Meanwhile, utilization of several services, including physician
15 consultations and hospital stays, is lower than in many comparable
16 countries; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States develop a new
18 Universal healthcare system by July 1st, 2025.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Cut Foreign Aid to Eliminate US Foreign Debt

A Bill to Cut Foreign Aid to Eliminate U.S. Foreign Debt

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government must cut all foreign aid by 50% by
3 the 2022 fiscal year to help eliminate the National Debt.

4 **SECTION 2.** Foreign aid refers to any assistance given by the United States to foreign
5 nations. The National Debt refers to the ever growing \$22.03 trillion
6 dollars of U.S. debt.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Treasury will oversee the enforcement of the bill
8 along with the U.S. State Department to enforce the limitation of the
9 distribution of foreign aid.

10 A. U.S. foreign aid accounts for just over 1% of the federal budget.

11 B. Funds cut from foreign spending will be used to offset the National
12 Debt by paying off debt held by foreign entities (\$5.86 trillion).

13 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented by the start of the 2022 fiscal year.

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

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