

A Bill to Require New School Buses to be Equipped with Seatbelts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED

SECTION 1. This bill will be named the “Safe School Transport Act of 2016,” and will require that new school buses to be equipped with three-point safety belts at each designated seating position.

SECTION 2. In this act, the term “school bus” refers to motor vehicle which carries 10 or more passengers in addition to the operator for the purpose of transporting:

- A. Pupils to or from a public school or a private school or pupils to or from a technical school when required.
- B. Pupils to or from curricular or extracurricular activities.
- C. Pupils to or from religious instruction on days when school is in session.
- D. Children with disabilities to or from an educational program approved by the department of public education.

The term “three-point safety belt” refers to the occupant restraint system that consists of

- A. A lap belt designed to restrict movement of the pelvis; and
- B. A shoulder belt or a device that similarly provides restricted movement of the chest and shoulder regions.

SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation will oversee the enactment of this bill, issuing a rule that requires school buses to be equipped with a three-point safety belt at each designated seating position in the vehicle. The act will apply with respect to school buses manufactured in or imported into the United States.

SECTION 4. This will become effective within one year of the enactment of this act.

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

*Respectfully Submitted,
Knoch High School*

A Bill to Standardize and Reinforce the Castle Doctrine

Section 1: Definitions

Whereas(a): A *Stand Your Ground Clause* allows a defendant to use deadly force in self defense without initially retreating. A *Duty to Retreat Clause* is a law stating that one may only use deadly force in self defense after retreating until they could retreat no further.

Section 2: Application by Location

Whereas(a): Any person, while in the safety of their home, vehicle, or workplace who is confronted by an intruder who has forcefully entered said home, vehicle, or workplace shall not be required to retreat or to notify the authorities prior to using deadly force upon the intruder. Furthermore, any person found to be acting in self defense of an intruder while in their home, vehicle, or workplace shall not be indicted for any injury or death that may result from their self defensive actions. Moreover, an intruder into a defendant's workplace need not enter forcefully to qualify for self defense if the intruder threatens the clerk or employees of the workplace.

Whereas(b): Any person, while not in the safety of their home, vehicle, or workplace who is confronted by a belligerent party shall have a *Duty to Retreat* as far as possible before resorting to deadly force in the form of self defense. Failing to retreat as far as possible or until one reaches their home, vehicle, or workplace will result in all actions of the defendant being tried as though they were not in self defense and all protections contained in this legislation be rendered null and void.

Section 3: Conflicting Legislation

Whereas(a): All conflicting state legislation is hereby declared null and void.

Therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT: Persons acting in self defense and under the above conditions be exempt from all relevant indictment related to their self defense.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shady Side Academy

A BILL TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR INMATES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Convicted individuals in American prisons who suffer from mental illness
3 will be given adequate means for rehabilitation. No longer with American
4 prisons perpetuate cases of mental illness but will rather work to combat
5 this epidemic.

6 **SECTION 2.** Mental illness is defined by any mental health condition or addiction that
7 impacts cognitive behavior and health. Adequate means for rehabilitation
8 will be defined by sufficient staffing and training of prison officials.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health shall implement this legislation. 7 million
10 dollars shall be removed from the Department of Defense budget and
11 allocated towards the function of this legislation.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Rep. Ella Attell
Hawken School*

A Bill to Encourage Affordable Housing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rental assistance programs will cease to issue funds to or in localities, whether state or municipal, where yearly increases in rent are not capped at or below 7% plus inflation.

SECTION 2. Rental assistance programs include privately owned subsidized housing, Public Housing, and Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).

SECTION 3. HUD will restructure its process for issuing funds under the programs listed in Section 2 to ensure that all funds are issued in compliance with Section 1.

If at any point during the year the laws are not in compliance with Section 1, the funding for the entire year shall be considered out of compliance.

Funds issued in violation of Section 1 must be recouped by HUD in full within 18 months of the discovery of the error.

SECTION 4. This law will take effect January 1, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Yale Congressional Debate Tab Staff.

A Bill to Fund Childcare in the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** A. Free, appropriate, and public childcare will be made available for all permanent legal resident children living in the United States from age 3 months until Kindergarten.
B. Public childcare will be paid for by a new 3% Digital Services Tax (DST) on companies operating in the United States.
- SECTION 2.** A. Free, appropriate, and public childcare will include day-care centers and preschools that will meet the developmental needs of each child without cost to the parent. Childcare should align with the local schools in length of day and calendar.
B. A digital service tax is a duty on gross revenues derived from activities in which users are deemed to play a major role in value creation, including the following activities; the placing on a digital interface of advertising targeting the users of that interface, the making available to users of a multi-sided digital interface which allows users to find other users and to interact with them, and which may also facilitate the provision of underlying supplies of goods or services directly between users, and the transmission or sale of data collected about users and generated from users' activities on digital interfaces.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Education will oversee the states' compliance with Section 1 A of the law and the distribution of funds collected through the digital services tax
States whose plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) that do not comply with Section 1 A will not be seen in compliance with the federal education law and will have funds withheld in accordance with that law.
Current funding levels and sources for early education may not be reduced in response to the act and all monies collected from the DST shall be allocated above current funding levels.
- SECTION 4.** A. The DST (Section 1 B) will be levied beginning January 1, 2021.
B. Section 1 A will take effect August 1, 2023
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Yale Congressional Debate Tab Staff.

A Bill to End Military Support to Saudi Arabia

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States will no longer provide arms and tactical intelligence to Saudi Arabia.

3 SECTION 2. Arms shall be defined as any instrument of war designed with the intent to harm individuals.

4 Tactical Intelligence shall be defined as any information that can be used to support war efforts in
5 any way.

6 SECTION 3. The Department of Defense shall oversee the implementation of this bill.

7 SECTION 4. This bill shall be implemented immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Thomas Jefferson High School

A Bill to Abolish Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. A. The United States shall hereby abolish all current mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

3 B. The Department of Justice shall work in collaboration with state legislatures to encourage the
4 abolition of state mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

5 C. \$500 million shall be distributed through categorical grants to states that comply for the
6 purpose of hiring judges to prevent potential case backlog.

7 SECTION 2. A. Mandatory minimum sentencing laws shall be defined as any laws that require that offenders
8 serve a predefined term for certain crimes, even if against the discretion of the judge.

9 B. Categorical grants shall be defined as money given to state and local governments for programs
10 and projects with specific limitations on how that money is to be spent.

11 SECTION 3. The Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Department of Justice shall work in conjunction with each
12 of the 50 states and their respective legislatures and correctional agencies in order to enforce this
13 legislation.

14 SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Western High School

BCT 102

A Bill to Address Climate Change

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States shall:

3 A: End the current tax benefits and cuts given to fossil fuel companies.

4 B: Implement a carbon tax at a per-ton rate of \$50, which would rise at a rate of 2% each
5 subsequent year.

6 C: Give states categorical grants for the purpose of investing in carbon capture and geoengineering
7 technologies.

8 SECTION 2. The money raised from the carbon tax will be used to fund the aforementioned categorical grants.

9 The size of the grants shall vary directly with states' preexisting investments into green energy
10 technologies.

11 SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency shall be charged with the implementation of this
12 legislation.

13 SECTION 4. This law shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by American Heritage School – Boca/Delray