

Congress Bill Packet Version 1.0

This is the tentative collection of bills for the 2020 Columbia Invitational. Edits or late submissions may be considered through Wednesday – for best results, email me at jjnorris@gmail.com. Chambers should be published early next week.

*** DOCKET DISCUSSION → bit.ly/3a4oWN3 ***

Students should use the above link to contribute to the docket discussion. Instructions are contained within, but it's basically the same discussion you were inevitably going to have anyway, except everyone gets the link and it will be *lightly* moderated for courtesy & respectfulness. Just don't be a jerk is all.

A Bill to Implement a Nationwide Vehicle Mile Tax (VMT)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal gasoline excise tax is hereby abolished and replaced with a
3 nationwide vehicle mile tax (VMT) of 0.6 cents per rural mile and 4.2
4 cents per urban mile. This money will be allocated to the Highway Trust
5 Fund (HTF).

6 **SECTION 2.** A VMT is an excise tax levied on drivers based on the distance they drive.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service in conjunction to the Department of
8 Transportation shall be in charge of the implementation of this
9 legislation.

10 A. No vehicle point location may be tracked or saved.

11 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented beginning fiscal year 2020.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Shreya Thalvayapati, Hopkinton High School.

A Bill to Stop Military Aid to Pakistan to Fight Terror

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall cease sending military aid to Pakistan until it stops
3 sponsoring terrorist groups.

4 **SECTION 2.** Military aid is defined as physical military equipment that can be used in
5 combat or in combat support operations, or monetary aid designated for
6 purchasing military equipment.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense and Department of State shall oversee this
8 legislation.

9 **SECTION 4.** This law shall go into effect 30 days following its passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rep. Aditya Kumar from Thomas Jefferson High School

A Resolution to Recommend the Senate to Ratify the UNCLOS to Validate Claims to Economic Exclusion Zones

1 **WHEREAS,** The United States has not ratified the United Nations
2 Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) and as such, does not have
3 any internationally recognized Economic Exclusion Zones; and
4 **WHEREAS,** Due to this fact foreign nations do not respect American
5 claims to Economic Exclusion Zones, threatening American sovereignty;
6 and
7 **WHEREAS,** domestic sailors could compete with foreign sailors in what
8 should be American waters; and
9 **WHEREAS,** The United States can't support other smaller countries to
10 stand up to larger oppressive powers in maritime laws; now, therefore, be
11 it
12 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled recommend the
13 Senate ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas; and,
14 be it
15 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the United States Government should, upon
16 ratification, oversee diplomatic and military efforts to enforce these
17 economic claims

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rep. Nishad Manohar from Thomas Jefferson High School.

A Resolution to End Cash Bail to Promote Equality In the Justice System

1 **WHEREAS,** under the current bail system, individuals in custody who
2 make cash bail may need to pay a deposit to be released; and
3 **WHEREAS,** lower-income individuals cannot afford to pay cash bail in
4 some cases; and
5 **WHEREAS,** these individuals serve extensive time in the penal system
6 whilst waiting for their trial; now, therefore, be it
7 **RESOLVED,** by the Student Congress here that cash bail in state courts
8 shall be abolished, and, be it
9 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Congress urges State legislatures to act on
10 this resolution.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Neeya Shetty, Half Hollow Hills East

A Resolution to Remove Turkey From NATO to Save Lives

1 **WHEREAS,** Turkey invaded a foreign sovereign state Syria with
2 imperialistic intentions; and
3 **WHEREAS,** Attacking a foreign state that has recently been through a
4 civil war puts stress on their people and their government which may lead
5 to loss of life; and
6 **WHEREAS,** Allowing The Republic of Turkey to attack Syria and
7 collaborate with Russia can lead to a former ally aligning themselves with
8 our greatest enemy; now, therefore, be it
9 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled make the
10 following recommendation to The North Atlantic Treaty Organization to
 remove Turkey from NATO.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sarah Abrams, Half Hollow Hills East

A Bill to Temporarily Shut Down “Libra” to Better Protect Users’ Privacy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Libra will not be permitted to operate until a thorough
- 2 investigation into Facebook’s security takes place.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** This shutdown will be regulated by the United States House
- 4 of Representatives Committee on Financial Services and the investigation
- 5 will be conducted by the Justice Department.
- 6 **SECTION 3.** In order for Facebook to be allowed to resume its “Libra”
- 7 initiative, it will need to alter its terms and conditions to better protect
- 8 users’ privacy and improve security measures to prevent future breaches.
- 9 **SECTION 4.** The above goes into effect immediately upon passage.
- 10 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared
- 11 null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Natalie Krevitt of The Chapin School.

A Bill to Limit the President's Pardoning Power in Order to Prevent Abuse of Power

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution shall be
2 amended to state: The President ... shall have Power to grant Reprieves
3 and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of
4 impeachment and personal relations to the president.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Personal relations will be defined as any person:
6 A. Who has previously worked with the president, both in and outside of
7 the office.
8 B. Who has aided the president through campaign donations.
9 C. Who has helped facilitate impeachable offenses.
- 10 **SECTION 3.** This amendment will be implemented by the subcommittee
11 on the Constitution, under the Committee on the Judiciary.
- 12 **SECTION 4.** The above goes into effect on January 1, 2020.
- 13 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared
 null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Anjali Tandon of The Chapin School.

A Bill to Reform Drug Rehabilitation to Alleviate the Opioid Crisis

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SPBG) will receive an additional \$500 million annually for five years, with additional funds reserved for rehabilitation programs utilizing evidence-based therapies focusing on the implementation of Medication-Assisted Treatment. SPBG recipients must reapply every three years.

SECTION 2. MAT is defined as Medication-Assisted Treatment under the guidelines outlined by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

SECTION 3. A. The SAMHSA will implement this piece of legislation.
B. The CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) Office of Field Operations, and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) will have their budgets reduced respectively by \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion, spread evenly over a five-year period to fund this piece of legislation.

SECTION 4. This bill will take into effect in FY2021

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Amy Xiao of Newton South High School

A Bill to Ban Tobacco Products to Promote Public Health

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The manufacture or sale of tobacco products in hereby banned.

3 **SECTION 2.** “Tobacco products” include but are not limited to cigarettes, hookahs, and
4 e-cigarettes.

5 A. “Cigarette” is defined as a cylinder of finely cut tobacco rolled in
6 paper made for smoking.

7 B. “Hookah” is defined as a tobacco pipe that draws the smoke through
8 water contained in a bowl.

9 C. “E-cigarette” is defined as an electric nicotine delivery system.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice specifically, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
11 Firearms, and Explosives will oversee implementation of this legislation.

12 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2022.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Laila Polk, Newton South High School.

A BILL TO ESTABLISH MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

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

2 **SECTION 1.** All state middle and high schools are now required to have mental health
3 programs that adequately address the mental illnesses of their students.

4 The federal government shall provide funds for the training and hiring of
5 qualified therapists.

6 **SECTION 2. (A)** State and local school systems that receive any federal education
7 funding are subject to the revocation of such funds if they are deemed not
8 to be in compliance with this legislation.

9 **(B)** Mental illnesses include, but are not limited to: depression; anxiety;
10 drug addiction; and eating, mood, and personality disorders.

11 **(C)** A school is considered to have fulfilled the requirement of Section 1
12 when they provide treatment and/or appropriate referrals that have aided at
13 least 75% of students deemed to be in need of assistance.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education and the National Institute of Mental Health
15 (NIMH) will oversee the legislation. The Department of Education will
16 disburse \$15 billion over three years for the hiring and training of
17 qualified therapists sufficient to address the requirements of this
18 legislation.

19 **(A)** The NIMH shall create and enforce guidelines which define the
20 minimum qualifications for these therapists, as well as the required
21 standard of care.

22 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect within one year from the date of passage. The
23 bill's requirements, and the potential revocation of funding, shall take
24 effect within four years of passage.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Murgida
Xavier High School*

A Bill to Ban Quantum Computer Research Among Civilians to Prevent the Creation of Dangerous Artificial Intelligence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All Quantum Computing Research among civilians must cease and be archived and sent to the government.

SECTION 2. Quantum computing is the area of study focused on developing computer technology based on the principles of quantum theory, which explains the nature and behavior of energy and matter on the quantum (atomic and subatomic) level.

SECTION 3. A new bureau called the Bureau of Technology and Digital Weapons will be created to enforce this bill.

A. This bureau will assess Quantum Computing threats as well as regulate bans on dangerous technology.

B. This bureau will be allocated 150 million dollars from the Department of Defense to begin government research on Quantum Computing.

C. The bureau shall be a merge of the technology section of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

D. The bureau shall be fully staffed by December 31, 2020.

SECTION 4. All Quantum computing research must cease by December 31, 2020. Any company or individual who is found conducting Quantum Computer Research will be tried for creating a weapon of mass destruction.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bridget O'Neill, Cardinal Newman HS.

A Bill to Reform Federal Student Loans to Base Repayment on Future Income Equity

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All Federal Direct Loans to students shall no longer be repaid in terms of
3 the total amount borrowed plus interest. Instead, these loans shall be
4 repaid in the form of equity in the borrower's future income.

5 **SECTION 2.** "Equity" shall refer to a set percentage of a borrower's income from all
6 sources over a given time period. All recipients of these loans shall repay
7 them with a fixed percentage (see below) of their total income, from all
8 sources, during the twenty-five (25) years immediately following the
9 departure from their educational institution.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall continue to administer the Direct
11 Loan Program. It shall establish a uniform base rate of repayment based
12 on the average expected earnings of all college graduates during the
13 repayment period (as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) and
14 the average borrower's debt load. This base rate will then be adjusted
15 according to each individual student's specific amount borrowed to
16 determine his or her actual repayment rate.

17 A. The Internal Revenue Service shall act as the collection arm for these
18 student loans.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect on January 1st, 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted by Michael Ljubich, Xavier High School

Super Session Legislation

A Resolution in Support of a Pacific Defense Treaty

WHEREAS, The United States and her Pacific allies presently lack a formal alliance for mutual defense and diplomatic coordination, such as the U.S. enjoys with NATO in Europe; and

WHEREAS, States in the Pacific Ocean and its surrounding seas face ongoing and escalating threats from aggressive, expansionist nations, including Russia, North Korea, and the People's Republic of China, as well as a host of smaller regional disputes; and

WHEREAS, The United States' recent withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other international agreements has eroded the trust of its allies and diminished its level of diplomatic influence around the world; and

WHEREAS, A formal alliance would provide a structure for more coordinated & effective responses to threats, lend international legitimacy to such responses, and create a structure for dispute resolution within said alliance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here, assembled that the United States supports the creation of a Pacific Defensive Treaty that formalizes ties and institutes a policy of mutual defense, with the original members being The United States of America, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Singapore, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Nate Kelley, Xavier High School

A Bill to Reform the Immigration Process to Encourage Educated Immigrants

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will increase the budget by 1.2 billion dollars for the
3 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and raise the
4 immigration cap by 50,000 people to offer a merit based green card
5 application.

6 **SECTION 2.** USCIS will use this funding to streamline the immigration process,
7 modernize its utilities, and increase the amount of applications processed.
8 A merit based green card application will also be offered in addition to
9 those of the status quo.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), under
11 the Department of Homeland Security will oversee the enforcement of this
12 bill.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented in FY 2021.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Medha Gupta, Thomas Jefferson High School.

A Bill to Ensure Equal Representation of American Territories to Save Democracy

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The American territories of American Samoa, the Northern Mariana
3 Islands, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands shall each be entitled to at least
4 one member in the US House of Representatives.

5 **SECTION 2. (A)** The number of Congressional Representatives shall be computed
6 according to the Huntington-Hill method and apportioned based on
7 population size.

8 **(B)** The number of Representatives is set at five hundred and thirty-
9 seven.

10 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Census Bureau shall oversee the implementation of this
11 legislation.

12 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ellen Yang, Newton South High School.