

A Resolution to Hold Shale Companies Accountable

Whereas “In 2014, Pennsylvania became the second-largest natural gas producer in the U.S. and remains so today, behind only Texas. In 2017, gas production exceeded 5.3 trillion cubic feet and continues to rise. Despite rising production, Pennsylvania remains the only major gas-producing state that allows companies to drill without paying taxes that increase with the volume of gas extracted” according to the PA Budget and Policy Center.

Whereas Texas brings in more than 15 billion in taxes from shale drilling, and Pennsylvania brings in less than a million.

Whereas in Pennsylvania, lobbyists have spent million in gifts to representatives to try to stop the industry from being taxed, and our representatives are already the third highest paid in the country.

Whereas Pennsylvania representatives do not have a limit on the amount of gifts that they accept from lobbyists. Last year, the average amount accepted by one of the representatives was \$83,000. These include gifts of food, vacations, alcohol, and cash. Gifts smaller than \$250 (or \$650 in travel) do not have to be reported).

Whereas Pennsylvania is one of the only states that allows this “buying” of representatives from lobbyists.

Therefore be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that shale companies and their lobbyists cannot give any gifts – of any amount – to PA representatives, and a tax amount similar to what shale companies pay in Texas must be paid in Pennsylvania as well.

Respectfully submitted,

North Allegheny

A Resolution to Provide Prescription Relief

WHEREAS, the cost of pharmaceuticals has increased exponentially; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is currently legally barred from negotiating prices
with pharmaceutical companies; and

WHEREAS, many necessary drugs are not yet available in generic forms; and

WHEREAS, companies claim that they need high prices to continue with research and
development; and

WHEREAS, our current healthcare system is built of private health-care insurers; and

WHEREAS, some of them already offer their own prescription drug plans; now,
therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that every health care insurer should
negotiate their own prices for prescription drugs from the
pharmaceutical companies directly, which may include importing from
foreign countries if necessary.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Upper St Clair High School.

A BILL TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States federal government will reallocate \$250 million from the
3 Department of Defense budget to fund Alzheimer's disease research and
4 prevention.

5 **SECTION 2.** Alzheimer's disease will be defined as a progressive disorder that causes brain
6 cells to waste away (degenerate) and die, which results in the loss of memory
7 and other important mental functions. Alzheimer's Association will be defined
8 as a non-government organization (NGO) that is the leading voluntary health
9 organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will oversee the
11 implementation of this legislation.

12 **A.** \$200 million will be allotted to the Alzheimer's Association to fund
13 further research.

14 **B.** \$50 million will be used by the CDC to fund campaigns to increase
15 awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the importance of early diagnosis.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect two months after its passing.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Madison Central High School

A Resolution to Ban Assault Weapons to Reduce Gun Violence

Whereas assault weapons must be banned in order to reduce gun violence in the United States;
and

Whereas nearly 40,000 people died from gun violence in 2017. The United States' gun death rate is the highest out of all developed countries; and

Whereas "assault weapon" shall be defined as any of various automatic or semiautomatic firearms (Merriam-Webster Dictionary); and

Whereas the rate of gun deaths in the United States is getting increasingly worse yearly, so we must do something immediately;

Therefore be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that the US bans assault weapons to reduce gun violence.

Respectfully submitted,

North Allegheny

A BILL TO ERASE RECORDS FOR NONVIOLENT CRIMINALS

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government will mandate that all records of federal
3 nonviolent criminals and their crimes are erased when they have completed
4 their sentence and have been released back into society. All employers will be
5 prohibited from asking if a job applicant has been convicted of a nonviolent
6 crime. States that comply with these policies will receive a 5% increase in
7 federal infrastructure funding.

8 **SECTION 2.** "Erase" is defined as completely wiping out all records of these crimes and their
9 access to the public, including employers. "Nonviolent crimes" are defined as
10 crimes that do not involve the use of force or injury towards another person.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Bureau of Prisons will enforce this legislation.

12 **SECTION 4.** The legislation will take effect on July 1, 2020.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Murrah High School

A Resolution to Enact a Dark Sky Ordinance to Cut Down on Man-Made Light Pollution

Whereas light pollution has grown to affect much of the globe and is causing many determinants to the environment and living quality of many.

Whereas currently Flagstaff, AZ is one of the few cities in the US that has been designated a “Dark Sky City” that reduces light pollution and excessive electricity-use that not only wastes energy, but also washes out the night sky and disrupts ecosystems.

Whereas presently 80% of the world’s population lives under skyglow, meaning they have limited view of the sky. This could also have a negative impact on space exploration and research.

Whereas there are numerous health risks for humans and wildlife relating to light pollution.

Therefore be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that there must be a limit to light pollution with a starting 25% reduction for cities in the US that have a population with more than 200,000 residents.

Respectfully submitted,

North Allegheny

A BILL TO MAKE BIRTH CONTROL AVAILABLE OVER-THE-COUNTER

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States federal government shall make birth control available to the
3 public without prescription.

4 **SECTION 2.** Birth control will be defined as an oral contraceptive that suppresses ovulation,
5 prevents pregnancies, treats irregular menstrual cycles, and treats acne.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Drug Administration will oversee the implementation of this
7 legislation.

8 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented immediately after passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Madison Central High School

An Emergency Resolution to Lower Plastic Use And Clean Oceans of Plastic

Whereas scientists argue over the amount of plastic in Earth's oceans because there is just so much, and

Whereas oceanic animals that we consume are eating so much plastic as part of their regular diet, they are causing humans to have plastics as part of our food. Micro-plastics are dramatically affecting public health.

Whereas companies do not want to use recycled plastics because it costs more than just buying new plastic

Whereas plastics were never intended to be used like they are used now,

Therefore be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that companies must use 80 to 100% recycled plastics if they use any plastic for their products, and any company that uses any plastics and profits more than \$300,000 a year must give a minimum of 2% of their profits towards cleaning up the ocean through non-profits that are designated by the US government.

Be it further resolved that any company caught knowingly putting – as waste - plastics / microplastics into streams, lakes, or any general water source that impacts the drinking water of any animal (including humans) must completely shut down until they can prove that their method of waste management does not include this illegal dumping.

Be it further resolved that single use plastic bags can no longer be produced, purchased, distributed or sold in the US.

Respectfully submitted,

North Allegheny