

LSW SILVER TALON DEBATE TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 7, 2020

CONGRESS DOCKET



- ❖ The docket is set.
- ❖ Students will be placed in houses in a random pairing.
- ❖ Novice competitors will have a workshop in the morning and competition in the afternoon. **Novice competitors should prepare the first seven bills.**
- ❖ Please check the invitation and Tabroom updates for other information about congressional debate.

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1 A Bill to Fight Against Pandemics

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Immediately after a pandemic is detected in a foreign
3 country, immigration and entrance into the United States will
4 be halted from that country for a period of thirty days.

5 **SECTION 2.** Pandemic is defined as: a disease that is prevalent over a
6 whole country or the world.

7 Immigration is defined as: the action of coming to live
8 permanently in a foreign country.

9 Entrance is defined as: an act or instance of going or coming
10 in.

11 Halted is defined as: bringing or coming to an abrupt stop.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security will oversee the
13 enforcement of the bill.

14 A. The designation of a pandemic will be based on data from
15 the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institute
16 of Health (NIH), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

17 B. Extending the immigration suspension will require a vote
18 from the Senate.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect upon passage.

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

2. A Resolution to Shutdown All U.S. Military Installations on Okinawa

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Japan is a long standing ally of the United States; and
2 **WHEREAS,** About half of the 50,000 American troops in Japan are stationed on
3 Okinawa; and
4 **WHEREAS,** US Military personnel on the island area are a threat to the safety of the
5 Japanese people on the island; and
6 **WHEREAS,** The presence of the U.S. military has been proven to increased anti
7 Western sentiment as thousands protest the bases; and
8 **WHEREAS,** America already has other military installations that are closer to areas of
9 conflict within the region; now, therefore, be it
10 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that all military installations on the
11 Japanese island of Okinawa will be shut down by 2030 and the Status of
12 Forces Agreement (SOFA) with Japan will be renegotiated.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lincoln Southeast High School.

3. A Bill to Promote Charter Schools

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** A. The Department of Education will establish the Office of Charter School
3. Education (OCSE). The OCSE will establish state offices in each state. Each state office will approve
4. or deny applications for new charter schools, and regulate and oversee the creation and funding of
5. charter schools. To ensure transparency and accountability, each state office will regularly audit
6. charter schools' budgets.
7. B. The OCSE will award a grant up to \$500,000 to each new charter school.
8. C. Any Pre-K through 12th grade student may apply to any charter school regardless of their
9. location.
10. **SECTION 2.** Charter school shall be defined as an educational institution which operates
11. independently of the established state public school system.
12. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education will oversee the implementation of this bill.
13. A. Nonprofits, corporations, parents, churches or school districts looking to found a charter
14. school will apply through the newly-established OCSE to receive state funding.
15. B. Each state will fully fund every charter school approved by the OCSE.
16. C. Applications for schools in areas where more than 25% of people live below the federal poverty
17. line will be given priority.
18. D. Any charter school that is found to have mismanaged or illegally used public funds will be
19. placed under review for one year, and if they fail to prove compliance, they will lose all state
20. funding.
21. E. States that fail to comply with this legislation will forfeit 25 percent of their federal highway
22. funding for the year after which they fail to comply.
23. **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect at the start of the 2022 fiscal year.
24. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by Marian High School

4. A Bill to Stop Gerrymandering

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Each state will have an independent commission that will be solely
2 responsible for the redistricting process in that state. The commission will
3 focus on increasing competition.
4 A) In addition, districts that are irregularly connected must be redrawn.
5 B) In addition, each commission will publish a report to the public after
6 redistricting stating the reasoning they had in mind when drawing districts.
7 This promotes transparency.
- 8 **SECTION 2.** A) An “independent commission” is a group of an equal number of
9 geographers from the two largest parties in the state, chosen by their
10 respective party’s leaders. These geographers will jointly select an
11 independent geographer to serve as chair. The commission will have seven
12 state residents total.
13 B) “Irregularly connected districts” are very jagged, are not continuous,
14 and/or have very thin connections.
- 15 **SECTION 3.** State governments will execute this law. The money that states have been
16 using for their redistricting processes will be used to fund this new
17 redistricting process.
- 18 **SECTION 4.** This bill will be enacted before each state’s next round of redistricting.
- 19 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lincoln East High School

5. A Bill to Ban Public Smoking to Help Reduce the Number of Smokers in the U.S.

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** Public smoking will be prohibited and considered unlawful in all
3. public places.
4. **SECTION 2.** Public place is defined by general government institutions as an
5. enclosed area to which the public is invited/permitted. They can include but are
6. not limited to medical/health care facilities, public/private educational facilities,
7. restaurants, grocery/convenience stores, retail stores/malls, hotels/motels, public
8. transportation facilities, reception/waiting/lobby areas, indoor sports arenas,
9. gaming facilities, and child/adult care facilities.
10. **SECTION 3.** Local law enforcement will enforce this bill, the offense will be
11. treated as a misdemeanor, and the offender will receive a fine:
12. A. The fine will be a minimum of \$75 and a max of \$200.
13. B. The amount will be determined by the location, amount of populated
14. traffic, and time of day.
15. C. If it is determined that the location could cause more harm due to
16. smoking, then the amount will be higher. If it is a more populated place
17. the larger the fine, and if the violation occurs during the day the expense
18. of the fine will increase accordingly.
19. **SECTION 4.** This will go into effect on January 1, 2022.
20. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
21. void.

Introduced by Hastings Senior High School

6. A Resolution Urging Against Supreme Court Nominations Close to Presidential Elections

1 **WHEREAS,** the procedure for appointing a Justice to the Supreme Court is
2 outlined in the Constitution in only a few words, stating that the
3 President “shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and
4 Consent of the Senate, shall appoint... Judges of the supreme
5 Court;” and
6 **WHEREAS,** the Senate tends to be less deferential to the President in choice
7 of Supreme Court Justices than in appointments of even high
8 executive branch positions, reflecting the especially high
9 importance of the Court, coequal to and independent of the
10 Presidency and Congress; and
11 **WHEREAS,** the overall length of the Supreme Court confirmation process,
12 while once completed within about a week, has in recent decades
13 stretched to two or three months; and
14 **WHEREAS,** in March 2016, following the death of Supreme Court Justice
15 Antonin Scalia, the Senate refused to consider the nomination of
16 Merrick Garland, on the grounds that it was an election year;
17 therefore, be it
18 **RESOLVED,** by the Federal Congress here assembled, that should there
19 become an opening on the Supreme Court, the current President
20 may not fill the position if there are 150 days or less until the
21 presidential election.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Creighton Preparatory School

7. A Resolution to pass the HEROES ACT in the Senate of the United States

1 **WHEREAS,** The House of Representatives has passed the HEROES act on May 12, 2020; and,

2

3 **WHEREAS,** The bill has not be debated or passed on the senate floor; and,

4

5 **WHEREAS,** The economic impact of the CoVid 19 virus has decreased economic mobility
6 among the working class in America due to layoffs, business closures, disease prevention efforts,
7 inability to work due to pre-existing medical conditions, etc.; and,

8

9 **WHEREAS,** It is the duty of the Senate of the United States to hear legislation started and
10 passed by the House of Representatives; and,

11

12 **WHEREAS,** The allotted 3.3 Trillion dollars is necessary to jumpstart the economy and provide
13 relief for those most affected by the CoVid 19 Pandemic; now, therefore be it

14

15 **RESOLVED,** The United States Senate will debate and pass the Heroes Act (2019).

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lincoln North Star High School.

8. A Bill to Make the House of Representatives Truly Representative

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **Section 1.** The Reapportionment Act of 1929 will be repealed and replaced
3. with the Reapportionment Act of 2020.
4. **Section 2.** The Reapportionment Act of 1929 will be defined as a bill that set
5. a limit of 435 seats in the House of Representatives.
6. The Reapportionment Act of 2020 will be defined as a bill that sets the number
7. of representatives to the cube root of the U.S. population minus 100.
8. **Section 3.** This bill will be overseen by the United States Congress.
9. **Section 4.** This bill will be enacted by the end of 2020.
10. **Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null
11. and void.

Submitted by Millard South High School

9. A Bill to End Qualified Immunity in the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes ([42 U.S.C. 1983](#)) is amended by
2 adding at the end the following: “It shall not be a defense or immunity to
3 any action brought under this section that the defendant was acting in
4 good faith, or that the defendant believed, reasonably or otherwise, that
5 his or her conduct was lawful at the time when it was committed. Nor shall
6 it be a defense or immunity that the rights, privileges, or immunities
7 secured by the Constitution or laws were not clearly established at the
8 time of their deprivation by the defendant, or that the state of the law was
9 otherwise such that the defendant could not reasonably have been
10 expected to know whether his or her conduct was lawful.”
- 11 **SECTION 2.** The judicial branch of the the United States Federal Government will be
12 tasked with ensuring prior immunities are no longer applied following the
13 passage of this bill.
- 14 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect immediately upon passage.
- 15 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Millard North (NE).

10. A Resolution to End Collective Bargaining for Public-Safety Employees

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Abuses of police power has reached epidemic proportions in the United
2 States; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Protections for abusive officers that are provided by police unions via
4 contracts defined by collective bargaining often keep dangerous officers on
5 the streets and behind the badge; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The elimination of collective bargaining for those serving in public-safety
7 jobs would stand to improve the quality of policing while making American
8 cities and people safer and ensuring police services are finally accountable
9 to those they're supposed to serve and protect; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled recommends that all jurisdictions
11 throughout the United States which permit the adoption of collectively
12 bargained contracts for public-safety employees immediately take the
13 steps necessary to abolish this practice.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lincoln High (NE).

11. A Bill to End Non-Violent Felon Disenfranchisement

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT

2 **SECTION 1.** Non-Violent Felons shall be given the right to vote in federal
3 elections.

4 **SECTION 2.** Non-Violent felons shall be defined as individuals whose offenses
5 do not involve the use or threat of any force, and Federal
Elections 6 shall be defined as a general, special, primary, or runoff
election

7 for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or
8 Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the
9 Congress.

10 **SECTION 3A** This bill will apply to Felons while they are in Federal and State
11 prisons, as well as those on parole, and post-Incarceration.

12 **SECTION 3B** This Act shall be enforced by the Federal Election Commission
13 (FEC).

14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented by the time of the first
15 election after the passage of this bill, with one hundred million
16 dollars allocated.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lincoln Southwest High School

12. A Resolution to Join the Paris Climate Agreement

| | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1 | WHEREAS, | After President Trump’s decision to leave the agreement, Global emissions |
| 2 | | pledges are not on track to limit warming to 1.5°C; and |
| 3 | WHEREAS, | Other nations might be less likely to pursue aggressive climate actions with |
| 4 | | U.S. withdrawal; and |
| 5 | WHEREAS, | Without the U.S., China could have more geopolitical influence in climate |
| 6 | | negotiations.; and |
| 7 | WHEREAS, | The US is the biggest historical contributor to climate change, even though |
| 8 | | it holds just 4% of the world’s population; and |
| 9 | WHEREAS, | The Paris Agreement provides the framework for transparency and clear |
| 10 | | evidence of what is happening across the globe; now, therefore be it |
| 11 | RESOLVED, | By the Congress here assembled that the United States commit to rejoin |
| 12 | | the Paris Climate Agreement and take additional measures to curb |
| 13 | | greenhouse gas emissions to stay below 1.5 degree Celsius. |

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lincoln Southeast High School.