



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

**NOVEMBER 2020
LEGISLATION DOCKET**



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A Bill to Close Guantanamo Bay

A Bill to Close Guantanamo Bay

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The detention center at Guantanamo holding individuals the Federal government has
3 deemed to be enemies of the State will be immediately closed.

4 **SECTION 2.** The following considerations will apply:

5 A. Guantanamo Bay, located in southeast Cuba, serves as the site of an American naval
6 base used as a detainment camp for suspected al-Qaeda and Taliban affiliates.

7 B. A board will be established to organize the transportation of prisoners back to the
8 United States where they will be granted due process and a full legal trial.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

10 A. The Department of Defense will be in charge of the transfer of prisoners and the closure
11 of the detention center.

12 B. The Department of Defense will allocate \$3 million of their budget toward the
13 organization of expedient trials.

14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall 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 the National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Amend the Jones Act

A Bill to Amend the Jones Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Amend Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 (the Jones Act).

3 **SECTION 2.** The following amendments will apply:

4 A. Eliminate the U.S.-build requirement.

5 B. Permanent Jones Act waivers will be provided to Alaska and Hawaii in addition to all
6 non-contiguous U.S. territories.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Departments of Commerce & Transportation will oversee the enforcement of this
8 legislation.

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

10 **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 Grant Public Safety Workers the Right to Collective Bargaining

A Bill to Grant Public Safety Workers the Right to Collective Bargaining

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Any individual who is currently employed in the public safety sector will have increased
3 access to collective bargaining. This will include the following policies:

4 A. The ability to both create and join labor unions.

5 B. The ability to use such unions to bargain over terms of employment, wages, and hours.

6 C. Assurance that public safety employers will recognize the labor unions and will bargain
7 with the organization, resulting in a written contract.

8 D. Should there be a dispute between the labor unions and the public safety employer, a
9 method of dispute resolution, either through arbitration or mediation, will be assigned
10 to the case.

11 **SECTION 2.** A public safety employee will be defined as any law enforcement officer, member of
12 emergency medical personnel, or firefighter.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Labor Relations Authority will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

14 A. The Federal Labor Relations Authority will determine adequate labor representation
15 when supervising elections.

16 B. The Authority will conduct hearings and resolve complaints of unfair labor tactics, as
17 reported by the labor unions.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

19 **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 for Emergency Relief for Somalia

A Bill for Emergency Relief for Somalia

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress will provide \$250 million for emergency relief to Somalia.

3 **SECTION 2.** The following considerations will apply:

4 A. This emergency relief is above and beyond aid already designated to Somalia.

5 B. Relief will be directed to food insecurity and to alleviate crowding in camps due to
6 COVID-19 displacement from homes.

7 **SECTION 3.** USAID will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

9 **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 Create Domestic Jobs While Ending Offshoring Expenditures

A Bill to Create Domestic Jobs While Ending Offshoring Expenditures

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Internal Revenue Code will receive the following amendments:

3 A. Individuals who hire employees who replace alternative employees who are not

4 American citizens or permanent residents who perform similar duties overseas will be

5 exempt from employment taxes for a two-year period.

6 B. There will be a denial of any tax deduction or tax credit for the cost of an American jobs

7 offshoring transaction.

8 C. Elimination of any foreign corporation deferment of income tax in connection with

9 products imported to the United States with the exception of agricultural products not

10 regionally grown in the United States.

11 **SECTION 2.** An American jobs offshoring transaction will be defined as any transaction in which a

12 taxpayer decreases, or eliminates, a corporate entity or corporate practice related to the expansion of

13 commerce outside of the United States.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

15 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented by the fiscal year 2021.

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 Resolution to Ban Sororities & Fraternities at Colleges & Universities

A Resolution to Ban Sororities & Fraternities at Colleges & Universities

1 **WHEREAS,** A lack of accountability has allowed sororities and fraternities to cause significant harm
2 to student bodies through hazing practices, while also providing minimal responses to instances of
3 sexual assault and racism; and

4 **WHEREAS,** Approximately 55% of students involved in organizations report they have experienced
5 hazing and, to date, there have been over 100 hazing-related deaths, and studies conclude that fraternal
6 parties are especially dangerous for women, as members of fraternities are found to be 3 times more
7 likely to commit sexual assault than a male not in a fraternity; and

8 **WHEREAS,** The structure of sorority and fraternity life prevents victims from reporting out of fear of
9 retaliation from the organization, as individuals in leadership positions tend to be relatively influential
10 and have significant power on college and university campuses; and

11 **WHEREAS,** Private funding from donors and claims from colleges and universities stating that they
12 do not have control over the actions of individual organizations prevents any level of external
13 accountability, meaning administrative reform to sororities and fraternities is nearly impossible; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to eliminate
16 sororities and fraternities at colleges and universities.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Institute a Sugar Tax

A Bill to Institute a Sugar Tax

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A tax will be implemented on all beverages containing 5 or more grams of sugar per 100
3 milliliters.

4 **SECTION 2.** The following definitions will apply:

5 A. A sugar tax will be defined as \$.25 per liter of beverage containing sugar.

6 B. The revenue from the tax will be allocated to address obesity, diabetes, and related
7 health conditions.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Food and Drug Administration and the Internal Revenue Service will oversee the
9 enforcement of this legislation.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

11 **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 Repeal Oil Subsidies

A Bill to Repeal Oil Subsidies

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (§26 USC) is amended to repeal all subsidies related
3 to fossil fuel energy industries, including:

4 A. Amortization of geological and geophysical expenditures;

5 B. Producing oil and gas from marginal wells;

6 C. Enhanced oil recovery credit;

7 D. Intangible drilling and development costs in the case of oil and gas wells;

8 E. Percentage depletion for oil and gas wells;

9 F. Deduction for tertiary injectants;

10 G. Exception to passive loss limitations for working interests in oil and gas properties;

11 H. Deduction for qualified business income not allowed with respect to oil and gas
12 activities; and

13 I. Prohibition on using last-in, first-out accounting for oil and gas companies.

14 **SECTION 2.** §26 USC, Paragraph (1) of [section 4612\(a\)](#) shall be amended to read: “(1) CRUDE OIL. –
15 The term ‘crude oil’ includes crude oil condensates, natural gasoline, any bitumen or
16 bituminous mixture, any oil derived from a bitumen or bituminous mixture (including oil
17 derived from tar sands), and any oil derived from kerogen-bearing sources (including oil
18 derived from oil shale).”

19 **SECTION 3.** All laws in conflict with this act are hereby declared null and void; this act shall take
20 effect upon passage.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association; inspired by H.R.8411 - End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2020, 116th Congress.

Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act

Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Not later than 180 days after passage of this Act, the Attorney General shall finalize
3 rulemaking under 21 U.S.C. 812 §201(a)(2) removing marihuana and
4 tetrahydrocannabinols from schedules of controlled substance, so that manufacturing,
5 distribution, or possession of such substances no longer warrants criminal penalties. Such
6 rulemaking shall apply to purposes of any offense committed, case pending, or conviction
7 entered before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 **SECTION 2.** All statutory references of “marijuana” and “marihuana” shall be replaced with
9 “cannabis.”

10 **SECTION 3.** Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 USC), §5701, is amended to establish a 5% tax to be
11 collected on cannabis products in the same manner as certain tobacco products, and
12 deposited in a trust fund, the Opportunity Trust Fund, herewith established to support
13 programs and services for individuals and business in communities impacted by the war
14 on drugs.

15 **SECTION 4.** The Small Business Administration shall establish loans and services for entities that are
16 cannabis-related legitimate businesses or service providers.

17 **SECTION 5.** Federal public benefits, as well as persecutions under immigration laws, shall be
18 prohibited on the basis of cannabis-related conduct or conviction.

19 **SECTION 6.** A process shall be established to expunge convictions and conduct sentencing review
20 hearings related to federal cannabis offenses.

21 **SECTION 7.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association, inspired by H.R.3884 - Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019, 116th Congress.

A Resolution of Support for Public Defense

A Resolution of Support for Public Defense

1 **WHEREAS,** There are essentially two criminal justice systems in the sense that rich individuals can
2 often escape the harshest implications of retribution through paying high bails and hiring well-trained,
3 expensive lawyers, while poorer defendants rely on over-worked counsel provided to them by the state,
4 decreasing their chances of shortening or eliminating their sentences; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Estimates find that 88% of criminal defendants represented by a public defender
6 received a criminal sentence, compared to 77% of criminal defendants receiving a sentence who were
7 represented by a private attorney, and those represented by the state also have much longer wait times
8 to acquire legal counsel itself; and

9 **WHEREAS,** A criminal sentence can permanently impede an individual's ability to find work, and the
10 opportunity cost of being imprisoned is that an individual loses time to build on their own career, while
11 simultaneously undergoing the psychological harms associated with being in the prison system; and

12 **WHEREAS,** The rich will always have the incentive to use their wealth to their advantage, creating
13 an unequal playing field in the legal system, strengthening socio-economic divides;

14 **WHEREAS,** Most criminal defense trials take place at the state level;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled urge state legislatures to engage in criminal justice
17 reform through public defense.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association