



2021 National Season Opener

Congressional Debate Docket and Information

Welcome to the 2021 Season Opener! Here are some guidelines which we will use to administer this tournament:

- 1) NSDA rules and procedures will be followed for tabulation and advancement.
- 2) Based on the current numbers, we anticipate 9 chambers. Four competitors will advance from each chamber to Semifinals. There will be three Semifinal chambers, and four will advance from each chamber, for a total of 12 Finalists.
- 3) Prelim and semifinal sessions will be 2 ½ hours long, inclusive of recesses, elections, and other business. The final session will be three hours long.
- 4) Each segment will start with a caucus for Agenda order, to be adopted by a vote of the chamber.
- 5) Presiding Officers will be elected at the start of each session.
- 6) Ties when setting precedence at the start of each session will be broken by a randomly generated list of competitors.
- 7) All sessions will use Direct Examination.
- 8) A parliamentarian and 1 or 2 scorers (depending on judge availability) will judge each preliminary session.
- 9) In an online environment, several best practices have emerged. While this is not a comprehensive list or a tournament requirement, consider:
 - a. The use of the chat for Personal Privilege.
 - b. The use of timing cards rather than gaveling time signals
 - c. The use of the chat for amendment submission
 - d. The choice of visible placards or raising hands in the participants list when seeking recognition.
- 10) There are 9 items on the preliminary docket. The student to whom the legislation is attributed has authorship rights. All other items are considered open for sponsorship. All items in the elimination round dockets are open.

Prelim A - A Bill to Provide Universal School Lunch to Combat Hunger

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The National School Lunch Program shall fully subsidize the cost of school meals.

3 **SECTION 2.** The National School Lunch Program is the current federal program under the US
4 Department of Agriculture formed by the 1946 National School Lunch Act which
5 partially subsidizes school meals. School meals shall be defined as breakfast and
6 lunch provided on the property of public and public-charter K-12 schools during
7 the school year.

8 **SECTION 3.** The US Departments of Agriculture and Education shall oversee the
9 implementation of this legislation.

10 **A.** All additional funding used to implement this legislation shall be reallocated
11 from the Department of Defense.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2023. All laws in conflict with this legislation
13 are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Patrick Bai from Thomas Jefferson HSST.

Prelim B - The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2021

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal minimum wage will be increased to \$15 for all covered non-exempt
3 employees working in the United States. It will then henceforth be indexed to
4 inflation using the Consumer Price Index.

5 **SECTION 2.** The federal minimum wage will be increased steadily every year, starting at a
6 \$0.75 increase the first fiscal year followed by a \$1 increase every subsequent
7 fiscal year until a \$15 minimum wage is reached.

8 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Labor shall be in charge of implementing this
9 legislation.

10 A. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shall be responsible for determining the
11 Consumer Price Index used for indexing the minimum wage to inflation.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the start of FY 2023. All laws in conflict with this
13 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by William Gutiérrez from Thomas Jefferson HSST.

Prelim C - A Bill to Eliminate Mandatory Minimums to Reform the Justice System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. shall eliminate all federal mandatory minimum sentences for all non-
3 violent drug crimes. All U.S. inmates currently serving time for a non-violent drug
4 crime shall continue to serve their originally designated sentences.

5 **SECTION 2.** Mandatory minimum sentences shall be defined as a predefined minimum
6 sentence for certain crimes. Non-violent drug crimes are considered crimes that
7 involve the possession or consumption of illegal substances but are not
8 inherently violent.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect immediately following its passing. All laws in
11 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Esha Karlekar from Thomas Jefferson HSST.

Prelim D - A Resolution to Safeguard Freedom and Democracy in Taiwan

1 **WHEREAS,** Taiwan is facing military threats from the Chinese Communist
2 Party that have increased significantly in frequency and magnitude in recent
3 months,

4 **WHEREAS,** The Chinese Air Force has made numerous intrusions into
5 Taiwanese airspace, undermining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait,

6 **WHEREAS,** Taiwan is a progressive democracy with that stands for liberal
7 ideals akin to the United States, and was the first country in Asia to elect a
8 women as president and the first to legalize same-sex marriage,

9 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security
10 Affairs, has stated that that Taiwan's recent military budget "insufficient" to
11 ensure effective defense against the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA),

12 **WHEREAS,** Neighboring countries like Japan and South Korea have expressed
13 explicit concerns on the stability of the Taiwan Strait, in which South Korea has
14 stated the issue as a national security concern and Japan increasing its military
15 budget for 2022 because of Taiwan,

16 **WHEREAS,** The quad countries including the US, India, Japan, and Australia
17 have discussed the importance of Taiwan's national security to their foreign
18 policy interests,

19 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to plan
20 for the reinstatement of US military presence in Taiwan.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Patrick Lin from Taipei American School, Taiwan

Prelim E - The Judicial Reform Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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

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

7 C. \$1 billion shall be distributed through categorical grants to states that
8 comply for the purpose of hiring judges to prevent potential case
9 backlog.

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

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

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

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented on January 1st the following fiscal
20 year.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Cristian Carrillo from Western High School

Prelim F - A Bill to Evacuate Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Applicants

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States military will expeditiously organize a mission to evacuate the
3 Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Applicants-- whose lives are at risk after the
4 Taliban takeover.

5 **SECTION 2.** Expeditiously, defined as: taking no more than ten days to start.

6 **SECTION 2B.** Organize, defined as: to allocate funding and military protection to ensure the
7 safe transport and relocation of SIV applicants in Afghanistan.

8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. State Department will assist the Biden administration in the
9 enforcement of this bill, and necessary funding will come from the budget of the
10 Department of Defense.

11 A. The Biden administration will arrange temporary placement of the Special
12 Immigrant Visa Applicants in various military bases around the United
13 States.

14 B. The Biden administration will also oversee the U.S military operation,
15 ensuring the safe transport and arrival of the SIV applicants.

16 C. The State Department will organize the temporary placement of the SIV
17 applicants-- not housed in American bases-- in willing nations, including but
18 not limited to, Qatar, Canada, Albania, Mexico, Colombia, and Chile.

19 **SECTION 4.** As indicated in Section 2, the evacuation of SIV applicants will be initiated
20 following the ten-day period of organization and until all at-risk applicants are
21 safely housed.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Peyton Prendergast of Pennsbury High School

Prelim G - A Bill to Authorize Disaster Relief for Haiti

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Five billion dollars shall be authorized to provide humanitarian relief and
3 disaster reconstruction for the country of Haiti.

4 **SECTION 2.** USAID shall be responsible for the distribution of this aid.

5 A. 20 percent of the aid must go towards increasing the integrity of
6 Haiti's government and strengthening the rule of law.

7 **SECTION 3.** This bill shall be implemented immediately after passage.

8 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jamil Jackson from Little Rock Central High

Prelim H - A Resolution to Send Troops to Haiti

- 1 **WHEREAS**, The Haitian President was assassinated on July 7th, 2021;
- 2 **WHEREAS**, Haiti is in widespread turmoil after being hit by an earthquake;
- 3 **WHEREAS**, Haiti is on the brink of becoming a full-blown failed state;
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Haiti needs US troops in order to maintain the nation until the upcoming
- 5 election;
- 6 **WHEREAS**, The police force in Haiti has collapsed which makes US intervention is a
- 7 necessity;
- 8 **RESOLVED**, That the Congress here assembled encouraged President Biden to order
- 9 the US armed forces to deploy 50,000 troops to the Republic of Haiti
- 10 immediately.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Rhea Thakkar, Lake Mary Preparatory School.

Prelim I - A Bill to Aid Afghans who wish their freedom preserved.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **Section 1.** Due to the United States' obligation to preserve freedom, it is obliged to preserve
3 the freedoms of the Afghani people who have obtained it. The United States is to extract all
4 those who are related to the Afghani military and or other governmental positions if they
5 wish to be removed.

6 **Section 2.** Extract: remove or take out, especially by effort or force.

7 **Section 3.** The U.S. State Department, The Department of Defence, and the United States
8 Army and Marines are to oversee this legislation. Due to the skill of these agencies, they are
9 the most qualified to deal with international communications and conflict.

10 A. These agencies are to attempt negotiations to extract the personnel.

11 B. This agency is to send a minimum of 2,500 troops to protect all personnel in the extraction of the
12 members who fit the criteria.

13 C. These agencies are permitted to corroborate with other military agencies to ensure the safety of
14 the Afghani members who fit the criteria.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict with
16 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Steven Dimitrakakis from Lake Mary Prep.

Semi 1 - A Bill to Renegotiate the Colorado River Compact

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Colorado River Compact (CRC), currently set to expire in 2026, will
3 instead be renegotiated in 2022.

4 **SECTION 2.** No state or nation which will be part of the new CRC will receive water
5 rights greater than 50% of their current CRC allocation.

6 **A.** All parties must provide finalized plans demonstrating how they will
7 account for the new water allocation.

8 **B.** In the event of greater than expected water levels in Lake Powell or
9 Lake Mead, the excess water will not be added to the state or nation
10 water allocation, but will instead be conserved for future years.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Departments of Commerce and Interior will oversee the negotiations
12 and enforcement of this new compact. Any state which does not provide
13 adequate plans pursuant to Section 1A will be removed from the CRC and
14 will not be entitled to water allocations from the Colorado River.

15 **SECTION 4.** The negotiations will be completed by December 31, 2022, with an
16 effective date of January 1, 2023.

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

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Semi 2 - A Resolution to Ensure Election Fairness

- 1 **WHEREAS,** there is no evidence of fraud stemming from the 2020 election; and
- 2 **WHEREAS,** many people, including media personalities, have claimed there were errors and
3 fraud in the election results; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** such claims led to the January 6th Capitol insurrection; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** an audit of results in Arizona has taken more than four months to complete; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** this audit has used conspiracy theories such as ballots flown in from Asia and
7 fake ballots with UV watermarks to justify its existence; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** unqualified and inexperienced contractors have been in charge of the audit; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** even the appointed audit monitor has attempted to quit due to a lack of
10 consistent procedure and transparency; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** rumors and conspiracy theories springing from this audit are being used to
12 justify voter intimidation through door-knocking and interviews; now, therefore,
13 be it
- 14 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the Department of Justice be directed to
15 create a standard audit procedure for all federal elections; and be it
- 16 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** that any audit which deviates from the approved procedures be
17 considered a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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Semi 3 - A Bill to End Forced Arbitration for Victims of Data Breaches

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** An entity may not require, as part of a customer or other similar
3 agreement, an individual to agree to submit any dispute related to a
4 security breach, including any dispute related to identity theft, to
5 arbitration.

6 **SECTION 2.** Security break refers to a compromise of the security, confidentiality, or
7 integrity of, or loss of, computerized data which results in the
8 unauthorized acquisition of sensitive personally identifiable information,
9 such as name, address, telephone number, birthdate, driver's license
10 number, password, social security number, or other information which is
11 ordinarily considered confidential.

12 **SECTION 3.** If the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of
13 the residents of their state has been threatened or adversely affected by
14 a practice which violates Section 1, they may bring a civil action in an
15 appropriate US District Court on behalf of the residents of their state.

16 **A.** Any individual may bring a private civil action in any court for
17 rescission and restitution, as well as for all damages.

18 **B.** The Federal Trade Commission shall oversee the implementation of
19 this act.

20 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect upon passage.

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

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Final 1 - The 100 ACRE (American COVID-19 Recovery in Education) Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education will allocate \$100 billion to schools in
3 states which prohibit mask mandates in educational institutions either de
4 facto or de jure.

5 **A.** Funding will be distributed in the form of block grants directly to a
6 school or district which demonstrates economic harm or decreased
7 health outcomes as a result of mask prohibition.

8 **B.** Distribution of these grants will bypass state-level departments,
9 boards, or organizations.

10 **C.** Funding is available to all affected public educational institutions,
11 from Pre-K to university.

12 **SECTION 2.** States which have de jure or de facto mask prohibitions which require the
13 assistance of this grant program shall be considered in violation of the
14 “supplement, not supplant” clauses of H.R. 1319 and will risk forfeiture of
15 all funding under that act.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education will determine eligibility for the grant
17 program and facilitate distribution of funding.

18 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect upon passage.

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

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Final 2 - A Resolution to Establish Electricity as a Human Right

- 1 **WHEREAS,** scientists have determined that human-caused climate change is bringing
2 widespread harms, such as droughts, flooding, and biodiversity loss; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** energy, water, broadband, and other utilities are basic needs for survival and
4 should be publicly owned and accessible to all; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** events in Texas have shown how fragile the electrical grid can be; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** one third of people in the United States struggle to pay their electricity bills
7 annually; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** renewable energy resources, particularly solar and wind, provide positive
9 economic benefits to communities; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** investor-owned utilities and State utility commissions are failing to meet their
11 collective mandates to serve the public interest to provide customers with
12 reasonable energy rates; and
- 13 **WHEREAS,** the United States is the world’s largest historic emitter of greenhouse gas
14 pollution; and
- 15 **WHEREAS,** truly public ownership of utilities would allow for improved oversight,
16 accountability, and public participation in renewable energy procurement and
17 deployment; now, therefore, be it
- 18 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States should establish
19 electricity as a basic human right and public good.

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Final 3 - A Bill to Guarantee Agricultural Repair

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** No commercial agricultural equipment manufacturer doing business
3 within the United States may prohibit, discourage, or prevent consumers
4 from repairing equipment or using independent repair shops for repairs.

5 **SECTION 2.** Replacement parts, software updates, schematics and blueprints,
6 manuals, and necessary tools must be made commercially available to
7 consumers and third-parties.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Trade Commission will oversee enforcement of this
9 legislation. Violations of Section 1 and 2 will result in a \$500,000 fine.

10 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

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

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