This year, all legislation submitted was accepted and supplemented with items from the NSDA October 2021 Docket. Students from schools who advance to semis/finals who wrote legislation are entitled to authorship speeches in the same fashion (author first, same school second); otherwise, anyone in the chamber may claim sponsorship.

Rules, procedures, and online competition protocols are posted in a Google Doc linked to from the MinneApple Tabroom.com website (Congress page).
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A Bill to Discourage the Use of Plastic

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Large corporations are required to reduce their plastic usage by 20% annually or face a fine of up to $500,000 at the end of the year.

SECTION 2. Large corporations shall be defined as companies with a taxable income of $1 million or more for any of the 3 tax years preceding the 2021 tax year. If less, the number of years the corporation has been in existence.

SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency shall be in charge of the oversight of this legislation by creating a task force to enforce these regulations.

SECTION 4. This bill shall go into effect upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Eagan High School
A Resolution to Support the End of Economic Sanctions on Venezuela

WHEREAS, Since 2017, the U.S. has sanctioned people, businesses, and oil entities associated with the Maduro regime, both inside and outside of Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Venezuela is facing a severe humanitarian emergency, with millions unable to access basic healthcare and adequate nutrition; and

WHEREAS, There is significant evidence to support the notion that the United States economic sanctions on Venezuela have heightened the suffering of the nation’s most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, These current sanctions have had little success in altering the political situation in the country; and

WHEREAS, It is time for the United States to try a different approach to effect meaningful change in Venezuela; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled stands in favor of ending the economic sanctions on Venezuela.
A Bill to Disband and Defund the Military to repay the National Debt

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This bill will disband and defund the military and Department of Defence completely.

SECTION 2. The military will be defined as the 6 active fighting branches in the Department of Defence including the national guard.

SECTION 3. The Department of Defence, Department of the Treasury, and the Department of Veterans Affairs will manage this.

A. All current employees of the military will get an honorable discharge and full benefits under veterans affairs.

B. Most funding currently going to the department of defence will go to debt repayment until it is paid off.

C. Veterans affairs will get whatever is left to help pay for veteran benefits.

D. All military equipment will be sold off and any that can't be sold will be destroyed. This money will go to the department of veterans affairs.

E. The coast guard will be renamed the rescue forces and will go under the department of homeland security. Any funding currently going to the coast guard will go to this new branch.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1st 2025, but hiring of new soldiers and employees will end on January 1st 2022. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

The Afghan Refugee Resettlement Act of 2021

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the United States to welcome all refugees from Afghanistan at risk of retribution from the new Afghan government.

A. An Afghan Resettlement Agency is hereby created inside the Department of State to oversee and coordinate federal, state, and local implementation of this policy.

B. The ARA is authorized to spend up to 10 billion USD to implement its mission, which includes:
   1. Targeted funding to increase the processing speed of Special Immigrant Visas by additional hiring at the Departments of State and Homeland Security to clear backlogs.
   2. Targeted funding for federal, state, and local programs which assist in the integration of Afghan refugees into American society.

C. Where possible, refugees will live in a third-party country while their SIV is being processed, but if doing so would delay their leaving Afghanistan, refugees may move to and live in the United States while their application is being processed.

SECTION 2. “At risk of retribution” shall include all Afghans who have worked with the U.S. military, with U.S. news organizations, or with any civil society program which has received funding from USAID or which is contrary to the new Afghan government’s viewpoints.

SECTION 3. The State Department will oversee the ARA.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately upon its passage into law. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Daniel Liu.
A Resolution in Opposition to the French Hijab Ban

WHEREAS, An amendment was introduced by the French senate in April of 2011 to ban young women from wearing any sort of veil or face covering if she is under the age of 18;

WHEREAS, A fine of €150 is assessed if a young women wears a head covering in public; and

WHEREAS, it therefore restricts the freedom of choice Muslim women have to choose how they present in public

WHEREAS, This has resulted in protests arising all around the world from Muslim women against this law because of the loss of choice and

WHEREAS, this failed to take into account the personal decisions made by Muslim women, as the decision rightly belongs to them.

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that The United States of America stands in opposition to the French Hijab Ban and recognizes the rights of people who stand against this action the French senate has taken without its citizens in mind.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lakeville North High School
A Bill to Grant Dreamers U.S. Citizenship

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All Dreamers who are the age of 18 and above shall receive their United States citizenship.
   A. Dreamers over the age of 18 may apply immediately for citizenship by submitting the required documentation
      a. Required documentation: government-issued ID and proof of residency in the US predating their 16th birthday
   B. Any dreamer under the age of 18 shall receive their citizenship on their 18th birthday

SECTION 2. Dreamers are defined as those individuals who
   A. Arrived in the United States without legal status prior to their 16th birthday (with or without their family) and
   B. Currently reside in the United States

SECTION 3. The Department of Homeland Security, US Customs and Immigration Services, and the Department of State will oversee the implementation and subsequent operation of the bill.

SECTION 4. This bill goes into effect on 1 February 2022.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lakeville South High School*
A Bill to Enact Presumed Consent for Organ Donation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Presumed consent shall be the policy for organ donation across the United States.

SECTION 2. Presumed consent shall be defined as giving permission unless declaring otherwise.

SECTION 3. This legislation will be overseen and enforced by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

A. At the time of filing federal forms or applying for or renewing an identification card, the applicant shall be deemed to have consented to anatomical donation of his or her organs and tissue upon the determination of the applicant’s legal death, unless the applicant expressly elects not to be an organ tissue donor.

B. Legal guardians of citizens under 18 can opt out for dependents.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2023. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introducted for Congressional Debate by Tamsin Connerly.
A Bill to End the War on Drugs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The use of any drug, regardless of schedule, shall be decriminalized. Marijuana shall be legalized medicinally for those above the age of 16 and recreationally for those above the age of 21, and any non-violent drug offender shall be immediately exonerated. Drug addiction shall be classified as a mental health issue. Any drug currently requiring a prescription will still require one.

SECTION 2. (A) Decriminalized is defined as ceasing to treat (something) as illegal or as a criminal offense. This does not mean those drugs will be available for the public to purchase.
(B) Legalized is defined as permitted under law, available for public purchase.
(C) Medicinally is defined as used for medical purposes, prescribed by a licensed physician.
(D) Exonerated is defined as absolving from blame for a fault or wrongdoing and subsequently releasing from prison.
(E) Non-violent Drug offender is defined as persons that have possession of drugs or have consumed illegal substances but are not inherently violent.

SECTION 3. The Drug Enforcement Agency and the Food and Drug Administration shall oversee the implementation of this legislation. The Department of Justice shall ensure compliance with the states. The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish help centers to assist those who are addicted to drugs.

SECTION 4. This shall take effect on July 1st, 2022.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Prohibit Premature COVID-19 Vaccination Boosters in the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. The administration of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses within the United States shall be prohibited until at least 60% of the populations of each and every United Nations member state shall have reached a status of full vaccination against COVID-19, as determined and reported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

SECTION 2. A booster dose is defined as an extra administration of a vaccine given after the normal course of doses with the aim of boosting immunity.

SECTION 3. Until such time as the criteria of Section 1 are met, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shall turn over all superfluous doses of any COVID-19 vaccines to the WHO for the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative.

SECTION 4. Any medical or pharmaceutical practitioner found to be in violation of this law shall be fined $5000 for each of the first three offenses. On the fourth offense, the establishment shall have its medical and/or pharmaceutical licensing revoked for a period of twelve months. Any funds raised through fines shall be directed to the WHO to promote the COVAX initiative.

SECTION 5. The CDC shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 6. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SECTION 7. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This bill will reform the Nuclear Power system of the United States. This will be done through increased research of Nuclear Fusion, replacing uranium with thorium, and further grants for construction of nuclear power plants.

SECTION 2. Nuclear Power shall be defined as the use of nuclear reactions that release nuclear energy to generate heat, which most frequently is then used in steam turbines to produce electricity in a nuclear power plant. Nuclear fusion shall be defined as an atomic nuclei of low atomic number fuse to form a heavier nucleus with the release of energy. Thorium shall be defined as a weakly radioactive metallic chemical element with the symbol Th and atomic number 90.

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy, and the Department of the Interior will see to the implementation of this bill.

A. Grants will be given towards research, creation, and implementation of fusion power in our nuclear power plants.

B. All current and future nuclear power plants will be required to use thorium instead of uranium as the power source. Grants will be given to research and increase the mining of thorium.

C. Grants will be given towards the construction of nuclear power plants that use thorium and nuclear fusion. The plan is to one day exclusively use nuclear power in the United States.

D. All current funding going towards the research and implementation of other renewable energy sources shall be redirected towards funding this bill. It has an estimated $11 billion budget. Additionally all current funding going towards the fossil fuel industry, which is estimated at $20 billion shall also go to this bill. Any further funding that is needed will be redirected from the Department of Defense as seen fit by the Department of Energy and has approval from congress.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1st 2022. Nuclear Power plants will have until January 1st 2025 to switch to thorium. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Ban Hydraulic Fracturing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1.  A. Hydraulic fracturing, also called fracking, and the natural gas that it mines, is seen as a viable alternative to coal and oil.  

B. However, fracking produces tremendous amounts of methane, as it makes up 70-90% of natural gas and poses a threat to global warming eighty times that of CO2.  

C. Employees involved in fracking are regularly exposed to this methane release.  

D. By the year 2025, methane leakage related health issues are estimated to cost between $13-29 billion a year.  

E. Current EPA measures around wastewater management are not enough; methane management must also be prioritized.

SECTION 2:  A. As of 1 January 2025, fracking will be banned throughout the United States  

B. The timeline of this ban allows for measured and reasonable transition from fracking to alternative forms of energy production that do not have the same health and climate worries.  

SECTION 3.  Funding and Enforcement  

1. The budgets of the EPA and the Department of Energy will be redrawn to prioritize alternatives to fracking and to handle cleanup from current fracking operations  

2. The EPA and the Department of Energy will enforce the ban  

SECTION 4.  The ban goes into full effect on 1 January 2025  

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lakeville North High School
A Bill to Mandate Paid Parental Leave for Companies with Greater than 50 Employees

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Companies with greater than 50 employees will be required to offer employees a minimum of a 12 week paid parental leave.

SECTION 2. A. Employees will be eligible to take a paid leave if they will care for or have birthed a newborn child or are adopting or fostering a child.

B. The U.S. Department of Labor shall authorize grants to fund the paid leave. Appropriate use of the grant funding includes, but is not limited to: paying employees who take leave, hiring new employees to cover for the employees who take leave, etc.

C. At the end of each fiscal year, employers must report how much of the grant funding was used, how it was used, and what the remaining money will be used for.

D. At the end of each fiscal year employers must also report how many employees took parental leave, how much the employees were paid, and the amount of time that the employees were on leave.

E. Employees must be paid 100% of their salary during their leave.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Labor shall provide grant funding for employers.

A. Employers who do not enforce the paid parental leave measures outlined in this bill shall face a fine until the paid leave is implemented.

Employers shall be annually fined a percentage of the income listed on their annual tax returns until they implement a paid parental leave. The fine will begin with the equivalent of 15% for the first year, and for every additional year that employers fail to comply, the percentage of their income that will be fined shall increase by 5%.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on FY 2023.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Nika Farokhzad.
A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Jones Act is hereby repealed by the Congress here assembled.


SECTION 3. Upon passage of this legislation, 46 U.S.C. § 55102 and all its provisions within the United States Code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. The U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security shall be charged with implementation, oversight, and enforcement of this legislation.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect 90 days after passage.

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by East Ridge High School
A Resolution to Recognize Palestine as a State

WHEREAS, Israel has illegally occupied Palestine since 1948; and

WHEREAS, therefore, Palestinians have had their rights unlawfully controlled by the Israeli government; and

WHEREAS, civilians have been oppressed and are unable to stay safe, due to bombings; and

WHEREAS, civilians have lost their homes because of Israeli settlers, including Sheikh Jarrah; and

WHEREAS, many restrictions have been placed on Palestinians, and daily life has become all but impossible; and

WHEREAS, the US was one of the first countries to recognize the state of Israel; and WHEREAS, Our failure to recognize Palestine has enabled Israeli settlers to take land that rightfully belongs to Palestine; and

WHEREAS, Israel has violated many basic rights of the Palestinians, bombing places of worship and people’s homes, detaining Palestinians and denying them education or medical care; and

WHEREAS, Israeli settlers are settling in Palestinian territory, displacing thousands of Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, the illegal occupation of Israel has resulted in many protests around the world due to the fact that Palestinians are suffering, and we have turned a blind eye; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the U.S. recognizes the state of Palestine, with its borders as agreed to by the United Nations prior to Israel’s territorial expansion into Palestinian land in 1949.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lakeville South High School
A Bill to Promote Resettlement of Haitian Refugees in Canada

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. $500 million of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement budget shall be allocated to provide transportation from the southern U.S. border onward to Canada for Haitian refugees fleeing the crisis brought about by the August 2021 earthquake as well as Tropical Storm Grace. These funds may also be used to provide food, lodging, medical care, and legal support for these refugees as they attempt to immigrate to Canada.

SECTION 2. As long as funding remains, Haitian refugees who opt not to attempt to continue on to Canada shall be deported back to Haiti.

SECTION 3. An additional $500 million in federal aid shall be given to Canada to assist with resettlement of these refugees.

SECTION 4. All of these funds shall be renewed annually until the United Nations no longer considers Haiti to be in crisis or until three years have passed, whichever comes first.

SECTION 5. Section 1 and 2 of this legislation shall be overseen by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Section 3 of this legislation shall be overseen by the Department of State.

SECTION 6. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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