PHSSL State Championship 2021

Senate Legislation

1 – A Resolution to Discontinue Federal Subsidies of the Fossil Fuel Industry (District #16)
2 – A Bill to Mandate Transparency in Public and Charter School Spending (District #11)
3 – Same Day Voter Registration in PA (District #10)
4 – A Bill to Provide Aid to Yemen (District #9)
5 – A Bill to Give Convicted Felons Suffrage (District #7)
6 – The Higher Education Availability Act of 2021 (District #1)
7 – The Mandatory Mask Bill (District #6)
8 – A Bill to Transfer Renewable Energy Subsidies to Clean Coal Subsidies to Advance the Clean Energy Industry (District #8)
9 – A Resolution to Eliminate the FICA Tax Income Cap to Ensure Long Term Social Security Viability (District #2)
10 – A Bill to Enforce Transparency in Capitol Police Operations to Guarantee Citizen Safety (District #12)
11 – A Bill to Require Classrooms to be More Supportive of Neurodiversity (District #3)
A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE FEDERAL SUBSIDIES OF THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY

In the Pennsylvania High School Speech League
by Deer Lakes High School - District #16

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PHSSL DISTRICT 16 SENATE THAT:

1 WHEREAS, The United States was the world’s second biggest carbon polluter in 2019,

2 emitting 5.131 billion tons of CO2; and

3 WHEREAS, The burning of fossil fuels is widely considered the primary catalyst of

4 climate change; and

5 WHEREAS, The Environmental and Energy Study Institute estimates that direct fossil

6 fuel subsidies by the US government amounts to approximately $20 billion

7 per year; and

8 WHEREAS, Provisions such as 26 U.S. Code § 613, 26 U.S. Code § 263, and Internal

9 Revenue Code § 48A, among others, have enabled the fossil fuel industry to

10 expand at the expense of the taxpayer; and

11 WHEREAS, These provisions indirectly incentivize the use of fossil fuels by making

12 them cheaper and more accessible than renewable energy sources; be it

13 RESOLVED by the Congress here assembled that all federal subsidies to the fossil fuel

14 industry be discontinued.
A Bill to Mandate Transparency in Public and Charter School Spending

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All public and charter schools in the United States of America will have to publish on public record how the taxpayers' dollars are being spent within the school, thus creating transparency. The schools must release how they are spending the taxpayer's money on a quarterly basis.

SECTION 2. A. Public Schools are to be defined as schools in the United States that are publicly funded and are not independent.

B. Charter Schools are to be defined as schools that are publicly funded, but run on an independent basis.

C. Public Record should be defined as a viewable website, book, or written page that allows certain information to become viewable to the public.

SECTION 3. The Department of Education will oversee the enforcement and effectiveness of this legislation.

A. Public schools will be subject to publish any and all expenses that use taxpayers' dollars.

   a. If Public Schools do not publish any and all expenses that use taxpayers' dollars after the effective date of this legislation, the School or Schools will be subject to a fine of 5% of their budget. The City will withhold the 5% fine until payments are published then returned to the school.

B. Charter schools will be subject to publish any and all expenses that use taxpayers' dollars.

   a. If Charter schools do not publish any and all expenses that used taxpayer dollars after the effective date of this legislation, the School or Schools will be subject to a fine of 5% of their budget. The City will withhold the 5% until payments are published then returned to the school.

SECTION 4. This Legislation will go into effect on April 1st, 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted,

St. Joseph’s Preparatory School
- District #11
1. **Whereas:** Same Day Voter Registration does away with registration deadlines that
2. disenfranchise potential voters by placing deadlines 30 days before Election Day.
3. **Whereas:** Same Day Voter Registration also fixes inaccuracies in voter rolls by allowing
4. eligible voters to use Same Day Registration to correct outdated voter registration records
5. at polling places often due to a name change or change of address.
6. **Whereas:** With Same Day Voter Registration there is far less need for provisional ballot use,
7. which will thereby speed the process of recounts and audits, saving taxpayers in the long run,
8. and assuring voters that their votes will be counted.
9. **Whereas:** Same Day Voter Registration will increase voter participation as not being registered
10. to vote is the biggest impediment to voting. Same Day Registration has been proven to boost
11. voter turnout in states that have it; e.g. NH, Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine.
12. **Whereas:** Same Day Voter Registration is the best stop-gap solution to solve errors in the
13. registration process, fix inaccuracies in voter rolls, reduce provisional ballots, and
14. increase voter participation.

15. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by this PHSSL Student Congress here assembled:
16. **That** The Pennsylvania legislature should permit Same Day Voter Registration.

Respectfully Submitted,
District #10
A Bill to Provide Aid to Yemen

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States will provide $300 million in humanitarian aid and $600 million dollars in developmental aid to Yemen in order to assist with the ongoing political and economic crises there, while helping their citizens.

SECTION 2. A. Humanitarian aid shall be defined as aid used for medicine, food, and water, etc.

B. Developmental aid shall be defined as aid used to support the economic, environmental, social, and political development of a country for long-term relief.

SECTION 3. A. The United States Agency for International Development will oversee the enforcement of this bill.

B. The Department of Treasury will be responsible for the allocation of the money.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2021.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by

Danville Area High School - District #9
A Bill To Give Convicted Felons Suffrage

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS THAT:

1. **Section 1.** That after fulfilling their sentence, leaving prison, paying all fines, and after serving all
time on parole, convicted felons shall be given suffrage in all elections.

2. **Section 2.** A convicted felon is anyone convicted of a felony class crime and their suffrage can only
be restored after serving their sentence in prison, leaving prison, paying all fines, and after
serving all time on parole, they can only receive suffrage if they meet all other criteria to
vote.

3. **Section 3.** The United States Department of Justice will be tasked with generating a list of convicted
felons who have left prison, paid all fines, served all time on parole, and meet the other
qualifications to vote. Then the state’s Department of State shall ensure all felons on this
list are given an opportunity to register to vote and vote in all elections.

4. **Section 4.** Once ratified this law will be enacted on Fiscal Year 2024.

5. **Section 5.** All other laws in conflict with this new policy shall hereby be declared null and void.

*Introduced for congressional debate by the Gettysburg Area High School - District 7*
THE HIGHER EDUCATION AVAILABILITY ACT OF 2021

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Article I: The United States federal government will abolish tuition fees to students of public colleges and universities, trade schools, and community colleges and increase grant funding from the Department of Education to state governments for the purpose of providing additional necessary funding to public colleges and universities, trade schools, and community colleges.

Article II: The budget of the Department of Education shall be increased at the start of fiscal year 2022 so as to provide aforementioned grants to state governments.

A. To fund this increase, the Internal Revenue Service shall impose an excise tax of 0.1% on the sale of all stocks, bonds, and derivatives.

B. This increase in budget shall also be funded in part by the annual reallocation of $10 billion from the Department of Defense.

C. Any leftover funding in a given year shall be granted to aid infrastructure in American public colleges and universities, trade schools, and community colleges at the discretion of the Department of Education.

Article III: This legislation shall be implemented at the start of the 2022 fiscal year.

Article IV: The Department of Education and the Department of the Treasury will oversee the enforcement of this bill.

Article V: All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

Fairview High School - District #1
The Mandatory Mask Bill

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All individuals in the United States are required to wear a mask when in public (inside and outside) with very limited exceptions.
   A. Masks are required even if adequate social distancing is possible.
   B. Outdoor spaces include all forms of public transportation.
   C. Indoor spaces include public or private buildings where individuals not from the same household come together.

SECTION 2. In cases where individuals cannot afford a mask or do not have access to one, local health departments will supply them for free in all public locations.

SECTION 3. If an individual suffers from a condition that prevents them from safely wearing a mask they will be required to provide a certified doctor’s note testifying to that effect.

SECTION 4. This policy is enforceable by local law officials. Violators will be fined $100 on the first offense and $250 for subsequent offenses.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall go into effect on May 1, 2021 and continue until such time as the COVID-19 Pandemic is declared over.

Respectfully submitted by Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School - District #6.
A BILL TO TRANSFER RENEWABLE ENERGY SUBSIDIES TO CLEAN COAL SUBSIDIES TO ADVANCE THE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. $4 billion shall be taken annually from the Department of Energy’s renewable energy subsidies budget and reallocated to subsidize clean coal technologies.

SECTION 2. A. “Subsidies” shall be defined as federal financial aid through grants, tax credits, exemptions, loans, etc. aimed at promoting economic or social policies.

B. “Clean coal technologies” shall be defined as any process used to reduce and/or contain the emission of coal in order to reduce their harmful environmental effects.

C. “Renewable energy” shall be defined as energy from sources that are not depleted when used. (e.g. solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, biomass, etc.)

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy will oversee the implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This bill will go into effect at the beginning of the U.S. fiscal year 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,

PHSSL District #8
A Resolution to Eliminate the FICA Tax Income Cap to Ensure Long Term Social Security viability

WHEREAS, The Society Security Board of Trustees, in their 2019 Annual Report, has reported that all Social Security fund reserves will be depleted by 2035; and

WHEREAS, Given an increasing aging population and the FICA contributing workforce is shrinking, a detrimental imbalance is inevitable; and

WHEREAS, With depleted reserves, the Government will only be able to pay Social Security benefits to the level of annual FICA Taxes collected; and

WHEREAS, The current limit FICA Income Limit of $142,800 for 2021 is insufficient to mitigate the ongoing cash reserves depletion, especially in time during the Coronavirus Pandemic; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled recommend that the United States Congress eliminate the FICA Income Cap and establish a declining percentage rate with no taxable income limit to continuously bolster the Social Security Cash Reserves and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the revised FICA Tax methodology be introduced into the Tax Code by Law for calendar year 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
District #2
A BILL TO ENFORCE TRANSPARENCY IN CAPITOL POLICE OPERATIONS 
TO GUARANTEE CITIZEN SAFETY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Security information held by the United States Capitol Police must be released to another entity, including an individual, in a manner pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC §552).

SECTION 2. Security Information will be defined as in 2 U.S. Code § 1979:

“information that is sensitive with respect to the policing, protection, physical security, intelligence, counterterrorism actions, or emergency preparedness and response relating to Congress, any statutory protectee of the Capitol Police, and the Capitol buildings and grounds; and is obtained by, on behalf of, or concerning the Capitol Police Board, the Capitol Police, or any incident command relating to emergency response.”

SECTION 3. The Department of Justice and Capitol Police Board will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation goes into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Pennslyvania High School - District #12
BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All classrooms grade K-12 will be required to have accommodations to better suit their neurodivergent students.

SECTION 2. Neurodiversity shall be defined as differing in mental or neurological function from what is considered typical.

A. This includes but is not limited to conditions like Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism, Dyslexia, Tourette’s Syndrome, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and Dissociative Identity Disorder.

B. Accommodations may include but are not limited to: access to STIM devices, access to nonverbal communication, accessibility to a quiet environment, and accessibility to text alternatives.

SECTION 3. The implementation of this bill will be overseen by the Department of Education

A. $50,000 will be allocated to each K-12 public school in the US, amounting to approximately $5 billion.

B. This money will be taken from the current budget of the Department of Education.

SECTION 4. This will go into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Upper St. Clair High School