Springboard Series Scrimmage #8 Legislative Docket

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A Resolution to Encourage Municipal Ownership of Internet Services

WHEREAS, The U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan infrastructure package with $65 billion for internet connectivity; and

WHEREAS, Consumer advocacy groups argue that cities should build their own internet services to expand connectivity nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Municipal broadband is that which is partially or fully owned by local governments; and

WHEREAS, Municipal broadband is not motivated by profits but by providing services to its residents; and

WHEREAS, The original American Jobs Plan included the promotion of competition by eliminating “barriers that prevent municipally-owned or affiliated providers and rural electric co-ops from competing on an even playing field with private providers”; and

WHEREAS, The digital divide must be narrowed; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that municipal development and ownership of internet services should be encouraged and that individual states should support the efforts of municipalities, including, but not limited to, easing regulatory burdens or eliminating outright bans of municipal internet ownership.
A Bill to Create Post-Secondary School Opportunities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Every U.S. resident who obtains a high school diploma or GED will become eligible to receive a full tuition waiver to attend a community college, junior college, or career technical school in the United States.

SECTION 2. “Community college or junior college” is defined as any educational institution approved by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

SECTION 3. The Department of Education will provide enforcement and allocate $60 billion in funding. Funding will be provided on a per-student basis.

A. Only full-time students enrolled in 12 credit hours or more will be eligible to receive a waiver.

B. Any student that drops out or is expelled from their institution will be ineligible to apply for a tuition waiver.

SECTION 4. Implementation will start at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Funding will expire at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
WHEREAS, In the United States, various states and territories are straying further from
the use of the Daylight Saving Time (DST), inevitably creating a lack of
uniformity across the country; and
WHEREAS, Arizona, Hawaii, and all U.S. territories no longer practice DST and prove the
lack of inherent need for DST in all other 48 states; and
WHEREAS, The primary intent of the DST is to save energy, but overall energy use is not
decreasing in the states still practicing the system; and
WHEREAS, The elimination of the DST is needed immediately to improve economic
efficiency and public health throughout the United States; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that Daylight Saving Time in the United
States is eliminated to establish unity in policies and increase efficiency and
economic benefits.
A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Adjust the Right to Vote to Age 16

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

RESOLVED, By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE --

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are sixteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by a State on account of age.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
A Bill to Invest in Deep Sea Mining

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A $1 billion competitive grant program for research and development into deep sea mining technology shall be established to advance U.S. interests in the acquisition of critical minerals.

SECTION 2. Deep sea mining is the process of retrieving minerals from the ocean floor.

SECTION 3. The National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly administer this competitive grant program.

A. U.S. entities, including private companies, non-profits, and universities, shall be eligible to receive grant funding.

B. Foreign entities applying for grant funding will be required to undergo a national security review from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect January 1, 2022.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Resolution on Independent Ethics Commissions

1. WHEREAS, Political crises are emerging in state legislatures and governor’s offices nationwide; and

2. WHEREAS, Ethics investigations in many states are stymied by votes in support of members of one’s own party, regardless as to the merits of the case; and

3. WHEREAS, True bipartisan investigations and ethics rules changes are rarely enacted; and

4. WHEREAS, The defense of many investigations is claims that the competing party is engaged in smear campaigns and through fear of political reprisal; and

5. WHEREAS, Many state offices, such as governor of New York, hold exclusive executive powers that remain unchecked; and

6. WHEREAS, Many states are considering ethics reforms but cannot come to bipartisan agreement; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled to urge the states to adopt Independent Ethics Commissions which

1. Consist of nonpartisan members - government employees, elected officials, and lobbyists are among those ineligible to serve;

2. Recommend ethics reform policies, such as separation of powers agreements (no lobby provisions to other branches of government), financial disclosure agreements, or language to amend state regulations to effect change;

3. Determine the merits of ethics investigations of state legislators and governors without regard to political party;

4. Report any attempts of political officials or their representatives to threaten retaliatory actions as a result of Commission activities and outcomes.
A Resolution to Eliminate Online Tracking

WHEREAS, Technology companies must do more to implement policies and practices that protect consumer privacy; and

WHEREAS, Consumers are left vulnerable to the whims of advertisers eager to sell products and services online; and

WHEREAS, Some technology companies are privacy-conscious while others continue to do business as usual, creating an uneven playing field; and

WHEREAS, Digital advertising is a $350 billion industry; and

WHEREAS, Technology companies’ research teams can use artificial intelligence to create advertising opportunities to cohorts of individuals while protecting consumer data; and

WHEREAS, Data breaches occur in companies both large and small; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled to urge private technology companies to eliminate collection of consumer information through online tracking and to develop creative and sustainable means to collect advertising revenue while protecting consumers’ private information.