

North Texas Longhorns Congressional Debate Docket, 2023

Items 1-5 will be debated in AM sessions, Items 6-10 will be debated in PM sessions.

Item 1 - A Bill to Ban Bottom Trawl Fishing – Trivium Academy

Item 2 - Item 2 - The Reducing Arms and Munitions for Kashmiri Intervention (R.A.M.K.I.) Act – Plano East Senior High School

Item 3 - A Resolution to Support Moldova to Promote the Use of Renewable Energy – Jasper High School

Item 4 - A Resolution to Fairly Compensate Prisoners for Labor – Flower Mound High School

Item 5 - A Bill to Raise the Retirement Age to 70 – Clark High School

Item 6 - A Resolution to Subsidize the Domestic Production of Semiconductors – Flower Mound High School

Item 7 - A Resolution to Ban Landmines – Trivium Academy

Item 8 - The Access to Resources for Undoing Lifelong Addiction (A.R.U.L) Act – Plano East Senior High School

Item 9 - A Resolution to Ban Nicotine for Everyone Who Is Born After the Year 2010 – Clark High School

Item 10 - A Bill to Invest in Kenya to Extract Rare Earth Elements – Jasper High School



Item 1 - A Bill to Ban Bottom Trawl Fishing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Addressing the risk to fish habitats, as well as destruction of coral beds,
2 bottom trawl fishing will be banned in all federally controlled waters.

3 **SECTION 2.** Bottom trawl fishing will be defined as a method of fishing that uses a
4 towing net along the ocean floor to capture target species.

5 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Agriculture will oversee the funding and
6 implementation of a program specifically for aquatic farming and
7 cultivation while working with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
8 Administration (NOAA) for additional research and guidance.

9 A. Guidelines will be set by the NOAA based on those created by the
10 Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in
11 terms of marine fishery laws.

12 B. Any farmer caught not in compliance with these guidelines will be
13 subject to a \$50,000 fine.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Trivium Academy.

Item 2 - The Reducing Arms and Munitions for Kashmiri Intervention (R.A.M.K.I.) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** A. The United States Government shall revoke all military and
2 developmental aid from India and Pakistan until each party removes their
3 military presence from Kashmir.

4 **B.** The United States shall send 1 billion dollars of aid to Kashmir for
5 stabilization initiatives.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. Stabilization initiatives shall include, but not be limited to,
7 developmental assistance, economic stimulus, and operations directly
8 tied to protecting human rights.

9 **B.** The US Department of State will designate the specific recipients of the
10 aid in Section 1B, with a focus on directly assisting the Kashmiri people.

11 **SECTION 3.** The US Department of State and USAID shall oversee the implementation
12 of this legislation and shall be given 100 million dollars each for the
13 purposes implementing this act.

14 **SECTION 4.** This bill will be implemented one year after passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano East Sr. High School.

Item 3 - A Resolution to Support Moldova to Promote the Use of Renewable Energy

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Moldova has great potential for expanding the use of renewables; and
- 2 **WHEREAS,** Moldova has a climate and that is highly adaptable for solar and wind
- 3 energy, however, resources to take advantage of this have not been
- 4 developed in Moldova; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Moldova’s agriculturally based economy is beneficial for biomass as an
- 6 energy source; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Climate change is a real threat that we must prepare for; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Developed nations worldwide have not taken enough initiative to reduce
- 9 reliance on non-renewable energy sources; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** Moldova is the second poorest country in Europe; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** Moldova is reliant on imports for its energy production; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** Promoting the use of renewables will create job opportunities resulting in
- 13 the bolstering of the economy; now, therefore, be it
- 14 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled support Moldova to promote the use
- 15 of renewable energy.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jasper High School.

Item 4 - A Resolution to Fairly Compensate Prisoners for Labor

- 1 **WHEREAS,** There are seven states in the United States that do not pay prisoners for
2 the majority of their labor; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Two-thirds of prisoners report doing mandated labor while imprisoned;
4 and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** A primary cause of recidivism is a lack of financial security after leaving
6 prison; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Incarcerated workers produce billions of dollars of goods and services
8 each year but are paid less than a dollar per hour to do so; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** The United States must always aspire to hold itself to a greater moral and
10 ethical standard; now, therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled increase prisoner pay to minimum
12 wage and increase funding towards prisons; and, be it
- 13 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this increase in funding will be specifically directed towards
14 paying for prison labor.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Flower Mound High School.

Item 5 - A Bill to Raise the Retirement Age to 70

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** This bill shall raise the retirement age to 70, pushing back age thresholds for
2 government agencies such as social security to 70.

3 **SECTION 2.** The retirement age is defined as the age that one may begin receiving
4 government paid retirement compensation without penalty.

5 **SECTION 3.** The Employee Benefits Security Administration of the Department of Labor and
6 the Social Security Administration shall enforce this legislation.

7 **A.** Current retirees under the age threshold who are eligible for compensation
8 before the fiscal year 2025, shall not incur penalties.

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation
10 are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by R.C. Clark High School.

Item 6 - A Resolution to Subsidize the Domestic Production of Semiconductors

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Tensions between China and Taiwan are heightening; and
- 2 **WHEREAS,** The US currently relies heavily on Taiwan’s production of semiconductors,
3 specifically Taiwan accounts for up to 90% of advanced chips; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** If the industry in Taiwan were to be harmed, semiconductor production
5 would decline significantly; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** This would be disastrous considering the reliance of the United States’ tech
7 industry on semiconductor technology; now, therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled support efforts to invest in subsidies for
9 the domestic production of semiconductor chips.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Flower Mound High School.

Item 7 - A Resolution to Ban Landmines

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The United States is one of few countries to not ratify the Ottawa
2 Convention; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Landmines are still being produced in the United States as per Trump
4 Administration action; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Landmines are an indiscriminate form of warfare that has adverse effects
6 on civilians, and remain in the ground long after deployment; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Landmines are also an outdated form of warfare as detection technology
8 far exceeds the technology of the mines, rendering them useless; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Banning landmines increases peace and security and can be a valuable
10 peace-building tool between countries; now, therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States ratify the Ottawa
12 Convention in order to prohibit use, stockpiling, production, and transfer
13 of Anti-Personnel Landmines.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Trivium Academy.

Item 8 - The Access to Resources for Undoing Lifelong Addiction (A.R.U.L) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Safe injection sites are hereby allowed to function within the borders of the
2 United States as supervised by the federal government. Each safe injection site
3 shall emphasis rehabilitation as well as safe injection.

4 **SECTION 2.** Safe injection sites shall herby be defined as “medically supervised facilities
5 where citizens are permitted to safely inject drugs without legal repercussions.”

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice and the Food and Drug Administration shall be
7 responsible for the overseeing and implementation of this bill.

8 A. The FDA will be responsible to enforce and review all measures and
9 regulations required to operate safe injection sites.

10 B. If safe injection sites are found to not be following all measures and
11 regulations required for the operating of safe injection sites then the FDA
12 will close said injection site for a minimum of 30 days until safe practices can
13 be met.

14 **SECTION 4.** This bill will be implemented at the beginning of FY 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano East Sr. High School.

Item 9 - A Resolution to Ban Nicotine for Everyone Who Is Born After the Year 2010

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Nicotine is a highly addictive drug affecting 50 million Americans who struggle
2 with addiction; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Nicotine alters the way the brain works, causing an increase in cravings for it,
4 making it significantly harder for users to quit; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Nicotine is also the leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States with
6 1 in 5 deaths being due to nicotine addictions; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** 1 in 5 high schoolers, and 1 in 20 middle schoolers are affected by a nicotine
8 addiction; now, therefore, be it
- 9 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled bans the possession or sale of all products
10 that contain the drug nicotine for anyone born after the year 2010.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by R.C. Clark High School.

Item 10 - A Bill to Invest in Kenya to Extract Rare Earth Elements

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** A. The United States shall grant Kenya annual economic aid of 10 billion dollars,
2 in exchange for benefits for US companies and partnerships with local Kenyan
3 miners.

4 B. This will reinforce the US national security mission to diversify its rare earth
5 elements supply chains while developing the Kenyan economy.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. The economic aid shall be used to subsidize local Kenyan businesses as part of
7 bottom-up economic stabilization programs. Additionally, some portion of the
8 aid will be directed toward infrastructure improvement and construction of
9 facilities.

10 B. In return, US companies shall receive priority access to partnership
11 opportunities with local miners, in that US-offered contracts shall take
12 precedence over business opportunities from other foreign countries.

13 C. US companies shall receive full approval from the Kenyan government to build
14 infrastructure for mining and processing facilities on local land.

15 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Agency for International
16 Development will work in conjunction to implement this legislation.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jasper High School.