

## Student Congress - Orders of the Day:

- A Resolution to Remove the Pledge of Allegiance from Public Education
- A Resolution to Abolish Political Parties
- A Bill to Keep Siblings Together in Adoptions and Foster Care
- A Bill to Institute Neutrality in the United States
- A Bill to Increase Access to Menstrual Care Products
- A Bill to Require Companies to Use Recycled Plastic
- A Bill to Repeal Estate Taxes
- A Bill to Create a Better Law Enforcement Standard
- A Bill to Close the Gender Wage Gap
- A Resolution to Protect Pollinators, Humans, and Animal Life from Pesticides

# **A Resolution to Remove the Pledge of Allegiance from Public Education**

**WHEREAS,** Some school districts require students to partake in the Pledge of Allegiance; and

**WHEREAS,** Some existing laws regarding the Pledge in some states are not followed or are outright ignored in many school districts; and

**WHEREAS,** The Pledge of Allegiance encourages blind patriotism rather than constructive patriotism; and

**WHEREAS,** Students are sometimes bullied for not participating in the Pledge; and

**WHEREAS,** Many educators are required to conduct the Pledge as part of their job, regardless of their religious or political beliefs; now, therefore it be

**RESOLVED,** That the Pledge of Allegiance is no longer conducted in the public education system.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# **A Resolution to Abolish Political Parties**

**WHEREAS,** Political parties have created and continue to create tension between members of different political parties; and

**WHEREAS,** The existence of political parties allows for and encourages voter ignorance; and

**WHEREAS,** Political parties often lead to certain political parties having more power than others, leaving other parties underrepresented and without a voice; now, therefore it be

**RESOLVED,** That the congress here assembled recommends that all political parties be abolished and not supported by the government in all official government elections and capacities.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# **A Bill to Keep Siblings Together in Adoptions and Foster Care**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The United States shall require states to make reasonable efforts to place siblings together in adoption, guardianship, or foster care, unless the placement would adversely affect safety or well-being. In the event that siblings are separated, states must make efforts to facilitate safe, regular visitation or other contact.

- A. Caseworkers and foster/adoptive parents will have training on preserving sibling connections,
- B. Siblings will be assigned to the same caseworker, regardless of when they enter care.
- B. A federal system will be established to locate and track siblings — including those in care, those still in the home, and those who have been adopted or who have aged out of the system.
- C. Children shall be included in the decision-making about placement with siblings and regularly discuss any issues at case reviews.
- D. In the case of separation, siblings must receive visitation or contact at least once a month if they so desire.

**SECTION 2.** Guardianship shall be defined as a judicially-created relationship between child and caretaker that is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer to the caretaker of the following parental rights with respect to the child: protection, education, care and control of the person, and decision-making.

**SECTION 3.** The Children's Bureau will oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately on July 1, 2023.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# A Bill to Institute Neutrality in the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The United States shall practice neutrality in all global conflicts in the future. The United States will only break its neutrality when attacked or provoked. The United States shall reduce its military spending by 20%.

**SECTION 2.** Neutrality is defined as the state of not supporting or helping either side in a conflict, disagreement, etc.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2023.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# **A Bill to Increase Access to Menstrual Care Products**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** All public secondary schools, public universities, public technical schools, public community colleges, public prisons, public homeless shelters, and public federal buildings will provide adequate menstrual care products to all menstruating individuals.

**SECTION 2.** Menstrual care products will be defined as products to aid in menstruation including, but not limited to, pads and tampons.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Education, The Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Labor will oversee the implementation and enforcement of their parts of this legislation.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately after passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# ***A Bill to Require Companies to Use Recycled Plastic***

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:***

***SECTION 1.*** *The United States shall require newly manufactured plastic bottles to be at least 50% recycled plastic.*

***SECTION 2.*** *A plastic bottle shall be defined as a bottle constructed from high-density or low-density plastic that is used to store liquids such as water, soft drinks, motor oil, cooking oil, medicine, shampoo, milk, and ink.*

***SECTION 3.*** *The Department of Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency will oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation. Fines up to 10,000 dollars will be imposed for each violation.*

***SECTION 4.*** *This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2024.*

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# ***A Bill to Repeal Estate Taxes***

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:*

***SECTION 1.*** *Chapters 11 and 12 of the U.S. Code authorizing a tax on transfers made by citizens and legal residents in the United States are repealed.*

***SECTION 2.*** *Transfers shall be defined as giving property to another individual, either while alive or after death. Property shall be defined as anything that an individual may own, either tangible or intangible, that has value.*

***SECTION 3.*** *The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.*

***SECTION 4.*** *This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2023.*

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School.*

# ***A Bill to Create a Better Law Enforcement Standard***

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:*

***SECTION 1.*** *A federal lethal force standard will be implemented in which law enforcement can only use lethal force when absolutely necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or death, and after exhausting all de-escalation techniques. Police officers and other law enforcement will not have qualified immunity.*

***SECTION 2. Definitions:***

*Lethal force shall be defined as an amount of force that is likely to cause either serious bodily injury or death to another person.*

*De-escalation techniques shall be defined as actions used by officers, when safe and feasible without compromising law enforcement priorities, that seek to minimize the likelihood of the need to use force during an incident and increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance.*

***SECTION 3.*** *The Department of Justice will be in charge of the implementation and enforcement of this legislation. Law enforcement departments will carry liability insurance against potential civil suits.*

***SECTION 4.*** *This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2023.*

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# ***A Bill to Close the Gender Wage Gap***

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:*

***SECTION 1.*** *The United States shall enforce gender wage equality. All employers are to post the compensation range and a general description of all employment benefits in their job postings. All employers are prohibited from paying any employee a wage rate that is less than the rate paid to an employee of a different gender for substantially similar work. Employers will be fined up to \$10,000 per violation.*

***SECTION 2.*** *Employer will be defined as a person or organization that employs people. Employee will be defined as a person employed for wages or salary.*

***SECTION 3.*** *The Department of Labor shall implement and oversee this legislation.*

***SECTION 4.*** *This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.*

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*

# ***A Resolution to Protect Pollinators, Humans, and Animal Life from Pesticides***

***WHEREAS,***      *Hives have decreased by 30% or more each year since 2006; and*

***WHEREAS,***      *Toxic neonicotinoid pesticides contribute to honey bee mortality, as well as to declines in native pollinators, birds, and aquatic life; and*

***WHEREAS,***      *Bees are responsible for pollinating most of the world's food supply, including many fruits and vegetables such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, carrots, and broccoli, as well as almonds and coffee; and*

***WHEREAS,***      *Neonicotinoid pesticides also threaten aquatic life and have been linked to death of molting blue crabs and declines in macroinvertebrates; and*

***WHEREAS,***      *Neonicotinoid pesticides also pose a risk to human health because they can impair the developing nervous system, cause brain damage in children, affect ovaries and hormonal balance, and cause cell mutations; now, therefore it be*

***RESOLVED,***      *that the Congress here assembled recommends that all Neonicotinoid pesticides, including Imidacloprid, Nithiazine, Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Thiachloprid, Thiamethoxam, and any other chemicals designated by the Department of*

*Agriculture as belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals be banned in the United States.*

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Emily Templin of Canyon View High School*