

## **Welcome Preface**

Thank you for choosing to attend the 2024 Cal Invitational. We are excited that you are taking part in Student Congress at one of the largest high school forensics competitions in the country. We are excited to host you in-person at the University of California, Berkeley!

I thank both Jega Vigneshwaran from UC Berkeley and Aleisha Readye from Dougherty Valley High School for their work two years ago on drafting these rules for online competition. The rules we are using this year will largely mirror the rules they have written for the Tournament last year.

The following rules are designed to promote consistent parliamentary procedure among the chambers and a high standard of Congressional Debate. Please note, these regulations cannot be altered or ignored by the chamber using a motion to suspend the rules.

Each school is required to provide one judge per every five Congressional Debaters who must be available on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Depending on judge experience, we may be using Parliamentarians in preliminary chambers. Judges are obligated for all days' rounds, regardless of whether any of their students made it to the elimination round(s) on Monday.

The Rules of Order reflect the tournament that will be taking place this year. Please review them prior to the tournament and direct any questions you have to the Congress Tabroom Director below.

Xavier Liu

Bellarmine College Preparatory

[xavier.liu17@gmail.com](mailto:xavier.liu17@gmail.com)

GO BEARS!



## **Rules of Order**

**Please read through the rules carefully. Rules not explicitly enumerated here will be governed by the most recent edition of the National Speech and Debate Association's (NSDA) High School Unified Manual. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12<sup>th</sup> edition*, shall prevail when the NSDA rules are silent. Please do not hesitate to contact the tournament directors if you have any further questions regarding the rules. Again, good luck and we hope you have a great time!**

1. **Recency & Priority:** Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should recognize speakers fairly, consistently, and randomly; the PO should explain their process to the chamber at the beginning of each session. They may not link recognition of speakers to previous recognition of students asking questions, moving motions, or longest standing (standing time). During any session, precedence/recency should not reset, to ensure that all students in the chamber have an equal opportunity to speak and receive evaluation from scorers. When a new session begins, precedence/recency will be reset. Priority for speaker recognition will be governed by the following principles as set by the NSDA:
  1. Primary Principle: students who have not spoken during the session
  2. Secondary Principle: students who have spoken fewer times
  3. Tertiary Principle: students who spoke earlier (least recently)
2. **Debate at the Will of the Chamber:** This tournament does not restrict multiple consecutive speeches on the same side (i.e., two or more consecutive Affirmative or Negative speeches). However, Presiding Officers are strongly encouraged to chastise the chamber should speakers be unprepared to speak on legislation and judges may take this lack of preparation into account when ranking students. Students are also reminded that "dividing the house" as a survey of who wishes to speak on the affirmative and negative is a misuse of the motion, and that there are no minimum "cycles" of debate (all motions are welcome between all speeches). In the unlikely absence of a first affirmative speech, debate may not begin on a new piece of legislation with a negative speech. Students may, during a recess, prior to the start of a round, or after a round has ended, ask how many people would like to speak on a side of a bill and take an informal tally.
3. **Voting by Unanimous Consent:** When a motion is unlikely to be contested, it is appropriate for a Representative to ask the Chair to proceed with unanimous consent. A Representative should state this motion as follows: "I ask unanimous consent that...", followed by the motion. The Chair shall then ask for unanimous consent by asking, "are there any objections" before executing the motion. Members may then respond by announcing "I object" to the chamber. This is not an automatic recognition to explain the substance of that objection. Proper expression of your objection is to then vote "Nay" in the subsequent division of the chamber (this prohibition includes explaining that you have a speech you still wish to deliver; the chamber is aware that you've been standing

thus far and is not obliged to allow every member to deliver every speech they may desire). Presiding Officers will not allow objections to be explained ad nauseam.

4. **Personal Privileges:** Suspension of the rules for the purposes of an open chamber, where members may freely enter and exit between speeches, is **not** permitted for this tournament. Members are reminded that the proper exchange to ask for permission to leave or re-enter the chamber occurs as follows:

Member: "Mr./Mme./Mx. President/Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege."

Chair: "State privilege."

Member: "Enter/Exit chambers."

Chair: "Granted." or "Denied (with brief explanation)."

5. **Proper Phrasing of Motions:** Members of Congress are reminded to avoid the amateurish practice of "making a motion" and using the word "motioning." Instead, please utilize the verb correctly and state: "I move." This of course should not result in the phrase "I move to make a motion" but rather should lead to statements such as "I move to the previous question" or "I move to amend."
6. **Decorum:** This tournament strives to hold its competitors to the highest standards of decorum among attending students. Debate modeling the work of the United States Congress should be enjoyable but also taken seriously. The Presiding Officer is responsible for enforcing proper decorum.
7. **Legislative Day and Speaker Recognition:** As per NSDA rules, each preliminary session constitutes of a new legislative day, meaning that speaking priority resets at the beginning of each round. Semifinals and Finals shall each constitute a new legislative day respectively. The priority system outlined in Rule 1 is the required method for recognizing speakers at this tournament.
8. **Questioning:** A mandatory two-minute direct questioning period follows all first affirmative and first negative speeches. A mandatory one-minute direct questioning period follows all other speeches. Once recognized, Representatives may ask an unlimited number of questions within their respective period of cross-examination. The Presiding Officer recognizes legislators who wish to ask a question of a speaker; the speaker may not perform this function themselves, nor may a questioner recognize themselves. **The rules may not be suspended to abolish cross-examination or to allow for an extension of the cross-examination period.** The Presiding Officer has an obligation to rule that misleading or irrelevant questions are out-of-order. Representatives are reminded to keep their questions and question prefaces concise. Should a cross-examination period not be claimed by any questioner, the Presiding Officer may absorb the remaining time and proceed to call up the next speech in a cycle.
9. **Agenda Order:** Each preliminary chamber sets its own agenda order for the legislation designated for that preliminary session and may amend the agenda with a majority vote of the chamber. The proposed agenda order must receive approval by a simple majority

vote of the chamber before the beginning of each session. No chamber may debate legislation at any time other than during its designated session(s). Legislation marked for “Prelims” may only be debated in the Preliminary Rounds. Legislation marked for “Semis” may only be debated in the Semifinal Round. Legislation marked for “Finals” may only be debated in the Final Round. Speakers should be prepared to debate on all pieces of legislation and should be prepared to debate on both sides of such legislation.

10. **Amendments:** Legislators may submit amendments to the Presiding Officer in writing. A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment; such a motion is in order any time after the first affirmative speech. Once the motion is made, the Presiding Officer – with the assistance of the Parliamentarian – decides if the amendment is germane. If the amendment is deemed not to be germane, the chair rules it out-of-order and the amendment process stops. If the chair rules the amendment germane, they should read the contents of the amendment to the chamber. A 1/3 second of the members present in the chamber is required to debate the amendment. If at least a third of the chamber seconds the motion to debate the amendment, debate on the amendment commences immediately. Legislators may make a motion to table or call the previous question on the amendment at any time. The first speech on the amendment is a sponsorship speech. The chair determines speaker recognition for the sponsorship speech based on priority; **the author of the amendment is not guaranteed the sponsorship speech.** The sponsor accepts responsibility for the mechanics of the amendment and yields to two minutes of questioning. All amendment speeches receive a score and count towards priority. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment (this of course after a 2/3 vote has been achieved to call previous question on the amendment).
11. **Authorship Speeches:** If a member of the school that authored the legislation being debated is in the chamber, they may (but are not required to) have the first affirmative speech. The speech should be 3 minutes in length, but the cross-examination period will be extended to 2 minutes. If there are multiple members from the school that authored the legislation, only one member may give the authorship speech, while other members will be chosen to speak based on the priority system described in Rule 1.
12. **Overtime Speeches:** The time limit for speeches in all rounds of this tournament is 3 minutes. Any regular floor speech that extends more than ten (10) seconds beyond the maximum speaking time of three minutes may be gavelled down by the Presiding Officer. **The Presiding Officer is required to keep accurate time of each speech and report it to the judges when the speaker has finished.** The judges shall heavily penalize a Presiding Officer for inaccurate timing and/or reporting.
13. **Electronic Device Use:** The use of laptops and electronic devices, including tablets and phones, in chambers is permitted, though it is strongly recommended that students avoid reading notes from laptops when delivering speeches in front of the chamber. Students shall be allowed to use tablet devices when delivering speeches and under no circumstances shall students be penalized for electronic device usage in accordance with

these rules. Please be advised that limited power supplies will exist in the classrooms at UC Berkeley and the tournament accepts no responsibility for providing Congressional debaters with a power source or WiFi at any tournament site. This tournament will adopt the NSDA's "CURRENT GUIDELINES for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Congressional Debate" and the NSDA's "Current Guidelines for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Debate Events." At no point may a student use the Internet for purposes of gaining help from coaches, other students, or other persons. Failure to follow the rules governing electronic devices may result in disqualification from the Tournament.

14. **Selection of Presiding Officers:** A single presiding officer will serve for each session. A legislator is allowed to serve as Presiding Officer for more than one session, though he or she must be re-elected for each session served. Members of each chamber are encouraged to hold an informal, brief "business meeting" in their chamber before the beginning of each Session to elect a Presiding Officer for the session. A Presiding Officer must always be elected before debate on legislation commences and must also be elected at the beginning of each session. A presiding officer must serve for the entire 90 – 120-minute session and may not deliver a speech during the session. **There is no such thing as "presiding officer privilege" for speech recognition in future sessions.**
15. **Time Signals:** Presiding Officers should disclose to their chamber and to the judges at the start of every Session how they will be signaling to speakers (i.e., gavel taps, hand gestures, etc.) when their time has concluded and how much time has elapsed in each speaker's speech.
16. **Clarification of Voting Standards:** "[Fractional] motions such as previous question, seconding an amendment, or suspending the rules reflect the will of the entire body. Presiding Officers should calculate these numbers upon first taking the Chair. For these votes, 'No' votes are not even required because the number needed is either reached or it's not. However, in all votes requiring a majority, the Presiding Officer needs to take 'Yes' votes, 'No' votes, and 'Abstentions.' Abstentions do not count as a 'No.' In order for such a motion to pass (including the main bill or resolution), the 'Yes' votes must simply outnumber the 'No' votes. Abstentions are not counted, except as a courtesy to those members who wish to register their desire to avoid voting or those who are undecided on the issue. In theory, all majority votes could be decided by 3 people (2-1) with everyone else abstaining."<sup>1</sup> The Presiding Officer determines the method of voting on each question that comes before the chamber. All simple majority votes are based upon the number of legislators present and voting in the chamber; consequently, the Presiding Officer does not need to call for or count abstentions. For all votes requiring a fraction of the chamber to agree to a motion or question (2/3, 1/3, or 1/5), the chair determines whether the chamber agrees with the motion/question using the number of legislators present in the chamber at the time of the vote. Because of this system, the Presiding Officer must always track the number of legislators in the chamber. By custom,

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<sup>1</sup> Peters, Tammy. *Most Commonly Misunderstood Points of Parliamentary Procedure*. The Rostrum. February 1997.

the Presiding Officer is not included in the count of legislators present and does not vote.  
Notes on voting:

- Final votes on legislation, amendments, and motions to appeal the chair require a counted vote.
- Voice voting is acceptable for all other votes, but a counted vote must be taken if any one legislator calls for a division of the chamber by asking for the Yeas and Nays.

17. **Length of Each Session:** Under no circumstances whatsoever may the round be extended past the end time set at the beginning of each session. Please keep this in mind when choosing which side of the legislation on which to speak, as you may be “shut out” of the round if you are unable to give a speech in the allotted time. The Congressional Debate Tabroom will alert judges when the “hard stop time” is for each Round. The “hard stop time” will be approximately 1.75 hours for Preliminary rounds and 2.5 – 3.25 hours for the Semifinal and Final Round from the start of the first affirmative speech.
18. **Guaranteed Speeches:** No speaker at this tournament is guaranteed a speech during any round. Please be cognizant of the time and realize that if you wish to speak on the same side as the majority of the students in the chamber, you risk the chance of getting “shut out,” or not being able to speak in a round, which almost always results in a rank of 9. The chamber is not responsible for making sure each speaker is able to deliver a speech during a round. Nonetheless, chambers are allowed to break cycle numerous times within a session, though this practice is strongly discouraged.
19. **Parliamentarians:** Parliamentarians may be used in all rounds. Should Parliamentarians be used, the Congress Tournament Director reserves the right to panel speakers from schools with more entries than total panels in all but one or two chambers to ensure their Parliamentarian and judges can be used for the Tournament. Schools should designate one judge as a parliamentarian who will remain in his or her assigned chamber for each preliminary session. The parliamentarian must rank each student in the chamber, without ties. If Parliamentarians are not being used, an odd number of judges will be rotated per chamber.
20. **Judges:** The judging commitment for Congressional Debate is one judge for every 5 entries. All judges are committed for ALL Congressional Debate Rounds, regardless of if their student made it to the Semifinal or Final Rounds.
21. **Recording:** Recording of any individual within or outside a round is prohibited. Violators of this rule will be removed from the Tournament and their affiliated institution will be fined. Repeat offenders will not be allowed to enter the Tournament.
22. **Online:** We do not anticipate that this Tournament be moved online or to a hybrid format. Speakers unable to join us for in person competition for whatever reason (i.e., illness, time conflicts, etc.) will be dropped from the Tournament. No special accommodation via NSDA Campus will be granted.

The Congress Tournament Director reserves the right to issue any additional special rules for the University of California, Berkeley National Congress as warranted.

### **Tabulation Rules**

1. **Scoring:** In the preliminary sessions, each judge will score every speech on a scale of 1 – 6 points (6 is the best). In addition, at the end of each preliminary session, the judges will independently rank the top eight students who advanced the debate most effectively (1<sup>st</sup> is best). All unranked students will receive a rank of 9. The Presiding Officer may be ranked in the top eight and should be if they provide outstanding service to the chamber. All judges will be instructed that they must consider the Presiding Officer. These rankings will be included in their entirety (no tie at ninth) in the calculation of which legislators advance from each chamber.
2. **Advancing to the Semifinal Round:** Final placement in the preliminary rounds will be determined by summing the ranks and determining the order based upon the lowest cumulative rank, truncating ranks 10 or greater to a 9. Depending on the size of each chamber and number of chambers sectioned, the top legislators from each preliminary chamber will advance to the semifinal round. We will be advancing an equal number of competitors per chamber. Ties will be broken in the following priorities:
  1. Judges' preference
  2. Reciprocals, truncated to 9
  3. Cumulative rank total, truncated to 9, dropping the best and worst ranks
  4. Reciprocals of cumulative rank total, truncated to 9, dropping the best and worst ranks
  5. Rank by the parliamentarian (should there be one)
    - If used, the parliamentarian will rank the speakers in each chamber from 1 to N, where N is the number of speakers in the chamber. If used, the parliamentarian's rank is summed with the judges' ranks from each round to determine which speakers advance to the semifinal round. For initial tabulation, the Parliamentarian's rank shall be truncated to 9. Should tiebreakers warrant, the Parliamentarian's rank shall not be truncated for this last tiebreaker.
    - If there is an unbreakable tie, all tied competitors shall advance.
3. **Advancing to the Final Round:** The top legislators in each semifinal chamber will advance to the final round using the same methodology described above. We will be advancing an equal number of competitors per chamber. The parliamentarian will also rank the speakers in each chamber from 1 to N, where N is the number of speakers in the chamber. The parliamentarian's rank is summed with the judges' ranks from the semi-final round to determine which speakers advance to the final round. The parliamentarian's rank will be summed with the judge ranks to determine the final placement of speakers after the final round. The Parliamentarian's rank in both rounds will be truncated to 9 for initial tabulation. Should tiebreakers warrant, the Parliamentarian's rank shall not be truncated for the last tiebreaker. If there is an unbreakable tie, all tied competitors shall advance.
4. **Awards:** Elimination Round competitors will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony on Monday.

## Legislative Agenda

### **Preliminary Round Legislation:**

1. A Bill to Authorize Military Force Against Drug Cartels in the Americas (Bellarmine College Preparatory)
2. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish an Age Limit for the Presidency (Pacific Bay Christian)
3. A Bill to Implement a Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Clovis North)
4. A Bill to Make All Public Universities Free (Tierra Linda)
5. A Resolution to Dramatically Reduce the US Military's Presence Abroad (Monte Vista)
6. A Bill to Make Healthcare Insurance More Affordable (Northland Christian)
7. A Bill to Regulate American Internet Service Providers to Ensure Net Neutrality (Bellevue)
8. A Bill to Impose a Wealth Tax to Reduce Extreme Wealth Inequality (Taipei American)
9. Aid for Syria's Humanity (ASH) Act (Plano East)

Preliminary Round Legislation are listed in no particular order and may be debated in Rounds 1 – 6 only. Both High School and Middle School will use the SAME pieces of legislation. Each chamber shall set their dockets prior to Round 1. Students should be prepared to speak on all pieces of legislation and on both sides of each legislation.

### **High School Semifinal Round and Middle School Final Legislation:**

1. A Bill to Create the Transpacific Security Organization to Counter Chinese Expansionism (Taipei American)
2. A Bill to End the Cuban Embargo (Young Genius, Bay Area)
3. The Oasis Act of 2024 (Plano East)

High School Semifinal Round and Middle School Final Legislation may only be debated in the High School Semifinal Round and Middle School Final Round.

### **High School Final Round Legislation:**

1. H.R. 6711 – “Prison Staffing Reform Act of 2023”
  - a. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6711/text?s=8&r=364>
2. H.R. 6999 – “Holding Prosecutors Accountable Act”
  - a. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6999/text?s=9&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22hr6999%22%7D>
3. H.R. 6391 – “Integrating New Technologies to Empower Law Enforcement at our Borders Act”
  - a. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6391?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22hr6391%22%7D&s=10&r=1>

High School Final Round Legislation shall only be debated in the High School Final Round.

# A Bill to Authorize Military Force against Drug Cartels in the Americas

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The president is authorized to send 30,000 soldiers to the countries of  
3 Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico with the purpose of  
4 stabilizing and controlling the drug trade in these three countries.

5 **SECTION 2.** Drug Cartels are defined as any criminal organization producing or  
6 distributing illegal narcotics.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense will oversee the enactment of this legislation.

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellarmine College Preparatory.*

# **A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish an Age Limit for the Presidency**

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

## ARTICLE --

**SECTION 1:** No person who has reached the age of seventy-five (75) years by the date of their inauguration shall be eligible to serve as President of the United States. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

**SECTION 2:** This amendment shall take effect beginning with the presidential election held in the year following its ratification.

**SECTION 3:** Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

<sup>20</sup> *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pacific Bay Christian*

# A Bill to Implement a Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1   **SECTION 1.** A carbon fee shall be assessed on fossil fuel producers based on carbon  
2                   content, with revenues returned to taxpayers as rebates to offset increased  
3                   costs.

4   **SECTION 2.** The carbon fee shall start at \$40 per metric ton of carbon dioxide,  
5                   increasing by \$10 per ton annually. Other greenhouse gases shall be taxed  
6                   at CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent rates. Fossil fuel producers shall pay the fee based on  
7                   potential emissions from extraction or importation.

8   **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency and Internal Revenue Service shall  
9                   implement the carbon fee program.  
10                  A. EPA shall calculate annual fee amounts and notify producers.  
11                  B. IRS shall collect fees and issue rebate payments.

12   **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with  
13                   this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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# A Bill to Make All Public Universities Free

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Students who attend a public university will no longer have to pay in  
3 order to attend the university.

4 **SECTION 2.** The term Public University will be defined as a university that is  
5 predominantly funded by public means through a national or sub-  
6 national government.

7 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Education shall be appointed to oversee  
8 enforcement and provisions of this bill.

9 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect July 1, 2025.

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

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12 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tierra Linda MS*

## A Resolution to Dramatically Reduce the US Military's Presence Abroad

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Monte Vista High School.*

# A Bill to Make Healthcare Insurance More Affordable

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Private Health Insurance companies are only allowed to charge a  
3 maximum of 5% of a member's adjusted gross income for total usage  
4 costs during a year of coverage.

5 **SECTION 2.** Private Health insurance is defined as health insurance plans marketed by  
6 the private health insurance industry, as opposed to government-run  
7 insurance programs.

- 8 A. Medical insurance is defined as a type of insurance that covers the  
9 whole or a part of the risk of a person incurring medical expenses.  
10 B. Gross income is defined as the sum of all wages, salaries, profits,  
11 interest payments, rents, and other forms of earnings, before any  
12 deductions or taxes.  
13 C. Public Health Care insurance is defined as a program run by U.S.  
14 federal, state, or local governments in which people have some or all  
15 of their healthcare costs paid for by the government.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will oversee this  
17 legislation in conjunction with a State's health department.

- 18 A. \$100 million dollars will be given to the DHHS to implement the  
19 legislation.  
20 B. All insurance companies found in violation of this legislation will be  
21 fined \$100,000.  
22 C. Public Health Care programs such as Medicare and Medicaid shall  
23 lower all deductibles to \$0 for Americans who fall below the  
24 established poverty line for the current fiscal year.

25 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Northland Christian School.*

# A Bill to Regulate American Internet Service Providers to Ensure Net Neutrality

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Internet Service Providers operating within the United States are hereby  
3 prohibited from engaging in any discriminatory practices that violate net  
4 neutrality.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. “Internet Service Provider” (ISP) shall be defined as any organization  
6 which provides access to the internet to both personal and business  
7 customers.

8 B. “Net Neutrality” shall be defined as the principle that all Internet  
9 Service Providers must treat all internet traffic equally, without giving  
10 preferential treatment to specific websites, content, users, or throttling  
11 or degrading internet traffic.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Communications Commission shall be responsible for  
13 enforcing this legislation.

14 A. ISPs found to be in violation of net neutrality as defined in this  
15 legislation shall be subject to fines, penalties, and other enforcement  
16 as determined by the Federal Communications Commission.

17 B. The Federal Communications Commission holds the power to utilize  
18 user data collected by Internet Service Providers to enforce this  
19 legislation.

20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellevue High School.*

# A Bill to Impose a Wealth Tax to Reduce Extreme Wealth Inequality

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A tax of two percent shall be levied annually upon the aggregate wealth,  
3 in excess of \$100 million, of all United States persons.

4 **SECTION 2.**

5 A. As used herein, "wealth" shall include all assets wherever held  
6 (including beneficial interests in trusts, partnerships, and limited liability  
7 companies) less any debts secured by said assets.

8 B. As used herein, "United States persons" shall include natural persons  
9 who are citizens or residents of the United States and those who have  
10 renounced their citizenship within the previous ten years, but after the  
11 effective date of the bill.

12 **SECTION 3.** This bill will become effective on January 1, 2025.

13 **SECTION 4.** The Department of the Treasury shall be responsible for enforcing the  
14 provisions of this bill.

15 A. The manner by which wealth shall be calculated and returns filed shall  
16 be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

17 B. If Section 1 of this bill is declared unconstitutional as a direct tax, the  
18 federal estate tax shall be increased to 90 percent of all estates in excess  
19 of \$100 million.

20 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation shall hereby be declared null and  
21 void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Taipei American.*

## **Aid for Syria's Humanity (ASH) Act**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

5 SECTION 2.

6 A. This financial assistance for the SNC shall have an allocated budget of \$50 million  
7 annually for the next five years. These funds shall be used to bolster the  
8 opposition forces, enhance their capacity, and promote their efforts to establish a  
9 democratic government in Syria.

10 B. This humanitarian assistance shall have an allocated budget of \$100 million  
11 annually for the next five years. This assistance shall include, but not be limited to,  
12 food, shelter, medical care, and education.

13 SECTION 3.

14 A. The Department of State shall oversee the allocation of the financial support,  
15 ensuring that it is utilized in support of the Syrian National Coalition's efforts to  
16 establish a democratic government and promote peace and stability in Syria.  
17 B. The Defense Intelligence Agency shall provide intelligence and analysis support to  
18 identify areas of need and ensure the safe delivery of aid.  
19 C. The Department of Justice shall oversee the distribution of this humanitarian aid,  
20 ensuring it reaches those in need without diversion or misuse.

**21 SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1st, 2024.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano East Senior High School.*

# A Bill to Create the Transpacific Security Organization to Counter Chinese Expansionism

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1     **SECTION 1.** The United States will create the Transpacific Security Organization (TSO) to  
2                          formally counteract Chinese expansionism and intimidation in Asia. The TSO  
3                          will follow a collective defense principle to counter any Chinese intimidation  
4                          or invasion onto the territorial integrity of the nation.

5     **SECTION 2.**

6         **A.** The TSO will follow a collective defense principle where any acts of war  
7                          from a non-member state onto a member will result in a joint defensive  
8                          response to defend the ally nation and ensure its self-determination.  
9         **B.** The founding members of the organization will consist of: Japan, Australia,  
10                        Taiwan, South Korea, and the United States of America. Any further expansion  
11                        of the organization will require consensus from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the member states for  
12                        admission.

13         **C.** In the case of Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea or intimidation  
14                        of member states, the TSO will convene to decide on the official course of  
15                        action by all members.

16         **D.** Joint defensive response will be defined as any economic and military  
17                        measures to protect the full territorial integrity of a nation, including, but not  
18                        limited to economic sanctions, arms shipment, and deployment of military  
19                        force.

20     **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Defense (DOD) will oversee enforcement  
21                        along with the specific enforcement mechanism. The DOD will collaborate  
22                        with the founding members to formalize this organization and enter into a  
23                        collective defense treaty according to this legislation.

24     **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict  
25                        with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Taipei American School.*

# A Bill to End the Cuban Embargo

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall end its embargo against  
3 Cuba with the repealing of the following acts: The Cuban Embargo Act of  
4 1962, the Cuba Democracy Act of 1992 and the Cuban Liberty and  
5 Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996.

6       **A.** The United States shall issue an official apology to the Republic of  
7 Cuba for the unjust embargo.

8       **B.** The United States shall pay Cuba \$5 billion, adjusting for inflation,  
9 every year for the next 10 years as reparations for the embargo.

10 **SECTION 2.** "Embargo" shall be defined as the official banning of economic,  
11 educational, commercial, and cultural exchange and activity between two  
12 nations.

13 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Department of State and  
14 the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect at the start of the 2026 fiscal year. All  
16 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Young Genius, Bay Area Speech and Debate Academy.*

# The Oasis Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1     **SECTION 1.**   The United States shall pivot towards a primarily solar-powered energy
- 2                         system. All federal subsidization of fossil fuel companies shall end.
- 3                         A. 25% of the subsidies shall be directed to private companies, for the
- 4                         purposes of increasing research, development, and innovation.
- 5                         B. 75% of the subsidies shall be utilized to construct major solar farms
- 6                         on public land.
- 7     **SECTION 2.**   Public land shall be defined as land owned by the federal government,
- 8                         excluding national parks and ecologically protected land. “Major solar
- 9                         farm” shall be defined as a high-density assemblage of solar panels over
- 10                         50 or more square kilometers, primarily in desert land.
- 11    **SECTION 3.**   The General Services Administration, in collaboration with the
- 12                         Department of Energy, shall be tasked with implementing this legislation.
- 13    **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2024
- 14    **SECTION 5.**   All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano East Senior High School*

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6711

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to conduct a comprehensive review of understaffing across the Bureau, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Ms. CHU, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to conduct a comprehensive review of understaffing across the Bureau, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Prison Staffing Re-  
5       form Act of 2023”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8           (1) The Bureau of Prisons has 121 institutions  
9       located throughout the United States and employs

1       nearly 35,000 employees. Understaffing across the  
2       agency jeopardizes the health, safety, and well-being  
3       of staff and inmates alike.

4                     (2) Understaffing at Bureau of Prison institu-  
5       tions poses a threat to inmates, who will con-  
6       sequently lack access to lifesaving medical care, effi-  
7       cient review of their casework, sanitary living condi-  
8       tions, access to vital recidivism reduction program-  
9       ming, and protections against abuse or sexual mis-  
10      conduct.

11                    (3) Understaffing at Bureau of Prison institu-  
12       tions will also result in reduced staff safety, esca-  
13       lated workplace abuse, stressful work conditions, en-  
14       hanced mental and physical health concerns, and un-  
15       acceptably long work shifts for employees.

16                   (4) Mandated overtime, misuse of augmentation  
17       or reassignment, and overworked employees will re-  
18       duce prison security and threaten public safety.

19       **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF UNDERSTAFFING**  
20                   **ACROSS BUREAU OF PRISONS.**

21                   (a) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
22       of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau  
23       of Prisons shall—

24                   (1) complete a thorough external review, in ac-  
25       cordance with subsection (b), of staffing across the

1       Bureau of Prisons, as well as the impact of any  
2       understaffing on employees, individuals in the cus-  
3       tody of the Bureau of Prisons, and overall agency  
4       spending; and

5               (2) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary  
6       of the House of Representatives, the Committee on  
7       the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Council of Pris-  
8       on Locals C–33 within the American Federation of  
9       Government Employees Organization—

10               (A) a plan for recruiting job applicants,  
11       filling vacancies, reducing mandated overtime  
12       and misuse of augmentation, and strengthening  
13       staffing across the Bureau of Prisons; and

14               (B) a guideline for staffing requirements  
15       including—

16                       (i) the number of correctional officers  
17       needed per individual in the custody of the  
18       Bureau of Prisons for each housing unit,  
19       building, or location where individuals in  
20       the custody of the Bureau of Prisons are  
21       located; and

22                       (ii) the number of employees, includ-  
23       ing teachers, counselors, case managers,  
24       and medical staff, needed per individual in  
25       the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for

1 non-correctional departments,  
2 disaggregated by the three primary shifts,  
3 security levels, and any special mission  
4 within the Bureau of Prisons.

5       (b) REQUIREMENTS OF REVIEW.—The external re-  
6 view completed under subsection (a)(1) shall be conducted  
7 by a non-Bureau of Prisons organization, in consultation  
8 with—

9                         (1) the Council of Prison Locals C-33 within  
10                         the American Federation of Government Employees  
11                         Organization;

12 (2) civil rights organizations; and

16 (c) CONTENTS.—The review required under sub-  
17 section (a) shall—

20 (A) the length of time during which individuals in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons  
21 are placed on waiting lists to receive care or  
22 programming;

1       ons, including substance use disorder treatment  
2       programs, mental health programs, and mater-  
3       nal health programs;

4                 (C) the processing of an individuals' in the  
5       custody of the Bureau of Prisons application  
6       for compassionate release, home confinement,  
7       and time credits established under title I of the  
8       First Step Act of 2018 (18 U.S.C. 3631 et  
9       seq.);

10               (D) the availability of teachers, therapists,  
11       and other support staff for evidence-based re-  
12       cidivism reduction programs and productive ac-  
13       tivities (as such terms are defined in section  
14       3635 of title 18, United States Code);

15               (E) adequate protections for staff and indi-  
16       viduals in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons  
17       against violence, neglect, and sexual mis-  
18       conduct;

19               (F) the availability of sanitary and effi-  
20       cient food services;

21               (G) prison security, including the detection  
22       of contraband;

23               (H) the efficient installation of security  
24       cameras and plans to remedy deficits in secu-  
25       rity camera systems;

1                                     (I) the conversion of existing analog radio  
2                                     systems to digital radios equipped with the  
3                                     man-down feature;

4                                     (J) stressful work environments, mandated  
5                                     overtime, augmentation, and other workplace  
6                                     conditions that may jeopardize employees' men-  
7                                     tal and physical health; and

8                                     (K) additional costs incurred by the Bu-  
9                                     reau of Prisons, including costs associated with  
10                                  augmentation and overtime;

11                                 (2) include an independent review, conducted by  
12                                     the National Academy of Medicine, a nonprofit orga-  
13                                     nization, or other type of organization determined by  
14                                     the Director to be capable of conducting such review,  
15                                     of the adequacy and quality of medical care available  
16                                     to individuals in the custody of the Bureau of Pris-  
17                                     ons;

18                                 (3) include a comparison of the various meth-  
19                                     odologies used by the Bureau of Prisons to assess  
20                                     staffing levels, as well as any possible misalignments  
21                                     and inconsistencies in terminology between these  
22                                     methodologies; and

23                                 (4) include a 3-year strategic plan and cost pro-  
24                                     jection for filling existing vacancies and maintaining  
25                                     staffing across the Bureau of Prisons.

1       (d) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—Not later than 3  
2 years after the date on which the plan is submitted under  
3 subsection (a)(2), and subject to appropriations, the Di-  
4 rector of the Bureau of Prisons shall complete implemen-  
5 tation of the submitted plan.

6       (e) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year  
7 after the date on which the plan is submitted under sub-  
8 section (a)(2), and each year thereafter until the end of  
9 the 3-year period described in subsection (c), the Director  
10 of the Bureau of Prisons shall submit to the Committee  
11 on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the  
12 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Council  
13 of Prison Locals C-33 within the American Federation of  
14 Government Employees Organization a report on the  
15 progress of the implementation of the plan submitted  
16 under subsection (a)(2).



118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6999

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to require reports about the prosecution of certain offenses for recipients of Byrne grants, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2024

Mr. MEUSER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to require reports about the prosecution of certain offenses for recipients of Byrne grants, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Holding Prosecutors

5       Accountable Act”.

1     **SEC. 2. DISTRICT ATTORNEY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

2                 **FOR BYRNE GRANTS.**

3             Section 501 of subpart 1 of part E of title I of the  
4     Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34  
5     U.S.C. 10152) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6     lowing:

7             “(i) DISTRICT ATTORNEY REPORTING REQUIRE-  
8     MENTS.—

9             “(1) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis, each  
10      chief executive of a district attorney or prosecutor’s  
11      office that serves a jurisdiction of 380,000 or more  
12      persons, which jurisdiction receives funds under this  
13      part, shall submit to the Attorney General a report  
14      that contains, for the previous fiscal year, the fol-  
15      lowing:

16             “(A) The total number of cases referred to  
17      the office for prosecution of a covered offense.

18             “(B) The number of cases such office de-  
19      clined to prosecute involving a covered offense  
20      and the reasoning for why office declined to  
21      prosecute covered offense.

22             “(C) For cases involving a covered offense  
23      that resulted in a plea agreement reached with  
24      the defendant—

25                 “(i) the total number of such cases;

“(ii) the number of such cases by each initial charge; and

3                         “(iii) the number of such cases by  
4                         each charge of conviction.

5                   “(D) The number of cases involving cov-  
6                   ered offenses initiated against a defendant—

11                                 “(iii) with an open case involving a  
12                                 covered offense arising out of separate con-  
13                                 duct;

14                             “(iv) serving a term of probation for  
15                             a conviction for a covered offense arising  
16                             out of separate conduct; and

17                         “(v) released on parole for a convic-  
18                         tion for a covered offense arising out of  
19                         separate conduct.

20                         “(E) The number of defendants charged  
21                         with a covered offense—

22                         “(i) who were released on their own  
23                         recognition;

1                         “(iii) for whom the prosecutor re-  
2                         quested bail.

3                         “(2) UNIFORM STANDARDS.—The Attorney  
4                         General shall define uniform standards for the re-  
5                         porting of the information required under this sub-  
6                         section, including the form such reports shall take  
7                         and the process by which such reports shall be  
8                         shared with the Attorney General.

9                         “(3) SUBMISSION TO JUDICIARY COMMIT-  
10                         TEES.—The Attorney General shall submit the infor-  
11                         mation received under this subsection to the Com-  
12                         mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Com-  
13                         mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-  
14                         tives and shall publish such information on a pub-  
15                         licly viewable website.

16                         “(4) COVERED OFFENSE DEFINED.—In this  
17                         subsection, the term ‘covered offense’ means any of  
18                         the following:

19                         “(A) Murder or non-negligent man-  
20                         slaughter.

21                         “(B) Forcible rape.

22                         “(C) Robbery.

23                         “(D) Aggravated assault.

24                         “(E) Burglary.

25                         “(F) Larceny.

1               “(G) Motor vehicle theft.

2               “(H) Arson.

3               “(I) Any offense involving the illegal use of  
4               a firearm.

5               “(J) Any offense involving the illegal pos-  
6               session of a firearm.

7               “(5) REDUCTION IN FUNDING.—For any fiscal  
8               year beginning on or after the date of enactment of  
9               this Act, a State or unit of local government shall  
10               be ineligible for a grant under this part if—

11               “(A) the chief executive of a district attor-  
12               ney or prosecutor’s office of that jurisdiction  
13               who was required to submit a report under this  
14               subsection, failed to submit the report required  
15               under this subsection; or

16               “(B) the chief executive of a district attor-  
17               ney or prosecutor’s office of that jurisdiction  
18               declined to prosecute  $\frac{2}{3}$  or more of the total  
19               number of cases referred to the office for pros-  
20               ecution of a covered offense for the previous fis-  
21               cal year.”.



118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6391

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive plan to identify, deploy, and integrate emerging technologies to achieve greater situational awareness along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. DUARTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

---

## A BILL

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive plan to identify, deploy, and integrate emerging technologies to achieve greater situational awareness along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Integrating New Tech-  
5       nologies to Empower Law Enforcement at Our Borders  
6       Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2       Congress finds the following:

3           (1) Our border security is directly tied to our  
4           national security.

5           (2) U.S. Customs and Border Protection faces  
6           a daunting challenge in maintaining situational  
7           awareness along the United States northern and  
8           southern borders.

9           (3) The United States northern border is the  
10          longest common non-militarized border between two  
11          countries.

12          (4) The United States southern border is nearly  
13          2,000 miles long, stretching across rugged and var-  
14          ied terrain.

15          (5) Emerging technologies present an oppor-  
16          tunity to reduce current strains on manpower while  
17          improving situational awareness along the northern  
18          and southern borders.

19          (6) U.S. Customs and Border Protection is cur-  
20          rently testing a number of emerging technology pro-  
21          grams that will help improve situational awareness  
22          along the northern and southern borders.

23          (7) Successfully integrating these technologies  
24          into a layered border defense requires a strategic  
25          plan for transitioning new programs from the testing

1 and development stage to wide-scale implementation  
2 along both the northern and southern borders.

3 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ACHIEVE GREATER SIT-**  
4 **UATIONAL AWARENESS ALONG THE NORTH-**  
5 **ERN AND SOUTHERN BORDERS OF THE**  
6 **UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-  
9 land Security shall develop and submit to the Committee  
10 on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives  
11 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-  
12 mental Affairs of the Senate a plan to identify, deploy,  
13 and integrate emerging and advanced technologies, such  
14 as artificial intelligence, machine-learning, automation,  
15 fiber-optic sensing technology, nanotechnology, optical and  
16 cognitive radar, modeling and simulation technology,  
17 hyperspectral and LIDAR sensors, imaging, identification,  
18 and categorization systems, and other similar emerging  
19 and advanced technologies, to achieve greater situational  
20 awareness along the northern and southern borders of the  
21 United States between ports of entry.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection  
23 (a) shall include the following:  
24 (1) An assessment of how U.S. Customs and  
25 Border Protection (CBP) is currently utilizing

1 emerging and advanced technologies referred to in  
2 such subsection to achieve situational awareness  
3 along the northern and southern borders of the  
4 United States.

5 (2) An assessment of how border security capa-  
6 bility gaps can be addressed through the integration  
7 and deployment of such technologies.

8 (3) Cost estimates for the acquisition and main-  
9 tenance, as the case may be, of technologies referred  
10 to in such subsection.

11 (4) Metrics to measure how technologies re-  
12 ferred to in such subsection will assist in supporting  
13 CBP's mission.

14 (5) An assessment of how metrics referred to in  
15 paragraph (4) can be used to facilitate improve-  
16 ments in situational awareness at the northern and  
17 southern borders of the United States.

18 (6) An assessment of how the integration of  
19 such technologies will support the improvement of  
20 multi-domain awareness capabilities.

21 (7) An analysis of technologies used by other  
22 Federal departments and agencies not in use by  
23 CBP that could assist in improving situational  
24 awareness, and how such technologies would be uti-  
25 lized.

1                         (8) An analysis of authorities CBP can use to  
2 procure technologies referred to in such subsection,  
3 and whether additional or alternative authorities are  
4 needed.

5                         (9) An explanation of how CBP plans to scale  
6 existing programs related to emerging and advanced  
7 technologies and efficiently transition new tech-  
8 nology systems into programs of record.

9                         (10) An assessment of CBP legacy technology  
10 programs that could be phased out and replaced by  
11 technologies referred to in such subsection and cost  
12 estimates relating to phasing out and replacing such  
13 programs.

14                         (11) Information relating to how CBP is coordi-  
15 nating with the Department of Homeland Security's  
16 Science and Technology Directorate to—

17                         (A) research and develop new technologies  
18 to meet mission needs and address gaps in situ-  
19 ational awareness; and

20                         (B) incentivize the private sector to de-  
21 velop technologies that will help meet mission  
22 needs to address gaps in situational awareness.

23                         (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “situa-  
24 tional awareness” has the meaning given such term in sec-  
25 tion 1092(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act

1 for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C.  
2 223).

