

# **PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL**

## **2024 Congress Legislation Packet Preliminary Sessions**

The PFI Steering Committee has set the order of debate for each of the three preliminary sessions. Legislation is labeled with its Session number and order; thus, S1-1 is the first piece of legislation to be debated in Session 1, followed by S1-2. This order may not be changed.

Debate will proceed on each piece of legislation in the established order for a minimum of one speech and a maximum of 45 minutes. If time remains in any session after consideration of the three assigned pieces of legislation, the Supplemental legislation may be debated. This is the only time a motion to amend the agenda shall be ruled in order. Supplemental legislation may be considered in any order.

There are no side balance requirements or mandatory moves to previous question other than the 45-minute maximum time. No legislation may carryover from one session to another or be considered more than once.

**S1-1: A BILL TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM TO  
ELIMINATE HEALTHCARE COST**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This bill aims to establish a single-payer healthcare system to provide  
3 comprehensive medical coverage for all citizens, ensuring equitable access  
4 to quality healthcare services.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purpose of this bill, a "single-payer healthcare system" refers to a  
6 system in which a single government entity is solely responsible for  
7 funding and administering healthcare services for all residents of the  
8 country. "Medical coverage" includes, but is not limited to, traditional  
9 emergency and non-emergency medicine, along with dental, hearing,  
10 vision, and long-term care; mental health and substance abuse treatment;  
11 and prescription medicine.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Internal  
13 Revenue Service (IRS) shall oversee the implementation of this  
14 legislation.

15 **A.** The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for  
16 negotiating with healthcare providers for service reimbursement rates  
17 and coordinating the delivery of medical care. It shall also set  
18 guidelines for medical procedures and treatments, manage healthcare  
19 facilities, and ensure that all citizens have equal access to medical  
20 services.

21 **B.** A National Health Tax shall be implemented to fund this healthcare  
22 system and will be calculated by the IRS as a percentage of their  
23 annual income. The rates can range from 1% to 10% for high-income  
24 individuals. The National Health Tax for businesses shall be assessed  
25 as a percentage of their total payroll expenses, with rates varying from  
26 2% for small businesses to 6% for large corporations.

27 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect over a three-year transition period, starting  
28 on January 1, 2025, and ending on January 1, 2028.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*The Bronx High School of Science*

**S1-2: A BILL TO FUND THE SAHARA FOREST PROJECT**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall provide funding to the Bellona Foundation in  
3 order for them to be able to continue and better construction on the current  
4 Sahara Forest Project.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. The Sahara Forest Project aims to provide fresh water, food, and  
6 renewable energy in hot, arid regions as well as re-vegetating areas of  
7 uninhabited desert.

8 B. The Bellona Foundation is an international environmental organization  
9 and has a strong tradition of identifying and promoting new and  
10 innovative solutions to environmental problems.

11 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be enforced by the US Agency for International  
12 Development.

13 A. A \$1 billion dollar annual fund shall be allocated to the US Agency for  
14 International Development to fund the Sahara Forest Project.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the start of FY 2025.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Ridge High School*

**S1-3: A BILL TO ABOLISH THE DRAFT**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Selective Service System (SSS) will be abolished, no longer requiring  
3 men ages 18- 25 to register for the draft.

4 **SECTION 2.** The United States Armed Forces will continue a volunteer based military  
5 force that is funded by the SSS budget redistribution. This will remove the  
6 power of Congress and the President to institute a nation-wide draft.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Selective Service System budget will be reallocated by the end of the  
8 next two fiscal years. Funds will be redistributed by need and priority to  
9 the Department of Defense and the Department of Health.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in fiscal year 2025.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Phillipsburg High School*

**S2-1: A BILL TO PROVIDE AID TO LAOS FOR THE REMOVAL OF FAULTY EXPLOSIVE  
ORDINANCES**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Government shall provide aid in the form of training,  
3 supplies, and the wages of foreign bomb defusing personnel to Laos for  
4 the removal of faulty explosive ordinances leftover from the Vietnam  
5 War.

6 **SECTION 2.** A) Faulty explosive ordinances shall be defined as ballistic devices that  
7 failed to detonate on impact, or ballistic devices that have not yet been  
8 detonated.

9 B) Supplies will be defined as the equipment needed to defuse the faulty  
10 explosive ordinances, and the equipment needed to train the bomb  
11 defusing personnel.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of State shall oversee the implementation of this  
13 legislation, and an extra 15 billion dollars will be allocated to the annual  
14 budget of the Department of State, from the Department of Defense's  
15 budget, and will be withdrawn annually, until the expiration date of this  
16 legislation.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will come into effect on January 1st, 2025 and will expire  
18 in 2035.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Southern Lehigh High School*

**S2-2: A BILL TO ALLOW TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **ARTICLE 1.** The United States government shall allow all travel to and from Cuba,  
3 regardless of the reason for said travel.

4 **ARTICLE 2.** The United States shall not regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly,  
5 travel to or from Cuba by United States citizens or legal residents, or any  
6 of the transactions involved in such travel.

7 **ARTICLE 3.** The transactions referred to in Article 2 are—

8 (1) any transactions ordinarily incident to travel to or from Cuba,  
9 including the importation into Cuba or the United States of accompanied  
10 baggage for personal use only;

11 (2) any transactions ordinarily incident to travel or maintenance within  
12 Cuba, including the payment of living expenses and the acquisition of  
13 goods or services for personal use;

14 (3) any transactions ordinarily incident to the arrangement, promotion, or  
15 facilitation of travel to, from, or within Cuba;

16 (4) any transactions incident to nonscheduled air, sea, or land voyages,  
17 except that this paragraph does not authorize the carriage of articles into  
18 Cuba or the United States except accompanied baggage; and

19 (5) normal banking transactions incident to the activities described in the  
20 preceding provisions of this subsection, including the issuance, clearing,  
21 processing, or payment of checks, drafts, travelers checks, credit or debit  
22 card instruments, or similar instruments.

23 **ARTICLE 4.** The restrictions on authority outlined in this bill do not apply in a case in  
24 which the United States is at war with Cuba, armed hostilities between the  
25 two countries are in progress, or there is imminent danger to the public  
26 health or the physical safety of United States travelers.

27 **ARTICLE 5.** This Act applies to actions taken by the President before the date of the  
28 enactment of this Act which are in effect on such date of enactment, and to  
29 actions taken on or after this date.

30 **ARTICLE 6.** This bill shall take effect on March 1st, 2024.

31 **ARTICLE 7.** This Act applies notwithstanding section 102(h) of the Cuban Liberty and  
32 Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6032(h)) and  
33 section 910(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement  
34 Act of 2000.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Broad Run High School*

### **S2-3: A BILL TO COOL OUR SOLAR PANELS**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All production of solar panels now requires photonic crystal cooling  
3 systems that reduce the amount of excessive heat emitted by 25% or more.  
4 Cooling systems should be installed by solar panel manufacturers.  
5 Manufacturers who fail to comply will be fined \$500,000 per month until  
6 compliance is achieved.

7 **SECTION 2.** “Manufacturers” include, and are limited to, all American owned and  
8 based companies.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency will  
10 work in collaboration to oversee the implementation of the cooling  
11 systems.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2025.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Strath Haven*

**S3-1: A BILL TO PROVIDE AID TO REFUGEE CRISIS IN JORDAN**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This legislation will provide humanitarian aid, to aid the refugee crisis in  
3 Jordan.

4 **SECTION 2. A.** Jordan hosts one of the largest numbers of registered refugees per  
5 capita in the world: 1 out of every 15 people is a refugee in Jordan. Since  
6 the beginning of the crisis in Syria, Jordan has shouldered the primary  
7 responsibility for hosting Syrian refugees. The presence of refugees has  
8 put pressure on basic infrastructure and services, affecting both Syrians  
9 and vulnerable Jordanians.

10 **B.** Without assistance or aid, Jordan will have to turn down the  
11 entrance of refugees into Jordan, leading to an international crisis.

12 **SECTION 3.** Jordan will receive \$15 billion in humanitarian aid in the form of cash,  
13 supplies, building materials, food, and anything else this congress deems  
14 appropriate.

15 **SECTION 4.** The United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for  
16 Humanitarian Assistance will oversee the implementation of this  
17 legislation, and an extra \$15 billion will be allocated to the annual budget  
18 of the United States Agency for International Development by Congress.

19 **SECTION 5.** This legislation takes effect immediately upon passage.

20 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Pennsbury High School*



### **S3-2: A BILL TO FORGIVE STUDENT LOANS**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Within ten years of the passage of this legislation, student loan debt owed  
3 by current or former students of an institution of higher education shall be  
4 fully forgiven. All public institutions of higher education will be made  
5 tuition-free and debt-free.

6 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill, “student loan debt” shall refer to any debt  
7 held by a current or former student of a public or private institution of  
8 secondary education, for payments including tuition and housing. “Public  
9 institutions of higher education” refer to colleges, universities, and trade  
10 schools owned or significantly subsidized by the government.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education (DOE) and the Internal Revenue Service  
12 (IRS) shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

13 A. The DOE is responsible for making all public institutions of higher  
14 education tuition-free and debt-free within the period designated by this  
15 legislation.

16 B. The IRS is responsible for implementing a 0.5% tax on all stock trades,  
17 a 0.1% tax on all bond trades, and a 0.005% tax on all derivative trades to  
18 fund this legislation.

19 **SECTION 4.** Section 3B of this legislation will take effect on January 1, 2024. Section 1  
20 of this legislation will take effect over a ten-year transition period  
21 beginning June 1, 2024, and ending June 1, 2034.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*The Bronx High School of Science*

**S3-3: A BILL TO PLACE A TAX ON FAST FASHION TO  
COUNTERACT UNETHICAL LABOR AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Any fast fashion commodity imported into the United States shall be taxed  
3 an additional 5% to discourage the purchase of such goods.

4 **SECTION 2.** Fast fashion shall be defined as any clothing made inexpensive by mass  
5 production retailers using exploitative labor practices to fulfill production  
6 needs. Exploitative labor practices include but are not limited to  
7 underpayment, unsafe working spaces, and child labor.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will oversee enforcement of this  
9 legislation as well as identify the corporations that qualify as fast fashion.

10 A. The money collected by this tax shall be used to fund better waste  
11 collection and recycling systems.

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

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Ridge High School*

**SUPP-A: A BILL TO REVAMP RURAL COMMUNITIES**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All current federal programs focused on the economic and/or  
3 infrastructure development of rural communities will fall under the  
4 jurisdiction of a new federal organization called the Rural Development  
5 Administration (RDA). Rural areas shall be exempt from Federal Grant  
6 Match Requirements.

7 **SECTION 2.** A rural community is defined as a county that includes some combination  
8 of open countryside, towns with fewer than 2,500 residents, and urban  
9 areas with less than 50,000 residents who are not connected to a larger  
10 labor market. Infrastructure is defined as the services and systems  
11 necessary for a society to function including but not limited to education,  
12 healthcare, internet access, and climate protection.

13 **SECTION 3.** The newly created Rural Development Administration will fall under the  
14 jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture  
15 A. All of the funding for current programs focused on rural areas will  
16 be reallocated to the RDA.  
17 B. The RDA will determine how to best reorganize and consolidate  
18 the current programs now under its jurisdiction.  
19 C. The RDA will also create a new board to represent rural  
20 communities in congress and address inequities faced by rural  
21 communities and minorities within them.

22 **SECTION 4.** The transitions detailed in this legislation will start immediately upon  
23 passage. All changes will be completed by FY 2029.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Council Rock High School North*

**SUPP-B: A RESOLUTION TO LIMIT FIREWORKS**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Fireworks are banned for use most of the year to the general citizen; and  
3 with the exception of eco-friendly fireworks on holidays.

4 **SECTION 2.** The holiday is recognized by the American government; and is part of a  
5 constructed list of holidays to be celebrated with fireworks, including but  
6 not limited to Independence Day and New Years.

7 **SECTION 3.** A license has to be issued before any use of fireworks in private property  
8 as well for public events; and a limit is set on the number of fireworks  
9 allowed per capita.

10 **SECTION 4.** Fireworks with over a certain amount of heavy metals are banned; and  
11 amount as determined by the EPA.

12 **SECTION 5.** Eco-friendly fireworks allowed include smokeless charges and sulfur-free  
13 propellants, and clean burning, nitrogen-based fuel, and are reviewed by  
14 the EPA.

15 **SECTION 6.** This bill will be implemented starting in the year 2026.

16 **SECTION 7.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Newtown Middle School*

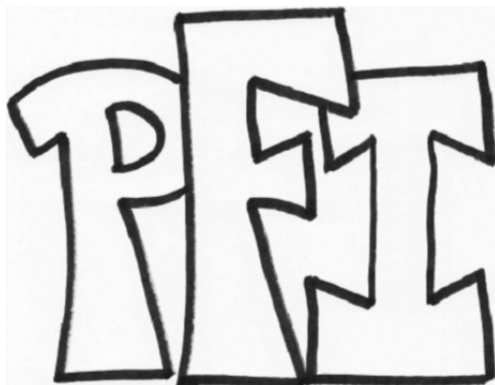
1     **RESOLVED**, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of  
2             America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring  
3             therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the  
4             Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid, after two years, for  
5             all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the  
6             conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within  
7             seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the  
8             Congress:

10     **SECTION 1.** The seventeenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United  
11             States is hereby repealed.

12     **SECTION 2.** The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from  
13                   each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six Years; and each  
14                   Senator shall have one Vote.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*William Tennent High School*



**PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL**  
**2024 Congressional Debate**  
**Tournament Rules and Procedures**

## PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL CONGRESS RULES for PARLIAMENTARIANS

1. **Agenda.** The Preliminary Session agenda is determined by the tournament to vary topics and the region of sponsorship. The order of debate CANNOT be changed and legislation may not be tabled. Supplemental legislation may be considered, in any order, if time remains after the three pieces of legislation assigned to a session have been debated and voted upon. A motion to amend the agenda is valid only in such a situation.
2. **Limitations on debate.** Debate on any individual legislation has a minimum length of one speech and a maximum length of 45 minutes of session time. There are no side balance requirements or mandatory moves to previous question other than the 45-minute maximum time. No legislation may carryover from one session to another or be considered more than once.
3. **Authorships.** When a new piece of legislation comes to the floor, a student from the submitting school should be granted the first affirmative speech as an authorship. If no author is present, any member of the house may speak as a sponsor of the legislation. An affirmative speech is not required if no speaker stands to present it.
4. **Questioning.** There is a mandatory questioning period of one minute for each speech – two minutes for the first affirmative and negative speech on each bill. All sessions will follow the direct questioning format. Questioners recognized by the Presiding Officer will be allotted 30 seconds to question the speaker on the floor. Motions to extend this questioning time are never permitted.
5. **Precedence/Recency.** Precedence should reset to a clean slate at the beginning of each session. President Officers should be discouraged from using “activity” or questions to determine recency. ONLY recency should be used to determine who can speak and when; before recency is determined, speakers should be chosen randomly. *“Gentlemen’s agreements” or any use of the “base system” are EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED and any student pursuing these practices should be warned once and then reported to Congress Tab for disqualification.*
6. **Scoring.** All judges will score all speakers, including the Presiding Officer. There is no requirement to rank the Presiding Officer; they may be ranked as each scorer sees fit. The Parliamentarian will NOT score speeches, but is encouraged to provide feedback to each individual speaker.
7. **Ranking.** Judges will rank the top 8 contestants at the end of each session; the Parliamentarian completes one ranking sheet at the end of all sessions, ranking ALL students.
8. **Voting.** In sessions where student voting occurs: approximately 5 minutes before the scheduled end of the final session, a representative from the tab room will arrive to collect judges’ ranking sheets and begin the student voting process. Please ensure that the chamber is prepared to complete the session at this time.

**Please refer to NSDA rules for any issues not specified by PFI rules. Refer to Congress Tab with any questions or needs that may arise during the session.**

## PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL INFORMATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE JUDGES

### **BALLOTS**

Please fill out a ballot for each speech in the round and give comments and a score (from 0-6) to the speaker. Note that you **MUST** record a score for each speech before submitting your ranks on tabroom. You can then edit your comments after the session, but **ONLY** if you have entered a score for each speech.

### **RANKINGS**

Please rank the **top 8** competitors in this session via your online ballot, and submit it as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session. Rankings should reflect the overall impact of each legislator on the course of debate and the session as a whole.

Rankings should take into account both quantity and quality of speeches, as well as other participation in the session (questions, motions, decorum, etc). The tournament frowns upon repetitive debate, and on the abuse of parliamentary procedure to change the agenda or rules excessively. You may make note of these issues on the back of a speech ballot for individual competitors.

### **SPEECHES**

Congress is a **DEBATE** event! Speeches, whether constructives, rebuttals, or crystallizations, are all equally valuable. Please reward students who advance debate and engage with prior speakers, and students who move the chamber forward to the next legislation rather than giving a repetitive speech filled with “rehash.” Students do not possess the right to speak on every legislation, and students should not be penalized for moving the previous question to end debate on an exhausted topic.

### **QUESTIONING**

We will utilize a direct questioning format where questioners will be selected for 30 seconds of back and forth with the speaker.

You should not score questioners, but should consider the quality of their questions and participation in questioning when ranking contestants at the end of the session. As part of the effort to turn the event into Congressional *Debate*, speakers are expected to be able to defend their arguments during questioning. How a speaker handles questioning should be part of the score for their speech, as well as part of their overall ranking. Keep in mind that although the questioner holds the floor, an overly aggressive or hostile posture should be discouraged.

### **PRESIDING OFFICERS**

The Presiding Officer is an essential role in a Congressional Debate round. Students serving as the PO are sacrificing their opportunity to speak to serve the community. This is a leadership position. Accordingly, consider the PO when completing your rankings; rankings are a search for the Best Legislator, not the Best Speaker. It is not required that you rank the PO, but it is encouraged if they are able to run the chamber in a fair and efficient manner and contribute positively to the quality and quantity of debate.



## **Advancement Procedures – 2024**

As of 1/16/24, we expect to hold 4 preliminary chambers. The following will be adjusted if the number of chambers changes.

There will be two judges in each of the three preliminary sessions. Judges will rank the top 8 competitors. The six judge ranks, plus the parliamentarian's ranking at the end of the preliminary sessions, will create a rank score for each student. The three students in each chamber with the lowest combined ranks (with all ranks beyond 8 counting as a 9) will advance to the Final session. Additionally, the next highest ranked competitor on the Parliamentarian's ballot that has not yet advanced will advance to the Final session. This will create a Final session of 16 students, 4 from each preliminary chamber.

There will be three judges in the Final session. Judges will rank the top 8 competitors. Additionally, competitors will rank all participants in the Final round. The top 8 from the collective student vote using lowest cumulative rank total will count as a 4<sup>th</sup> judge score. The Parliamentarian's ballot will be the 5<sup>th</sup> score. Final round placement will be determined by the lowest combined score of the five ranks, with all unranked competitors receiving a score of 9. All ties will be broken by the Parliamentarian's ballot.