



HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

# Congressional Debate 2024 High School Legislative Docket

Visit <u>congressionaldebate.org/harvard-tournament/general-information</u> for detailed and late breaking information before and during the tournament.

# Competitive Integrity

Adapted from the Barkley Forum for High Schools at Emory University.

Our community has been reckoning with concerns of competitive integrity, particularly in terms of efforts to communicate outside the set schedule and environment (in-person or virtual space) of tournaments, where not all students have the ability or accessibility to be part of conversations. When such communication is unmoderated by adults outside a tournament, but directly related to that tournament, it can cause problems. Competitors in the past have reported feeling undue pressure and even harassment; this also extends competitive dynamics into personal lives of students outside the timeframe and context of a tournament. Both of these are unsound from a social-emotional learning (SEL) standpoint, especially as educators discuss how SEL and mental health concerns have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Equity and fairness must be hallmarks of interscholastic competition. While we do not prohibit outside communication, we ask teams to have constructive conversations about how outside-of-tournament communication pertaining to tournament dynamics, such as lobbying for votes on legislative dockets, agenda order, speech recognition, presiding officer nominations, etc., is inadvertently fostering anxiety in peers for lack of inclusion. A number of schools already have pledged to not engage in this type of communication.

We have not established a tournament-sanctioned time and place to foster such conversations between contestants from different schools, because registration is fluid over the next several weeks (meaning we could not provide this equitably), and we do not wish increase the burden of time and pressure beyond the set schedule of the tournament, as well as burden to schools of provide supervising adults to moderate such discussions; this is in acknowledgement that not all schools and students have the privilege of time and resources to participate in that extended capacity.

#### NOTE New Rule (within §1.10.2):

Recesses are considered a brief pause in a round, equivalent to *prep time* in other debate events, and not appropriate for receiving coaching.

#### 2024 Harvard HIGH SCHOOL Congressional Debate Legislative Docket

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#### A Bill to Ban the Privatization of Municipal Water Systems

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

1	SECTION 1.	All municipal water systems within the United States of America are				
2		required to be run by governmental or non-profit organizations. A				
3		municipal water grant of \$30 billion shall be established to aid low-income				
4		and discriminated areas.				
5	SECTION 2.	Municipal water systems shall be defined as a municipality's system of				
6		water mains and pipes, pumps, and other facilities and equipment used to				
7		supply potable water. Low-income and discriminated areas will be defined				
8		under the study by the EPA in section 3B of this bill.				
9	SECTION 3.	The Bureau of Reclamation and the Treasury will oversee the enforcement				
10		of this legislation.				
11		A. The Bureau of Reclamation will require documentation from all				
12		municipal water systems for compliance with this legislation, and				
13		each violation will have a fine of up to \$1,000,000.				
14		B. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall				
15		conduct a study on water and sewer services for water affordability				
16		before the grant is established.				
17	SECTION 4.	This legislation will take effect in FY2026. All laws in conflict with this				
18		legislation are hereby declared null and void.				

#### A Resolution to Stabilize the Congolese-Rwandan Border

1	WHEREAS,	Current fighting between Rwandan rebel groups and the Congolese army		
2	has displaced 7 million people; and			
3	WHEREAS,	This internal displacement has left hundreds of thousands of Congolese		
4	people strand	led without access to humanitarian aid and resulted in thousands of deaths		
5	at the hands of	of violence; and		
6	WHEREAS,	The United Nations has found evidence that the Rwandan military is		
7	fighting along	side the rebel groups in an attempt to reclaim territory in eastern		
8	Democratic R	epublic of Congo; and		
9	WHEREAS,	Both the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda have refused to end		
10	the conflict di	plomatically at the cost of exacerbating a humanitarian crisis; now,		
11	therefore, be	it		
12	RESOLVED,	That the Congress here assembled spend \$1 billion USD on non-		
13	governmenta	l organization (NGO) humanitarian aid for the Democratic Republic of		
14	Congo; and, b	pe it		
15	FURTHER RES	<b>OLVED,</b> That the United States will serve as a neutral mediator in peace		
16	talks betweer	n Congolese and Rwandan officials.		
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# A Resolution to Fully Recognize the Sovereignty of PRC Over the Island of Taiwan

1	WHEREAS,	On January 1, 1979, the United States recognized the People's Republic of
2		China (PRC) and established diplomatic relations with it as the sole legitimate
3		government of China; and
4	WHEREAS,	PRC President Xi Jinping has stated that the country's reunification with
5		Taiwan is "inevitable" with the Chinese Ministry of National Defense stating
6		that "it will never compromiseon the Taiwan issue"; and
7	WHEREAS,	The PRC responded with an unprecedented level of military exercises around
8		Taiwan in retaliation for Speaker Pelosi's visit to the island in 2022; and
9	WHEREAS,	Both the U.S and the PRC have large nuclear weapon arsenals with nuclear
LO		triad strike capability; and
<b>L</b> 1	WHEREAS,	Past and current administrations have proposed and passed legislation to
L2		provide Taiwan with defensive weapons and vowed to defend Taiwan
L3		militarily; and
L4	WHEREAS,	Stabilizing diplomatic relations with the PRC can benefit strategic and
L5		economic interests in the region; now, therefore, be it
L6	RESOLVED,	By the Congress here assembled that the United States of America fully
L7		recognizes the People's Republic of China's sovereign right over the Special
18		Administrative Region of Taiwan, ceasing all actions that view Taiwan as an
L9		independent political entity.

#### **The Undocumented Immigration Relocation Act**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1		<b>SECTION 1.</b> To alleviate overpopulation and expedite naturalization,
2		incoming and current undocumented immigrants will be incentivized to
3		move to lesser populated states by providing automatic work visas and
4		easing their process of citizenship by absorbing the cost. Immigrants will
5		choose a lesser populated state to relocate to and be provided with a
6		monthly stipend to help with relocation costs for 18 months. Upon
7		relocation, immigrants will be required to maintain residence in that state
8		for five years.
9		<b>SECTION 2.</b> Let these definitions clarify:
10	a.	Lesser Populated States: states with less than 50 people per square mile
11	b.	Undocumented Immigrants: An immigrant who resides in the United States
12		without legal status.
13	c.	Monthly Stipend: a fixed amount of money offered to employees to help
14		pay for work expenses, travel expenses, living expenses, wellness expenses,
15		and more.
16	SECTION 3.	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will oversee this
17		process by creating a sub department that will prioritize this relocation and
18		incentivization process.
19	a.	This amount of the monthly stipend will be determined by the U.S.
20		Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) branch of the Department of
21		Homeland Security (DHS).
22		i. The USCIS will take into account the amount of people in the
23		immigrant's family and the average cost of day to day life.
24		<b>SECTION 4.</b> This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025. All
		laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## The Haitian Economic and Livelihood Plan (H.E.L.P.)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1	SECTION 1.	The United States shall display its dedication to the stabilization of Haiti
2		through sending humanitarian and military aid to its government. Efforts
3		shall also be taken to assist in recovering its economy.
4	SECTION 2.	Humanitarian aid shall be defined as aid concerned with or seeking the
5		promotion of human welfare.
6	SECTION 3.	The funding for this legislation will come out of the Department of
7		Defense's annual budget. The Agency for International Development (AID)
8		shall be tasked to oversee the implementation of this aid.
9		a. Humanitarian aid shall amount to five billion dollars.
10		<b>b.</b> Military aid shall amount to ten thousand soldiers.
11		c. The Agency for International Development shall be required to send
12		a monthly report to the Senate and House of Representatives to
13		report on the progress and effectiveness of this aid. If it is
14		determined that this aid has not resulted in considerable
15		improvement, a two-thirds majority vote shall be sufficient to halt
16		all efforts.
17	SECTION 4.	An additional three billion dollars of aid shall be directed towards providing
18		any and all U.Sbased corporations seeking to build new factories or places
19		of business in Haiti with a one-time grant worth ten million dollars or 50%
20		of their expenditures that fiscal year, whichever is less.
21		a. Haitian citizens must account for at least 75% of a corporation's
22		workforce to be eligible for this grant.
23	SECTION 5.	This legislation will begin implementation immediately after passage. All
24		laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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## A Bill to Rehabilitate the Public Criminal Defense System

1	BE IT ENACT	ED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2	SECTION 1.	Public defenders shall no longer be allowed to work contemporaneously on
3		more than 25 felony cases, or no more than 60 misdemeanor cases. State the
4		new policy in one or a few brief declarative sentence(s).
5	SECTION 2.	In the event that a public defender is taking a hybrid of felony and
6		misdemeanor cases contemporaneously, the public defender shall be limited
7		to 40 cases in total, while taking on less than 15 felony cases.
8	SECTION 3.	The Department of Justice (DOJ) shall oversee the implementation and
9		enforcement of this bill.
.0		A. The DOJ shall create a committee that will oversee the allocation of funds
1		to states to aid with the hiring of more public defenders.
2		B. 2 billion dollars shall be allotted to this committee. Subsections may be
.3		used to elaborate further details, but only needed if you need to have
4		more than one subsection.
.5	SECTION 4.	This legislation will take effect on FY26. All laws in conflict with this
.6		legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# A Bill to Enhance Aid in Latin America and The Northern Triangle

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1	<b>SECTION 1</b> . To enhance economic and social opportunity in Latin
2	America and the Northern Triangle, an additional \$50 billion in aid and
3	foreign direct investment shall be allocated.
4	A. At least 50% of the aid shall be used to expand the Central America
5	Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and its humanitarian efforts.
6	B. The remaining funds shall be allocated to foreign direct investment, to
7	be implemented by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
8	approved by the Department of State (DOS)
9	<b>SECTION 2</b> . "Humanitarian efforts" shall be defined as the development
10	of economic and social opportunity in the Northern Triangle including but
11	not limited to the creation and investment in hospitals, schools, and small
12	businesses with the ultimate goal of alleviating poverty and decreasing
13	violence.
14	"Foreign direct investment" shall be defined as aid carried
15	out utilizing local non governmental organizations (NGOs) in the region
16	that have been approved by the Department of State (DOS). Aid shall be
17	allocated via the discretion of the implementing body with the oversight of
18	the DOS
19	<b>SECTION 3.</b> The Department of State (DOS) shall be tasked with the
20	implementation of this legislation.
21	A. The DOS will do a semi-annual evaluation and audit regarding the
22	efficacy of aid in poverty reduction and violence reduction.
23	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Funding allocation will come out of the Department of
24	Defense budget.
25	<b>SECTION 5.</b> This legislation will take effect at the beginning of the next
26	fiscal year. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null
27	and void.
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#### **Environmental Conservation and Optimization Act (E.C.O. Act)**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1**. With the implementation of this legislation, the reprocessing of low-level nuclear waste as domestic reactor fuel shall be legalized.

**SECTION 2.** Low-level nuclear waste shall be defined as radioactive material not exceeding four giga-becquerels per tonne (GBq/t) of alpha activity or 12 GBq/t beta-gamma activity, does not require shielding during handling and transport, and is suitable for disposal in near-surface facilities. Reactor fuel shall be defined as material used in nuclear power stations to generate heat for powering turbines.

**SECTION 3.** All funding for this legislation will be sourced from the annual Department of Energy budget. The Department of Energy will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this legislation.

- a) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall oversee the enforcement and allocation of \$200 million for implementation.
- b) The Department of Energy shall oversee the establishment of a site for reprocessing.
- c) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will undergo annual evaluations conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency to report on regulatory compliance levels.
- **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately effect upon passage.
- **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# A Bill to Regulate College Tuition Prices

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2	SECTION 1.	All state and private colleges or universities will follow a federal-
3		mandated maximum tuition rate of \$25,000 per year starting the year of
4		implementation. Tuition rates will increase annually at the rate of
5		inflation or a maximum of 2.5% per year. Any colleges or universities that
6		do not follow this mandated pricing will be subject to removal of their tax
7		exempt status.
8	SECTION 2.	A. Tuition is defined as the sum of money charged for teaching and
9		instruction by a school, college or university.
10		B. College is defined as an education institution or establishment that
11		provides higher education. This includes 2-year vocation schols, 4-year
12		public schools, and 4-year private schools
13	SECTION 3.	The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of this
14		bill. The Internal Revenue Service will oversee penalty enforcement.
15	SECTION 4.	This legislation will take effect on August 1st, 2025. All laws in conflict
16		with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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# A Bill to Achieve Strategic Independence

1	BE IT ENACTE	D BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2	SECTION 1.	The United States shall levy an additional 15% import tax on strategically
3		important goods imported from other countries.
4	SECTION 2.	\$100 billion shall be made available to the Department of State to
5		distribute in grants and subsidies to companies involved in the domestic
6		production of strategically important goods.
7	SECTION 3.	Strategically important goods shall be defined as the following:
8		A. Semi-conductors;
9		B. Transistors;
10		C. Rare-earth elements;
11		D. Lithium-ion batteries
12		E. Pharmaceuticals;
13		F. Personal protective equipment (PPE);
14		G. The chemical butanetriol.
15	SECTION 4.	The United States Department of State will oversee the implementation
16		of this bill.
17	SECTION 5.	This bill shall take effect at the start of FY 2025.
18	SECTION 6.	All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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# A Resolution to Let Ukraine into NATO to Protect Future Generations

- 1 WHEREAS, Ukraine has repeatedly asked to join NATO and been repeatedly denied;
- 2 and
- 3 WHEREAS, This denial has happened despite Ukraine saying it will not drag any
- 4 country into its current war with Russia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Ukraine's lack of membership left it vulnerable to a war that has caused
- 6 thousands upon thousands of deaths and threatened the safety of the entire world;
- 7 now, therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled calls for NATO to immediately assist
- 9 Ukraine in joining the organization in an expedited manner.

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#### A Bill to Ban to Hydraulic Fracturing

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2	SECTION 1.	Fracking shall be prohibited by federal agencies by ending
3	permits for th	e expansion of fracking or fracked oil and natural gas
4	infrastructure	e, including infrastructure intended to extract, transport, or
5	burn natural g	gas or oil across all 50 states and U.S. territories.
6	SECTION 2.	Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, shall be defined as a
7	process that p	provides access to reservoirs of natural gas and petroleum
8	by opening ro	cks deep underground. U.S territories shall be defined as
9	administrative	e districts overseen by the Federal government of the
LO	United States	without national status.
11	SECTION 3.	The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of
L2	Energy shall o	versee the enforcement of this legislation.
L3	SECTION 4.	This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025. All
L4	laws in conflic	ct with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

#### A Bill to Create Universal Pre-K to Ensure Equity in Education

1	BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:		
2	SECTION 1.	A universal prekindergarten education shall be established for all	
3		American children through the following provisions.	
4	A.	School districts shall create permanent prekindergarten programs that	
5		are accessible to all families within their district.	
6	В.	The Department of Education shall allocate funds for the creation of	
7		these programs, the construction of new buildings and the hiring of Pre-l	
8		teachers.	
9	C.	Public schools and childcare centers with existing Pre-K programs may	
10		have these programs subsidized for school years after this bill's	
11		implementation.	
12	SECTION 2.	The following definitions apply:	
13	A.	"Prekindergarten" programs are defined as educational programs for	
14		children aged 3-5, operating during all normal school hours on normal	
15		school days.	
16		a. These programs shall not exceed a child to faculty ratio of 10:1.	
17		b. These programs shall compensate all employees to match or	
18		exceed median public school teacher salary in that district.	
19	В.	"Universal" will be defined as being reasonably accessible to all families in	
20		a school district	
21	SECTION 3.	The United States Department of Education shall be tasked with the	
22		enforcement of this legislation.	
23		A. All funding required will be apportioned from the Education	
24		Department Budget.	
25		B. Any district not in compliance with this legislation will lose federal	
26		funding as overseen by the Department of Education.	
27	SECTION 4.	This legislation will take effect on FY 2025. All laws in conflict with this	
28		legislation are hereby declared null and void.	
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## A Resolution to Cease Diplomatic Ties with Turkey

1	WHEREAS,	The Republic of Turkey has ignored the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's
2		(NATO) humanitarian and democratic values for its own personal gain; and
3	WHEREAS,	Ankara has aligned itself with Russia through politics and trade; and
4	WHEREAS,	President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has suppressed voices including ethnic
5		minorities in Turkey and the Turkish press; and
6	WHEREAS,	The security and efficiency of NATO has deteriorated due to Ankara's decision
7		to install the Russian S-400 air defense system, signaling their defiance of U.S.
8		priorities; and
9	WHEREAS,	There are many regional alternatives to Incirlik Air Base; now, therefore, be it
10	RESOLVED,	That the Congress here assembled should support a ceasing of operations at
11		Incirlik Air Base; and, be it
12	FURTHER R	<b>ESOLVED,</b> That the United States should recommend the removal of the
13		Republic of Turkey from NATO once a replacement location is operational.
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#### A Bill to Ban Private Prisons to **Prioritize Rehabilitation**

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

1	SECTION 1.	The use of private prisons shall now be prohibited. Neither
2	the federal go	vernment nor any state shall house prisoners in a private
3	prison. Any st	ate noncompliant with this legislation will lose 50% of the
4	federal fundir	ng given to their state police departments. Funding will
5	resume should	d a state become compliant.
6	SECTION 2.	A private prison is defined as any facility used to house
7	prisoners that	is owned by a private corporation. A prisoner is defined as
8	anyone being	detained as part of a conviction or while awaiting trial.
9	SECTION 3.	The Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of
10	Homeland Sec	curity (DHS) shall be responsible for enforcing this legislation.
11	SECTION 4.	This legislation will take effect on FY 2027.
12	SECTION 5.	All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared
	null and void.	

#### A Bill to Lower Prescription Drug Costs

Section 1: The United States will enact a markup cap for all prescription drugs.

- A. The United States will cap markup prices by companies at 7% for prescription drugs.
- B. Companies that refuse to follow the legislation will have a federal tax on profits double than the percentage of markup costs.

#### Section 2: The following definitions apply:

- A. Prescriptions drugs will be defined as any drug that is obtained with a prescription.
- B. Markup caps will be defined as a method to prevent companies from marking up manufactured products to gain more profit.
- Section 3: The Food and Drug Administration along with the Internal Revenue Service will be responsible for the implementation of this bill.
- Section 4: This legislation will take effect at the start of FY 2026.
- Section 5: All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## A Bill to Fund High-Speed Rail Development

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

1	SECTION 1.	The Department of Transportation shall allocate \$100 billion of funding for
2		the development and implementation of high-speed rail systems across the
3		United States.
4	SECTION 2.	A High-Speed Rail System is defined as a rail network capable of sustained
5		speeds exceeding 150 miles per hour.
6	SECTION 3.	The Department of Transportation shall work in collaboration with state
7		and local authorities to identify and prioritize high-speed rail corridors
8		based on factors such as population density, transportation demand, and
9		potential economic impact.
10	A.	Funding will come from the Department of Defense budget.
11	SECTION 4.	This bill shall go into effect immediately upon passage.
12	SECTION 5.	All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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# The S.A.D Resolution: Saudi Arabian Defense Resolution

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

1	WHEREAS,	Saudi Arabia has been aided in the murder of Yemeni people by the United
2		States congress,
3	WHEREAS,	Congress has sold arms to Saudi Arabia in exchange for oil and other
4		commodities,
5	Whereas,	These weapons have been used in the murder of Yemeni citizens,
6	Resolved,	This congress shall halt any funding towards arms sales to Saudi Arabia and
7		shall call for an end to the United States military alliance with Saudi Arabia.
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