

The 39th Annual Stanford Invitational

Congressional Debate Legislation

Official Docket



Congressional Debate Legislation

Preliminary Round Legislation (Rounds 1 – 4):

Preliminary Round Legislation may ONLY be debated in Preliminary Rounds. Students will debate on two pieces of legislation per preliminary round for a total of eight bills.

1. A Resolution to Abolish the Practice of Trying Children as Adults in the Criminal Justice System (Lindale High School)
2. A Bill to Implement a Sugar Tax (Bellarmine College Preparatory)
3. A Bill to Ban Political Action Committees (PACs) (The Village High School)
4. A Bill to Aid Myanmar (Western High School)
5. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Revoke the Presidential Power to Pardon (NSDA Legislation)
6. A Bill to Increase the Use of Automation in Healthcare (Ascend Middle School Academy)
7. A Bill to Eliminate Taxation on Tipped Income (Kumar Independent)
8. A Bill to Create a More Perfect Union (Highland Park High School)
9. A Resolution to Encourage the Recognition of Western Sahara (NSDA Legislation)
10. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Replace the Electoral College with a National Popular Vote (Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy)

Semifinal Round Legislation:

Semifinal Round legislation may ONLY be debated in a Semifinal Round. If your Congressional Debate division does NOT have sufficient entries to warrant a Semifinal Round, you should NOT debate on these pieces of legislation, but rather, the three pieces of legislation under “Final Round Legislation” found below.

1. Unifying Nations to Improve Development and Aid Diplomacy (U.N.I.D.A.D.) Act (Flower Mound High School)
2. A Bill to Establish a Cap-and-Trade Regulatory Framework (The Village High School)
3. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish a Right to Healthcare (NSDA Legislation)

Final Round Legislation:

Final Round legislation may ONLY be debated in a Final Round. If your Congressional Debate division advanced directly to a Final Round, you should debate on the following three pieces of legislation below.

1. A Bill to Increase Access to Clean Public Water by Improving the Pipe System (Ascend Middle School Academy)
2. A Resolution to Set Sail for Safer Seas (Highland Park High School)
3. A Resolution for Mexican Enhancement and Cooperation for Legal Economic Alternatives and Regulation (Mexico C.L.E.A.R) (Brainmaster Academy)

Prelims: A Resolution to Abolish the Practice of Trying Children as Adults in the Criminal Justice System

1 **WHEREAS,** The United States is one of the few countries in the world where
2 children can be tried as adults and sentenced to life in prison without
3 the possibility of parole; and

4 **WHEREAS,** Neuroscience and psychological research consistently show that
5 adolescent brains are still developing, particularly in areas related to
6 impulse control, decision-making, and understanding long-term
7 consequences; and

8 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that children are categorically
9 less culpable than adults due to their diminished capacity for
10 judgment and maturity in *Roper v. Simmons* (2005) and *Graham v.*
11 Florida (2010); and

12 **WHEREAS,** Research indicates that children tried as adults face higher rates of
13 abuse, violence, and isolation in adult correctional facilities, which
14 can lead to greater recidivism and hinder rehabilitation; and

15 **WHEREAS,** The goal of the criminal justice system should be rehabilitation and
16 reintegration of offenders into society, which is more achievable
17 through the juvenile justice system than through adult court
18 processes; now, therefore, be it

19 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled should abolish the practice of
20 trying children as adults, and instead, ensure that minors who commit
21 criminal offenses are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system,
22 where they can receive age-appropriate treatment, rehabilitation, and
23 support for their reintegration into society.

24 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lindale High School*

Prelims: A Bill to Implement a Sugar Tax

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States should implement a national tax on all sugary
2 beverages.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** Sugary drinks shall be defined as sodas, flavored water, sports and
4 energy drinks, sweetened coffee and tea, and fruit- flavored drinks.
- 5 A. There will be a tax of one cent per ounce on beverages that have less
6 B. A tax of two cents per ounce shall be levied on beverages containing
7 C. A tax of five cent per ounce shall be levied on beverages containing over
8 20 grams of added sugars per 12 ounces.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Drug Administration and the Department of Health
10 and Human Services will be in charge of enforcing this legislation.
- 11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 1, 2026. All laws in
12 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Prelims: A Bill to Ban Political Action Committees (PACs)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** In order to strengthen the United States' governmental institutions and
2 reduce corporate spending in federal management, the United States
3 Congress shall:
4 A. Ban any and all variations of Political Action Committees, including, but
5 not limited to, Corporate PACs, Leadership PACs, Super PACs, and Hybrid
6 PACs.
7 B. Legislatively overrule *Citizens United v. FEC* to eliminate corporate and
8 non-profit money expenditures that directly advocate for the election or
9 defeat of candidates.
- 10 **SECTION 2.** A. The term "Political Action Committee" or "PAC" shall be defined as a
11 tax-exempt organization under IRS Section 527 that receives campaign
12 contributions from its members to provide campaign funding for or against
13 candidates, ballot initiatives, or legislation.
14 B. *Citizens United v. FEC* refers to a 2010 Supreme Court case that
15 overturned *Austin v. Michigan State Chamber of Commerce*, which
16 prohibited independent expenditures by corporations.
- 17 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Election Commission (FEC) and the Internal Revenue Service
18 (IRS) shall be responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this
19 legislation.
20 A. The FEC shall be responsible for investigating violations and imposing
21 civil penalties, among other measures on a case-by-case basis, to
22 ensure compliance with the ban.
23 B. The IRS shall be responsible for revoking the tax-exempt status and
24 deregistering all PACs.
- 25 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in
26 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Village High School.

Prelims: A Bill to Aid Myanmar

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall hereby donate and deliver \$200 million in
2 humanitarian aid to the citizens of Myanmar through Myanmar's
3 maritime border with Indonesia. US troops will be allotted as necessary
4 to deliver the aid to USAID representatives at the border.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Humanitarian aid shall consist of a combination of agricultural
6 supplication, temporary housing, bottled water, and medical supplies,
7 including but not limited to; vaccines and first aid equipment.
- 8 **SECTION 3.** The US Department of State in conjunction with USAID will be
9 responsible for the implementation and oversight of this bill.
- 10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented immediately upon passage.
- 11 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
12 void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Western High School

Prelims: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Revoke the Presidential Power to Pardon

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

ARTICLE —

5 **SECTION 1.** The power of the President to “grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences
6 against the United States” (as described in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution) shall
7 be unconditionally revoked.

8 **SECTION 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
9 legislation.

Introduced by the NSDA Congressional Debate Legislation Docket

Prelims: A Bill to Increase the Use of Automation in Healthcare

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A new program of subsidies will be established to provide funding to
3 healthcare organizations for medically related robot devices.

4 **SECTION 2.** Healthcare organizations shall be defined as hospitals, public clinics, and out-
5 patient surgery centers. Medically related robot devices are defined as
6 artificial intelligence technology that can perform basic medical procedures
7 and tasks including (but not limited to) delivering medication, assisting in
8 surgeries, and routine care operations.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services will oversee enforcement of
10 this legislation and administration of the subsidies.

11 A. \$500 million will be allocated for the subsidy program.

12 B. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall have the authority to
13 approve specific medically related robot devices for coverage under this
14 subsidy.

15 C. Subsidies will be need-based, with underfunded and understaffed
16 healthcare organizations receiving priority in receiving subsidies for
17 healthcare related robot devices.

18 D. The Joint Committee on Taxation shall be responsible for appropriating
19 the required funds for this program.

20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with this
21 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Prelims: A Bill to Eliminate Taxation on Tipped Income

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Income from tips or gratuities will be exempt from taxation,
2 including 3 Social Security and Medicare taxes. All income derived from tips or 4
3 gratuities must be reported on IRS form 4070A to differentiate it from 5 wages
4 earned from an employer.

5 **SECTION 2.** Income from tips or gratuities will include, but is not limited to:
6 A. Cash tips received directly from customers
7 B. Tips from customers who leave a tip through electronic
8 settlement or payment. This includes a credit card, debit card, gift card or
9 any other electronic payment method.
10 C. The value of any noncash tips, such as tickets or other
11 items of value.
12 D. Tip amounts received from other employees paid out
13 through tip pools, tip splitting, or other formal/informal tip-sharing
14 arrangements.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service will adjust form 1040 and 1040A to
16 reflect 17 the tax exemptions when calculating income tax owed.
17 A. No fewer than ten percent of all returns which contain
18 income from tips or gratuities shall be subject to audit during a fiscal year.
19 B. If the result of the audit shows income fraudulently
20 categorized as tip or gratuity, a penalty of no less than double the amount
21 falsely claimed shall be assessed.

22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented immediately upon passage. All
23 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Kumar Independent

Prelims: A Bill to Create a More Perfect Union

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A. The Taft-Hartley Act shall be amended to remove section 14(b).

3 B. A minimum union due requirement shall be set at 2.25% of gross
4 individual earnings.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act shall be defined as the section
6 allowing states to create and enforce right-to-work laws.

7 B. Right-to-work laws shall be defined as laws that prohibit union
8 contracts from only providing negotiation benefits to paying union
9 members.

10 C. Union dues shall be defined as membership payments made to unions
11 by union members.

12 **SECTION 3.** The enforcement of this bill shall be overseen by the Department of
13 Labor and the National Labor Relations Board.

14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on the first day of Fiscal Year 2027. All
15 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Highland Park High School

Prelims: A Resolution to Encourage the Recognition of Western Sahara

1 **WHEREAS** Principles of self-determination and democracy, which we in the United States
2 claim to hold dear, demand that we support Indigenous peoples seeking self-government,
3 as the Sahrawi people have long been attempting to do with the state of the Sahrawi Arab
4 Democratic Republic, commonly referred to as Western Sahara; and

5 **WHEREAS** International law and cooperation similarly demands that we respect and
6 uphold the 1975 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Western Sahara which
7 found that Morocco has no right to rule over Western Sahara if the Sahrawi wish to govern
8 themselves; and

9 **WHEREAS** Recognition of Western Sahara would have positive consequences in terms of
10 humanitarianism and local geopolitical stability, while also opening up strategic economic
11 and defense opportunities for the United States in the region; now, therefore be it

12 **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that the Executive Branch is strongly
13 encouraged to recognize the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and to establish an
14 embassy in El Aaiún as soon as is practicable; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress encourages the rest of the international community to
16 make haste in following suit.

Introduced by the NSDA Congressional Debate Legislation Docket

Prelims: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Replace the Electoral College with a National Popular Vote

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

ARTICLE --

6 **SECTION 1:** The system of electing the President of the United States
7 utilizing the Electoral College shall be abolished. A direct,
8 national, popular vote shall instead be implemented. The
9 winner shall be determined by whichever candidate
10 receives a plurality of the national vote. Each vote shall
11 count equally, irrespective of the state in which that vote is
12 cast.

13 **SECTION 2:** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by
14 appropriate legislation.
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Semifinals: Unifying Nations to Improve Development and Aid Diplomacy (U.N.I.D.A.D.) Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will lift economic sanctions currently imposed on the
3 government and economy of Venezuela, including but not limited to
4 financial restrictions, trade embargoes, and sanctions on state-owned
5 enterprises.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. "Sanctions" refer to all economic and financial restrictions enacted by
7 the United States government through executive orders, Treasury
8 regulations, and congressional acts against the Venezuelan government.
9 B. Humanitarian exceptions shall be preserved for provisions related to
10 narcotrafficking or violations of human rights.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
12 shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in Fiscal Year 2026. All laws in conflict with
14 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Flower Mound High School

Semifinals: A Bill to Establish a Cap-and-Trade Regulatory Framework

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** In order to promote long-term environmental sustainability in American energy policy and effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the United States Congress shall:
- A. Create a renewable electricity standard that requires retail electricity suppliers that sell more than 4 million megawatts of power to supply an increasing percentage of its demand each year from renewable energy sources at a baseline quota of 30% by 2035 that will gradually increase by 10% every 5 calendar years until such time as domestic energy is built upon the percentage of 100% renewable sources, respectively.
 - B. Develop a cap-and-trade system through the issue of variable pricing tradable emissions permits for all greenhouse gas emissions that consist of capped source emissions to be set to 50% of levels on the date of passage of the legislation by 2040 that will gradually decrease by 10% every 5 calendar years until such time as domestic energy production levels reach below 350 parts per million (ppm).
- SECTION 2.** A. The term “renewable energy source” shall be defined pursuant to 42 U.S. Code § 15852, which establishes the definition as being produced from solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity achieved from increased efficiency or additions of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project. B. The term “tradable emissions permit” shall be defined as one of a limited, set number of tradable permits given by the government that gives firms the right to pollute one tonne of CO₂ emissions.
- SECTION 3.** The Federal Electricity Regulatory Commission (FERC), Department of Energy (DOE), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall be responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this legislation.
- A. The FERC shall be responsible to implement the renewable electricity standard and ensure compliance is fair and equitable in accordance with all pre-existing U.S. law not in conflict with this legislation.
 - B. The DOE and EPA shall be responsible for determining the total number of tradable emissions permits that should be distributed to retail energy suppliers on a regular basis as well as enforcing the cap-and-trade policy.
 - C. Non-compliance without a good faith effort to comply (as determined by FERC) by a retail electricity supplier shall result in the revocation of all tradable emissions permits by the EPA until compliance is demonstrated.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Village High School.

Semifinals: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish a Right to Healthcare

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

ARTICLE —

6 **SECTION 1.** All citizens of the United States and its territories are henceforth entitled to
7 comprehensive healthcare free of charge.

8 **SECTION 2.** Comprehensive healthcare shall include at minimum preventative, urgent, and
9 emergency care in the areas of traditional healthcare, dental care, ophthalmological care, and
10 behavioral healthcare.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced by the NSDA Congressional Debate Legislation Docket

Finals: A Bill to Increase Access to Clean Public Water by Improving the Pipe System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Any existing lead drinking water pipes shall henceforth be
3 replaced with new copper pipes that allow for a better clean water
4 system.

5 **SECTION 2.** Copper pipes shall be defined as copper pipes with no lead
6 joints and are 99.9% copper.

7 **SECTION 3.** The US Environmental Protection Agency will oversee the
8 implementation of the legislation.

9 A. 30 billion dollars of funding will be provided initially based on the
10 number of lead pipes there are in each state. Should the initial
11 funding be insufficient, the state and local governments can request
12 more money through an EPA grant program. This grant program will
13 be available for a decade following the date of implementation.

14 B. The 30 billion dollars will be reallocated from the Department of
15 Defense for the implementation of this legislation.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2026. All
17 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Finals: A Resolution to Set Sail for Safer Seas

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the
2 Sea (or, the Law of the Sea Treaty), remaining a minority in the
3 international community; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. has a duty to uphold environmental justice in areas like seabed
5 mining and biodiversity protection policies; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. and the rest of the international community remain under
7 constant territorial threat given the rise of the People’s Republic of
8 China’s international sea disputes; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Ratifying the Law of the Sea Treaty would help uphold these American
10 interests in the face of maritime law; now, therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled endorse the immediate ratification of
12 the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Respectfully submitted by Highland Park High School

Finals: A Resolution for Mexican Enhancement and Cooperation for Legal Economic Alternatives and Regulation (Mexico C.L.E.A.R)

1 **WHEREAS,** It has been observed that Mexican drug cartels have been
2 killing civilians through illegal practices of distributing deadly drugs;
3 **WHEREAS,** Furthermore, these Mexican drug cartels have organized
4 franchising and management;
5 **WHEREAS,** Furthermore, contacting and organizing a deal to force them
6 to adopt legal practices would solve the illegal distribution.
7 **RESOLVED,** The United States Government will negotiate with the
8 Sinaloa Cartel, Los Zetas Cartel, and other various drug cartels to have
9 them either distribute drugs to legal hospitals and institutions or use their
10 organization to distribute non-drug consumer products and relinquish their
11 armed forces (with guaranteed acceptance into the Mexican military).
12 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** Any cartel groups that comply with our requests will
13 receive tariff-free exportation to the United States of their product for
14 their duration of compliance.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Brainmaster Academy.