

Barkley Forum for High Schools at Emory University

2025 Congressional Debate Legislative Docket

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A Bill to Establish a Carbon Tax in at-Risk Areas

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Facilities receiving subsidies from the United States federal government
2 will be banned from releasing carbon emissions exceeding 10 metric tons in areas where
3 the air quality index is deemed “dangerous”.

4 **SECTION 2.** Dangerous air quality levels are defined as air quality index values over 300.

5 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Environmental Protection and Internal
6 Revenue Service will work in conjunction to oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

7 a. Any facility found in violation of this legislation will face a carbon tax of 10\$ per
8 ton of CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) emitted

9 b. 50% of collected tax money will invested into improving solid waste management
10 to reduce the open burning of waste and end large-scale waste incineration

11 c. 50% of collected tax money will be invested into research and development of
12 renewable energy

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the start of FY 2026.

14 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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A Bill to Impose a Sugar Tax

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government should implement a federal sugar
3 tax on any food and/or drink items that contains more than the five
4 percent recommended daily value (DV) of added sugar.

5 **SECTION 2.** Daily value shall be defined as the percentage that shows how much of a
6 nutrient in a serving of food contributes to the total diet.

7 Sugar shall be defined as a sweet crystalline substance obtained from
8 various plants, especially sugar cane and sugar beet, consisting essentially
9 of sucrose, and used as a sweetener in food and drink.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Internal Revenue
11 Service (IRS) will oversee the implementation of this bill. Any business not
12 in compliance will receive a fine of \$100,000.

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

A Bill to Aid Sudan to Address the Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall allocate \$350 million in humanitarian aid to the
- 2 Darfur region of Sudan and provide financial and logistical support for
- 3 international peacekeeping operations to mitigate the effects of violence
- 4 and human rights abuses.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** "Humanitarian Aid" shall be defined as funding for food, water, medical
- 6 supplies, temporary shelters, education, and psychological services for
- 7 displaced persons. "Peacekeeping operations" refer to international
- 8 missions, such as those under the African Union-United Nations Hybrid
- 9 Operation (UNAMID), aimed at protecting civilians and maintaining peace
- 10 in conflict zones.
- 11 **SECTION 3.** The implementation and oversight of this bill shall be managed by the U.S.
- 12 Department of State in collaboration with USAID.
- 13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented immediately upon passage.
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- 15 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

The Democracy Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall require Ranked Choice Voting for elections of both Senators
2 and Representatives in all states, used with Multi-Member Districts.

3 **SECTION 2.** Ranked Choice Voting is defined as a system where each voter ranks
4 candidates for an office in order of preference.

5 **SECTION 3.** For Mutli Member Districts, For states with six or more Representatives,
6 districts must be fewer than the total Representatives, with elections only
7 from these districts.

8 A. Each district must have equal population as practicable per the U.S. Constitution.

9 B. Each district elects 3 to 5 Representatives.

10 **SECTION 4.** State and Local Office Unchanged. — This Act does not affect how states
11 conduct elections for state or local offices or establish districts for such
12 elections.

13 **SECTION 5.** Expanding the Size of the House. — The number of Representatives shall be
14 the total U.S. population divided by the population of the smallest state.

15 **SECTION 6.** This bill shall go into effect Jan 1, 2026.

A Bill to Remove Troops from South Korea

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will withdraw all of its remaining military personnel from
3 South Korea effective immediately. Military support will still be available for
4 South Korean use, if needed.

5 **SECTION 2.** Military support shall be defined as military aid and US military operations in
6 conjunction with South Korean forces.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense (DoD) and the US Department of State will
8 oversee implementation of this legislation.

9 A. The US Department of State will authorize distribution of military aid if
10 needed.

11 B. The US Department of State will conduct yearly audits to ensure proper
12 use of military aid, if distributed.

13 C. US military operations shall not be offensive, except in the case of
14 aggression from South Korean adversaries such as North Korea, China, and
15 Russia.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2025. All laws in conflict with this
17 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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The Healthcare Option for Public Equity (HOPE) Act of 2026

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. In light of gaps in healthcare treatment, the United States shall

implement a public option healthcare system to
increase coverage and engage in price negotiations.

SECTION 2. A public option insurance program shall be defined as a government-run
healthcare insurance plan that would work alongside and compete with
private insurers for individual patient care. Price negotiations are
discussions that will occur between the government and pharmaceutical
manufacturers to lower prices.

SECTION 3. The United State Department of Health and Human Services shall be
tasked with the enforcement and oversight of this legislation.

a) A premium of 150 dollars per month will be implemented to
pay for the plan.

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

A Bill to Eliminate the Defense of Qualified Immunity in Civil Actions for Individual Rights

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Government shall eliminate the doctrine of qualified
2 immunity as a response to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in civil lawsuits to warrant
3 against justified police misconduct and the deprivation of individual rights.

4 **SECTION 2.** Defendants under Section 1 will no longer be able to use qualified
5 immunity as justification for not being held liable for constitutional
6 violations, including if:

7 A. The defendant was acting in good faith or believed that his or her
8 conduct was lawful at the time it was committed;

9 B. The immunity secured under the constitution was not clearly established
10 at the time of their deprivation; or

11 C. The state of the law was such that the defendant could not have
12 reasonably been expected to know whether his or her conduct was lawful.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice will oversee the implementation of this bill and
14 ensure fair and impartial decisions in such jurisdictions.

15 A. Any government individuals found in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 will be
16 subject to civil penalties not exceeding \$10,000 for first convictions.

17 B. Subsequent violations will be subject to civil penalties not exceeding
18 \$50,000 with possible discharge from government positions.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect June 1st 2026

20 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict are declared null and void
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A Bill to Nationally Legalize Sports Betting

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **ARTICLE I** All forms of sports betting from national sportsbooks will be legal in the United
3 States and its territories.

4 **ARTICLE II** A: Sports betting includes betting on all sports from national sportsbetting
5 companies. Semi-professional sports are legal in all states.

6 B: The federal government will impose a tax on sports betting of 15% on
5 sportsbooks on top of the original state tax. Tax funding will be discretionary
6 funding for Congress to allocate.

7 **ARTICLE III** The Department of Commerce will oversee the implementation of this
8 legislation.

9 **ARTICLE IV** The implementation date of this bill will be September 1, 2024.

10 **ARTICLE V** All laws and regulations in conflict with this legislation will be hereby null and
11 void.

A Bill to Strengthen Safety Regulations for Gun Ownership to Protect Public Safety

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal government shall implement stricter safety regulations for gun
3 ownership, including mandatory federal background checks, yearly safety
4 inspections for all firearms, and a renewable safety license required for
5 possession.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. A "Federal Background Check" shall be defined as a review of
7 criminal, mental health, and other relevant records to determine eligibility
8 for firearm possession.

9 B. A "Safety Inspection" shall be defined as an annual examination
10 conducted by a certified firearm specialist to ensure safe operation and
11 compliance with federal standards.

12 C. A "Safety License" shall be defined as a certification that the firearm
13 owner has met all legal, safety, and training requirements to possess a
14 firearm, renewed every five years.

15 **SECTION 3.** A. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) shall
16 oversee the enforcement of this legislation. An extra 6 billion dollars a
17 year will be allocated from the government.

18 B. State-level law enforcement agencies will assist in performing
19 background checks, firearm safety inspections, and managing the issuance
20 and renewal of safety licenses.

21 C. Firearm owners found to be non-compliant with this legislation will
22 face fines or revocation of firearm privileges.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with
24 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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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 to
4 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.

A Bill to Build More Nuclear Energy

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall substantially increase investment
3 into domestic nuclear power plants and related infrastructure to
4 decrease the impact on the environment. The U.S. shall also increase the
5 affordability of nuclear energy options by subsidizing consumer costs.

6 **SECTION 2.** Nuclear power plants are nuclear power reactors that
7 generate electricity for a power grid. Related infrastructure includes but
8 is not limited to: nuclear waste facilities, generators, and cooling towers.
9 Substantial investment is investing enough money to build 5 more
10 nuclear plants over the 10 years. This funding will also cover the costs
11 associated with maintaining and revamping existing nuclear plants. In
12 addition, this funding will cover costs for researching effective methods
13 of construction.

14 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Energy will be
15 responsible for implementing this legislation. It shall submit an annual
16 report on the progress made. If logistical or other challenges should arise,
17 the Department shall allocate additional funds to stay on schedule.

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

The Haitian Recovery Act (HR Act)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government shall allocate \$1 Billion to
3 support Haiti in restoring stability, strengthening its national police
4 force, and addressing urgent humanitarian needs.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purpose of this bill, the following term shall be defined:

6 a) Haitian National Police (HNP): The primary law enforcement agency of
7 Haiti.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of State, in coordination with the
9 Department of Defense and the Department of Treasury, shall oversee
10 the enforcement of this legislation. The specific enforcement mechanisms
11 shall include:

12 a) Allocation of Funds: i. \$500 million shall be earmarked for enhancing
13 and strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police, including
14 training, equipment, and infrastructure. ii. \$300 million shall be allocated
15 for urgent humanitarian aid, including food, medical supplies, and clean
16 water. iii. \$200 million shall be reserved for future governance support
17 and economic development initiatives.

18 b) Deployment of U.S. Troops: A limited contingent of U.S. troops, not
19 exceeding 1,000 personnel, shall be deployed to Haiti to assist in training
20 the HNP and providing logistical support for aid distribution.

21 c) Monitoring and evaluation: The Department of State shall establish a
22 monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the
23 funds allocated and the progress achieved in stabilizing Haiti.

24 d) Reporting requirements: The Department of State shall provide
25 quarterly reports to Congress on the implementation of this bill and the
26 situation in Haiti, which they will get from the HNP.

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

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

A Bill to Restrict the Use of Artificial Intelligence technologies in Healthcare

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models are hereby banned from
3 use in healthcare settings unless a human operator retains decision-making
4 control at every step of the process. Under no circumstances should the
5 aforementioned technologies be implemented without proper controls.

6 **SECTION 2.** “Artificial Intelligence” is defined as any technology which makes
7 autonomous decisions without human input. “Large Language Models” are
8 defined as any chatbot technology that can process natural language and
9 autonomously generate a response.

10 **SECTION 3.** Enforcement of this bill will be delegated to the Department of Health and
11 Human Services. Healthcare entities found to be in violation of this bill will be
12 fined no less than \$10,000 per violation.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately after passing. All laws in conflict
14 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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A Bill to Establish Universal Preschool

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Department of Education will integrate universal
2 preschool into the public school system.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** Universal Preschool is a publicly funded and tuition-free program for age-
4 eligible children. Age eligible children are children who are between the ages of 2-5 years
5 old.
- 6 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Education will oversee and enforce this
7 legislation.
 - 8 A. The DOE shall have a budget of \$40 billion per annum.
 - 9 B. Subsidies shall be given to the early childhood providers within the \$40 billion budget.
 - 10 C. Construction and educational material costs such as furniture, assessments, and books
11 will be paid for within the \$40 billion budget.
- 12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with this
legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Implement a National Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall establish a National Prescription Drug Price
2 Negotiation Program (NPDN Program) to negotiate and set maximum
3 prices for the top 50 most prescribed medications in the country.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Definitions:
- 5 A. “Top 50 most prescribed medications” refers to a list of drugs most
6 commonly prescribed, as determined by the Department of Health and
7 Human Services (HHS).
8 B. “Negotiated price” refers to the maximum price set for a prescription
9 medication under the NPDN program after negotiations between the
10 government and pharmaceutical companies.
- 11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall oversee the
12 NPDN Program.
13 A. HHS shall annually negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies to
14 establish a maximum price scale for each drug in the top 50 list.
15 B. HHS shall penalize non-compliant pharmaceutical companies with a fine
16 equal to 10% of the previous year’s total sales of the non-compliant drug in
17 the United States.
- 18 B. HHS shall penalize non-compliant pharmaceutical companies with a fine
19 equal to 10% of the previous year’s total sales of the non-compliant drug in
20 the United States.
- 19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026.
- 20 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.