

2024



**Congressional Debate
Legislation**

General Notes

- Judges will utilize electronic balloting throughout the tournament.
 - The number of preliminary chambers will be based on the total number of entrants. Preliminary chambers will be released on Saturday 11/9 (the morning of the tournament).
 - We will follow NSDA rules for Congress.
 - Chambers will have a maximum of 15 minutes of recess time per session.
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LEGISLATION

Preliminary Rounds

1. A Bill to Increase Offshore Windfarms to Preserve Land
2. A Bill to Require Menstrual Products in All Female and Gender-Neutral Bathrooms
3. A Bill to Remove Profit from Hospice Care Facilities
4. A Bill to Strengthen Safety Regulations for Gun Ownership to Protect Public Safety
5. A Bill to Update Water Quality Standards for the Sake of Public Health
6. A Bill to Provide Aid to Refugee Crisis in Jordan
7. A Bill to Decrease the Cost of Prescription Drugs
8. A Bill to Cap Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Organizations and Businesses
9. A Bill to Promote and Modernize Education on Harmful Substances for at Risk Youth
10. A Bill to Bypass the Electoral College
11. A Bill for an Efficient Secret Service
12. A Bill to Enable Student Debt to Be Unconditionally Discharged Through Bankruptcy
13. A Bill to Exempt Tips from Taxation

Final Round

1. A Bill to Create American Oceania
2. A Bill to Invest in Nuclear Energy
3. A Bill to Ban Medical Patents
4. A Resolution to Modify the UN Security Council Veto Process

2024



Preliminary Legislation

A Bill to Increase Offshore Windfarms to Preserve Land

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The government sponsors the construction of new offshore windfarms.

SECTION 2. An offshore wind farm is a group of wind turbines built floating on the ocean which produce much more energy than traditional wind turbines.

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy will redirect 4 billion from funds meant for renewables towards this endeavor.

A. This bill is meant to combat the large amount of land traditional renewables use.

B. The department shall build 500 offshore wind turbines, but this number can change based off of availability of area and prices.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by La Salle College High School.

A Bill to Require Menstrual Products in All Female and Gender-Neutral Bathrooms

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. All public and private female and gender-neutral restrooms will be required to keep a stocked supply of menstrual products free of charge for all users that will be restocked weekly.

Section 2. Menstrual products will be defined as products used to catch menstrual flow, like pads or tampons. A “stocked supply” will be defined as 30 or more of such products within a given bathroom.

Section 3. The Department of Health and Human Services will oversee the implementation of this legislation.

A. All private businesses will be required to supply these products from their own funds.

B. All funding necessary for the implementation of this legislation for public restrooms will come from the budget for the Department of Defense.

Section 4. This legislation will take effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2027 to allow for a two year transition period.

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

Respectfully submitted,

State College Area High School

A Bill to Remove Profit from Hospice Care Facilities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Should any hospice care facility report a live discharge rate higher than that determined by the national average, the facility is subject to governmental review. Additionally, hospice licenses must be reviewed after 24 months as well as inspected every 24 months to ensure quality of care.

SECTION 2. A 'live discharge rate' shall be defined as the number of patients who are discharged alive from hospice care. 'Governmental review' shall be defined as inspections performed by state departments of public health.

SECTION 3. The Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will oversee the implementation of this bill.

A. CMS will inspect hospice facilities under governmental review on a bi-monthly basis.

B. CMS will institute a system of fines for any quality issues, levied until compliance is reached.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Strath Haven

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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

SECTION 2. A. A "Federal Background Check" shall be defined as a review of criminal, mental health, and other relevant records to determine eligibility for firearm possession.
B. A "Safety Inspection" shall be defined as an annual examination conducted by a certified firearm specialist to ensure safe operation and compliance with federal standards.
C. A "Safety License" shall be defined as a certification that the firearm owner has met all legal, safety, and training requirements to possess a firearm, renewed every five years.

SECTION 3. A. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation. An extra 6 billion dollars a year will be allocated from the government.
B. State-level law enforcement agencies will assist in performing background checks, firearm safety inspections, and managing the issuance and renewal of safety licenses.
C. Firearm owners found to be non-compliant with this legislation will face fines or revocation of firearm privileges.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by La Salle College High School

A Bill to Update Water Quality Standards for the Sake of Public Health

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Congress shall update and enforce regulations on tap water contaminants based on the Environmental Working Group's standards.

SECTION 2. The following definitions apply:

A. Tap water contaminants shall be defined as substances found in water plants which pose a quantifiable risk to public health, not those which pose issues unrelated to health, such as but not limited to: unfavorable color, taste, or smell.

B. The Environmental Working Group's standards shall be defined based on their health protective standards updated in 2021.

C. This bill shall apply to municipal water plants. Municipal water plants shall be defined as a facility which purifies raw water from a source such as a river or aquifer, and distributes the clean water to homes and businesses within a city or municipality through a network of pipes.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall be enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA will monitor states, local authorities, and water suppliers who uphold these standards to ensure their compliance with this legislation. The EPA will also receive \$1.2 trillion dollars to improve infrastructure within municipal water plants. These funds will be used to the EPA's discretion.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by New Oxford High School.

A Bill to Provide Aid to Refugee Crisis in Jordan

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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

SECTION 2.

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

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

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

A. The US Agency for International Development will send aid in increments as seen fit, over the course of 2 years. This will be to prevent any possibility of negative impacts to the economy of Jordan.

B. The US Agency for International Development will promote the building of businesses through this humanitarian aid, to assist in building a more sustainable economy in Jordan.

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

SECTION 5. This legislation will take effect immediately following the passing of this legislation.

SECTION 6. This legislation will go into effect in January 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Pennsbury High School

A Bill to Decrease the Cost of Prescription Drugs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States will cap markup prices by companies, specifically for prescription medication.

A. The United States will cap markup prices by companies at 7% for prescription drugs.

B. Companies that fail to comply will be take on profits that are double the percentage of markup costs.

SECTION 2. The following definitions are applicable.

A. Prescription drugs will be defined as any medication/drug obtained with a prescription.

B. Markup caps will be defined as the maximum percentage a company can raise the price of the medication to gain more profit.

SECTION 3. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) along with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will oversee the enforcement and implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on FY 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pennsbury High School.

A Bill to Cap Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Organizations and Businesses

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Congress shall enforce a cap and trade system on all greenhouse gasses emitted each year by businesses and organizations.

SECTION 2. The following definitions apply:

A. A “cap and trade system” shall be defined as a system wherein a strict limit is set for the total greenhouse gas emissions in a particular sector, which is then split into allowances that can be bought and sold among businesses and organizations within that sector. In this case, the starting yearly limit for greenhouse gas output is 3 billion metric tons which shall be split into one ton allowances. This cap will decrease by 10% annually following the enactment of this bill.

B. “Emissions” shall be defined as the release of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, including any gas that has the ability to absorb infrared radiation emitted from the Earth’s surface and trap heat in the atmosphere.

C. The amount businesses and organizations emit shall be based on emissions which occur due to their operations and production of goods and services, as well as any emissions which occur due to the consumption of said goods and services.

SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall oversee the enforcement of this law and shall be responsible for the measurement of each business’s and organization’s total greenhouse gas emissions at the end of each year. Funds shall be allocated for the EPA to enforce this law and conduct measurements, and the amount shall be decided through the budgetary process.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on FY 2027. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by New Oxford High School.

A Bill to Promote and Modernize Education on Harmful Substances for at Risk Youth

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This bill shall carry out the modernization and improvement of drug awareness programs in high schools throughout the US.

SECTION 2. “Harmful substances” is defined as any type of drug that can be fatal, ranging from crack cocaine to over-the-counter medication. “Drug education” is defined as education that attempts to steer the younger demographic away from taking any harmful or fatal substances.

SECTION 3. The DEA and SAMHSA shall oversee/fund this legislation.

A. This legislation shall promote education on harmful effects of substance abuse, and also support extracurriculars and job opportunities for at risk youth.

B. A total of 500 million dollars shall be allocated to this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on August 31st, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

North Allegheny Senior High School

A Bill to Bypass the Electoral College

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Congress hereby invokes the powers vested in it by the Compact Clause (Article One, Clause Three) of the Constitution to provide preemptive consent for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC).

SECTION 2. Congress encourages additional states to pass legislation signing on to the NPVIC so that it may take effect and democratic values may be elevated to their rightful place in our nation.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SECTION 4. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill for an Efficient Secret Service

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. The budget for the Secret Service shall be reduced by 50%.

SECTION 2. Congress instructs the leadership of the Secret Service to reassess the agency's expenditures and procedures to ensure they can keep the nation's leaders safe without wasteful spending or complacency.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Homeland Security.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect at the start of the 2025 fiscal year.

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

A Bill to Enable Student Debt to Be Unconditionally Discharged Through Bankruptcy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. No longer shall a debtor be required to show “undue hardship” (section 523(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code) in order to discharge student debt via bankruptcy. Student debt shall henceforth be indistinguishable from other forms of debt as far as bankruptcy law is concerned.

SECTION 2. This legislation shall be overseen by the United States Trustee Program, a component of the Department of Justice.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

SECTION 4. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Exempt Tips from Taxation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Income earned as tips shall no longer be part of a taxpayer's taxable income, though it must still be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

SECTION 2. Tips are currently defined by the IRS as "discretionary (optional or extra) payments, determined by a customer, that employees receive from customers."

SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the IRS.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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

2024



Finals Legislation

A Bill to Create American Oceania

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. The territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands are hereby joined with the State of Hawaii. Together, these shall become a new state to be named American Oceania, replacing Hawaii as the fiftieth state and standing on an equal footing with the other states in all respects.

SECTION 2. The governments of these entities are instructed to collaborate to compose and ratify a state constitution no later than one year from the passage of this bill and shall continue to enforce those laws that currently exist until this has been achieved.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

SECTION 4. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Invest in Nuclear Energy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall substantially increase its investment into nuclear power plants and infrastructure.

SECTION 2. A. Nuclear power plants are nuclear power reactors that generate electricity for a power grid.

B. Substantially increasing investment is investing enough money to build 25 more nuclear plants over the next 10 years.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Energy will be responsible for implementing this legislation. The Department of Energy will submit an annual report on the progress made.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect January 1, 2026.

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

A Bill to Ban Medical Patents

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All medical patents shall hereby be nullified, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office shall be restricted from issuing any and all medical patents in the future. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) shall be allocated an additional 60 billion dollars per year to finance the research and development done by the pharmaceutical industry.

SECTION 2. Medical patents shall be defined as patents on any medication, medical device, or medical process that prevent other competitors from producing similar medications, devices, or processes.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Health and Human Services shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2025.

A Resolution to Modify the UN Security Council Veto Process

WHEREAS, The system which currently governs vetoes within the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is undemocratic; and

WHEREAS, One member state out of 15 voting member states can destroy a solution for peace by exercising an insurmountable veto; and

WHEREAS, Many permanent member states of the UNSC are operating from a purely self-interested position and, in turn, often fail to work for global progress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the United States urges the United Nations to revise the Security Council veto process to ensure a two-thirds majority vote can override any veto within the UNSC.