

HARVARD

Debate Council



HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

Congressional Debate

2025 Varsity

Legislative Docket

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A Bill to Create the Transpacific Security Organization to Counter Chinese Expansionism

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States will create the Transpacific Security Organization(TSO) to
2 formally counteract Chinese expansionism and intimidation in Asia. The TSO will follow a
3 collective defense principle to counter any Chinese intimidation or invasion onto the
4 territorial integrity of the nation.

5 **SECTION 2. A.** The TSO will follow a collective defense principle where any acts of war
6 from a non-member state onto a member will result in a joint defensive
7 response to defend the ally nation and ensure its self-determination.

8 **B.** The founding members of the organization will consist of: Japan,
9 Australia, Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines, and the United States of
10 America. Any further expansion of the organization will require consensus
11 from $\frac{3}{4}$ of the member states for admission.

12 **C.** In the case of Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea or
13 intimidation of member states, the TSO will convene to decide on the
14 official course of action by all members.

15 **D.** Joint defensive response will be defined as any economic and military
16 measures to protect the full territorial integrity of a nation, including, but
17 not limited to economic sanctions, arms shipment, and deployment of
18 military force.

19 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Defense (DOD) will oversee enforcement
20 along with the specific enforcement mechanism.

21 **A.** The DOD will collaborate with the founding members to formalize this
22 organization and enter into a collective defense treaty according to this
23 legislation.

24 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in
25 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

topic of FOREIGN POLICY

A Bill to Accelerate Hypersonic Defense Innovation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Defense (DoD) shall initiate a comprehensive program
2 to research, develop, and deploy hypersonic weapon systems.

3 **SECTION 2.** Hypersonic weapons shall be defined as any weapon which travels at
4 Mach-5 (five times the speed of sound), with capabilities for offensive and defensive
5 operations.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall receive \$6 billion a year over the next five
7 fiscal years to be used for research, development, testing, and eventual deployment with
8 funding allocated as follows:

- 9 A. 40% will be allocated for research and development.
10 B. 30% will be allocated for collaboration with private sector defense contractors and
11 university research institutions.
12 C. 20% will be allocated for testing and evaluation of prototypes.
13 D. 10% for defensive countermeasures and surveillance systems designed to detect
14 hypersonic weapons.

15 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of Defense shall oversee the program in coordination with
16 the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) ensuring that all development
17 meets strategic needs and international laws. The Secretary of Defense shall submit
18 annual reports to Congress detailing advancements, expenditures, and security outcomes.

19 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

20 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
21

A Bill to Ban United States Offshore Fossil Fuel Drilling

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All offshore fossil fuel drilling in the United States shall hereby be banned. About 14.6% of crude oil and 2.3% of natural gas in the United States were produced from offshore drilling in 2022.

SECTION 2. “Offshore fossil fuel drilling” shall be defined as the process of drilling into the ocean floor to access pockets of oil and gas that lie underneath.

SECTION 3. All funding from the federal government that was being used to support offshore drilling of fossil fuels shall be redistributed towards renewable energies. All current revenue from offshore fossil fuel drilling shall be used to reimburse any costs to surrounding communities. Any remaining revenue shall be used to fund renewable energies.

SECTION 4. This bill shall be implemented by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) along with the Department of the Interior (DOI).

SECTION 5. This bill shall be implemented on January 1st 2026. Any laws in conflict with this piece of legislation shall be declared null and void.

The Democracy Act of 2025

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall require Ranked Choice Voting for elections
2 for both Senators and Representatives in all states. The House elections
3 shall use Multi-Member Districts to choose representatives.

4 **SECTION 2.** Ranked Choice Voting in conjunction with Multi-Member
5 Districts will replace the current election structure.

6 A. Ranked Choice Voting is defined as a system where each voter
7 ranks candidates for an office in order of preference.

8 B. For Multi-Member Districts, if a state is entitled to six or more
9 Representatives in Congress, the State shall establish a number of
10 districts for the election of Representatives in the State that is less
11 than the number of Representatives which the state is entitled, and
12 Representatives shall be elected only from districts so established.

13 C. Each district must have equal population as practicable per the U.S
14 Constitution.

15 D. Each district elects 3 to 5 representatives.

16 E. The number of representatives shall be the total U.S population
17 divided by the population of the smallest state.

18 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Election Commission will oversee the
19 enforcement of this legislation. \$2 billion dollars shall be allocated towards
20 the process of adopting the RCV system. Such funding shall be used for
21 equipment, software, and infrastructure necessary for the system.

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

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A Bill to Prohibit the Launch of LEO Satellites

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall prohibit the launch of Low
3 Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellites by private corporations.

4 **SECTION 2.** A LEO Satellite is defined as a piece of electronic equipment that circles in
5 low Earth orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 2,000 Kilometers or less.

6 **SECTION 3.** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will oversee
7 and enforce this legislation.

8 A. Illegally launched LEO Satellites shall be disabled and moved to
9 end-of-life disposal orbits at the expense of the private corporation
10 which originally launched the device.

11 B. Any private corporation out of compliance will incur an additional fine
12 of up to \$1,000,000 per illegally launched LEO Satellite.

13 C. Private corporations illegally launching ten or more LEO Satellites,
14 shall have their business license permanently revoked.

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

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

A Bill to Establish Rent Control Standards Nationwide to Ensure Housing Affordability

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Nationwide rent control standards shall be established to cap annual rent
3 increases for residential properties at 3%, or the rate of inflation as
4 determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is lower.

5 **SECTION 2.** Rent control is defined as government regulations limiting the amount a
6 landlord can charge for leasing a home (including, but not limited to
7 houses, apartments, lofts, studios, condos) or renewing a lease.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will enforce
9 this legislation. HUD will collaborate with state and local housing agencies
10 to monitor compliance, manage disputes, and provide resources for
11 enforcement.

12 A. A federal grant program will be established to support state and local
13 housing agencies with enforcement costs, funded at \$500 million
14 annually.

15 B. Rent control standards shall apply to all rental properties, except
16 those participating in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program,
17 which will continue to follow existing HUD guidelines.

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

(Domestic Topic - Commerce)

A Bill to Regulate the Use of Autonomous Vehicles in Commercial Transportation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Autonomous vehicles shall be prohibited from being utilized in commercial
2 transportation services.

3 **SECTION 2.** Autonomous vehicles are defined as vehicles equipped with software and
4 technology that enable them to operate without active human control.

5 Commercial transportation services refer to services where vehicles are
6 hired or rented for temporary use by individuals or groups, including
7 rideshares and taxis.

8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) shall be responsible for
9 enforcing the provisions of this legislation and developing safety
10 regulations to address potential software malfunctions in autonomous
11 vehicles used in any other contexts.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be effective immediately after passage.

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

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A Bill to Limit Annual College Tuition Price Increases

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The U.S Federal Government will require colleges to limit annual tuition
2 price increases no greater than the year-over-year inflation rate to address
3 the student debt crisis. Colleges that raise tuition prices above the
4 predetermined amount will lose the benefits of their tax-exempt status.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Benefits of tax-exempt status shall include access to tax-deductible
6 donations, tax-free infrastructure projects, and minimal tax payments.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education will be responsible for overseeing the
8 implementation and enforcement of this bill. Congress must vote to
9 increase tuition fees if it exceeds the current year-over-year inflation rate.
- 10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with this
11 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Bill to Implement Desalination Plants in the U.S

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1:** The U.S Federal Government shall hereby invest in desalination plants within a 50 mile radius of at risk coastal cities.
- Section 2A.** Desalination plants shall be defined as industrial facilities that use chemical or physical processes to reduce or recover salt concentrations from water supplies.
- Section 2B.** Coastal cities shall be defined as cities located on the interface or transition areas between land and sea, including large inland lakes with access to saltwater.
- Section 2C.** “At risk” shall be defined as cities that experience drought on average of at least one month per year according to data provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 2015.
- Section 3:** The Department of Interior (DOI) will be given 20 billion dollars to be allotted to private and state entities for the creation of desalination plants. The Bureau of Reclamation will be tasked with investing an additional 20 million dollars into research and development through grants. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will regulate the disposal of brine and other waste products.
- Section 4:** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2024.
- Section 5:** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Ban Deep Sea Mining

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The practice of deep sea mining is hereby prohibited within U.S.
3 Territorial Waters and within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone
4 (EEZ).

5 **SECTION 2.** A. "Mining" shall be defined as any activity aimed at recovering mineral
6 resources at a substantial rate for the purpose of commercially utilizing
7 such resources to earn a profit, whether such profit is ultimately
8 realized.

9 B. "Deep Sea" shall be defined as the seabed and subsoil at a depth of ten
10 meters or greater, within the U.S. Territorial Waters or the EEZ.).

11 **SECTION 3.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S.
12 Coast Guard, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) shall
13 be responsible for the enforcement of this Act.

14 A. Upon the first violation of this bill by an organization engaged in
15 deep sea mining, a fine of ten million dollars shall be imposed, in
16 addition to any costs required for environmental recovery.

17 B. Upon the second violation of this bill by the same organization, their
18 license to operate within the United States shall be suspended, and
19 their assets shall be seized for the purpose of funding environmental
20 recovery efforts.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1st 2025. All laws in conflict with
22 this 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 Rehabilitate the Public Criminal Defense System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Public defenders shall no longer be allowed to work contemporaneously
3 on more than 30 felony cases, or no more than 65 misdemeanor cases.

4 **SECTION 2.** In the event that a public defender is taking a hybrid of felony and
5 misdemeanor cases contemporaneously, the public defender shall be
6 limited to 45 cases in total, while taking on less than 20 felony cases.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) shall oversee the implementation and
8 enforcement of this bill.

9 A. The DOJ shall create a committee that will oversee the allocation of
10 funds to states to aid with the hiring of more public defenders, and
11 retention of public defenders.

12 a. 2 billion dollars shall be allotted to this committee for the sake
13 of hiring more public defenders.

14 b. 1 billion dollars shall be allocated to this committee for the
15 sake of retaining public defenders, through increased wages.

16 c. Further funds may be allocated at the next Congressional
17 budgetary meeting.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY27. All laws in conflict with this
19 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Topic area of Justice.

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.

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

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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 a Medicare for All System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall establish a single-payer healthcare system to
3 provide comprehensive medical coverage for all citizens, ensuring access
4 to healthcare services.

5 **SECTION 2.** A “Single-payer healthcare system” refers to a system in which a single
6 government entity is solely responsible for funding and administering
7 healthcare services for all country residents. “Medical coverage” includes,
8 but is not limited to: traditional, emergency and non-emergency
9 medicine, along with dental, hearing, vision, and long-term care; mental
10 health treatment and substance abuse treatment; and prescription
11 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 legislation.
14 A. A National Health Tax shall be implemented to fund this legislation as
15 a percentage of the IRS annual income which ranges from 1-10% for
16 high-income constituents. The National Health Tax for businesses shall
17 be assessed as a percentage of their total payroll expenses, with rates
18 of 6% for large corporations, which are entities earning at least one
19 million dollars annually for three years.

20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be implemented over a 5 year transition period,
21 starting January 1st, 2026 to January 1st, 2031. All laws in conflict with
22 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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A Bill to Reallocate Funds from Fossil Fuel to Nuclear Energy

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Because fossil fuels are predicted to disappear by 2060, the US should
3 stop investing in fossil fuels and reallocate those funds to nuclear energy.

4 **SECTION 2.** A) Fossil fuels are energy sources, including oil, coal, and natural gas,
5 that are non-renewable resources that formed when prehistoric
6 plants and animals died and were gradually buried by layers of rock.

7 B) Nuclear energy is a form of energy produced through fission (when
8 the nuclei of atoms split into several parts) or fusion (when nuclei
9 fuse together).

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy will oversee the enforcement of this bill. Over a
11 ten year period, the US budget will

12 A) Reduce allocations to fossil fuels by 10% each year

13 B) Increase allocations to nuclear energy by 10% each year

14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026 and be gradually implemented
15 over a ten-year period. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby
16 declared null and void.

topic area of Energy, Environment, and Scientific Development