GETTYSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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**Gettysburg Fall Invitational**

**Saturday, October 19th, 2024**

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**Congress Packet**

**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 11/11 (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.

**LEGISLATION**

**Preliminary Rounds**

1. A Bill to Grant Refugees Full Access to Education
2. A Bill to Increase Use of Solar Panels
3. A Resolution to Return Alaska to Russia to End the Russia-Ukraine War
4. A Billto Darken Our Skies
5. A Resolution to Expand Membership of the USMCA to Countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean
6. A Billto Ban Legacy Preference in College Applications
7. A Billto Revamp Rural Communities
8. A Bill to Increase the Number of Coast Guard Icebreakers to Improve Arctic Security
9. A Bill to Create a Mandatory Age of Retirement for Federal Officials
10. A Bill to Decrease Innovation Espionage
11. A Bill to Provide Aid to Laos for the Removal of Faulty Explosive Ordinances
12. A Bill to Repeal the Patriot Act of 2001
13. A Bill to Amend the Fifth Amendment and Legalize Double Jeopardy
14. A Resolution to Extend Daylight Saving Time Throughout the Year across the United States

**Final Round**

* 1. A Bill to Require DNA Evidence for Death Penalty Sentencing
  2. A Bill to Ban Noncompete Clauses for Employment Contracts
  3. A Bill to Block Advanced Creative AI Websites and Apps
  4. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish Personhood for Rivers

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**Preliminary Legislation**

**A Bill to Grant Refugees Full Access to Education**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. **SECTION 1.** The United States will grant full access to education to all
2. refugees.
3. **SECTION 2.** As of June 2023, there are 2.5 million refugee children that
4. are of school age. Their access to education is limited, with almost half of
5. them unable to attend school at all.
6. A. As a result of inadequate infrastructure, these kids are frequently
7. raised in underdeveloped areas where they cannot receive a quality
8. education.
9. B. These kids will have a difficult time succeeding in the future if they do
10. not receive the proper education they deserve.
11. **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Education will oversee the
12. implementation of this bill and will allocate $50 billion.
13. A. The $50 billion will be used to create the required
14. infrastructure, hire qualified teachers, and purchase other essentials for
15. quality education.

**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.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pennsbury High School.*

**A BILL TO INCREASE USE OF SOLAR PANELS BY INCREASING TAX CREDIT RECEIVED**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** This bill will increase the tax credit compensation received from purchasing solar
3. panels to 50% of the cost. The maximum tax credit received can be up to $10,000
4. per family. This bill will replace the residential half of the ITC program.
5. **SECTION 2.** A. "Tax credit" will be defined as credits earned that are subtracted from the total
6. amount of money due to pay taxes.
7. B. "Residential ITC program" will be defined as the government program that
8. deals with the percentage of tax credit received from solar panels for residential
9. purposes.
10. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy and the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) shall
11. implement this bill.
12. **SECTION 4.** The legislation will be in effect starting from January 1st, 2024.
13. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## A Resolution to Return Alaska to Russia to End the Russia-Ukraine War

* 1. **WHEREAS,** As of October 2023, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has
  2. resulted in the deaths of thousands of people as well as a humanitarian
  3. crisis, with people in need of food, shelter, and medical assistance; and
  4. **WHEREAS,** President Vladimir Putin is relentless, refusing to give up in
  5. the conflict without a fight; and
  6. **WHEREAS,** The United States acquired Alaska from Russia in 1867
  7. through a treaty of cession; and
  8. **WHEREAS,** Returning Alaska back to its rightful owners can serve as an
  9. important bargaining chip in making Russia retreat from Ukraine; now,
  10. therefore, be it
  11. **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled that the state of Alaska
  12. shall be given with care to the Russian Federation; and, be it
  13. **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That in return, Russia shall end its ongoing war with
  14. Ukraine to re-establish peace in the region.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by of Pennsbury High School.*

**A Bill to Darken Our Skies**

* + 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
    2. **SECTION 1.** Congress shall allocate an additional $500 million per year to the United States Fish and
    3. Wildlife Service (USFWS) to empower them to work more closely with the International
    4. Dark-Sky Association (IDSA) on their Dark Skies Initiative, focusing on the goals of reducing
    5. light pollution in cities and vastly increasing the number of International Dark Sky
    6. Communities in the United States.
    7. **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by USFWS.
    8. **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.
    9. **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

**A Resolution to Expand Membership of the USMCA to Countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean**

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| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14 | **Whereas,** The United States is in the USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement), and  **Whereas,** This agreement brings economic and environmental benefits to all three nations, and  **Whereas,** The regions of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean are currently facing economic and environmental challenges, and  **Whereas,** Nations in those regions often look to other countries like China for trade and support, and  **Whereas,** Chinese economic and environmental influence in other regions has shown to be detrimental to those nations, Therefore, be it  **Resolved,** That this Congress here assembled encourages the governments of Canada and Mexico to allow the expansion of other nations in into the USMCA, or to create an equivalent agreement that allows the membership of all nations in North and South America.  *Introduced for Congressional Debate by*  *Aidan Vedder*  *Southern Lehigh High School* |

**A BILL To BAN LEGACY PREFERENCE IN COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

**SECTION 1.** The decision to accept potential students at higher education institutions such as but not limited to: colleges, universities, and trade schools shall not be determined on any account of association with family member who is an alumni of the institution.

**SECTION 2.** Any of the aforementioned higher education institutions found in violation of this bill shall be fined 20% of their total revenue for the fiscal year of said violation. All fines will directly fund public schools in low income communities.

**SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen and enforced by the Department of Education.

**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.

**A BILL TO REVAMP RURAL COMMUNITIES**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** All current federal programs focused on the economic and/or infrastructure

development of rural communities will fall under the jurisdiction of a new federal organization called the Rural Development Administration (RDA). Rural areas shall be exempt from Federal Grant Match Requirements.

**SECTION 2.** A rural community is defined as a county that includes some combination of open countryside, towns with fewer than 2,500 residents, and urban areas with less than 50,000 residents who are not connected to a larger labor market. Infrastructure is defined as the services and systems necessary for a society to function including but not limited to education, healthcare, internet access, and climate protection.

**SECTION 3.** The newly created Rural Development Administration will fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture

1. All of the funding for current programs focused on rural areas will be reallocated to the RDA.
2. The RDA will determine how to best reorganize and consolidate the current programs now under its jurisdiction.
3. The RDA will also create a new board to represent rural communities in Congress and address inequities faced by rural communities and minorities within them.

**SECTION 4.** The transitions detailed in this legislation will start immediately upon passage.

All changes will be completed by FY 2029.

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

### A Bill to Increase the Number of Coast Guard Icebreakers to Improve Arctic Security

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The United States Department of Defense shall budget $1 billion for the commission of a
2. new Coast Guard polar-class icebreaker ship.
3. SECTION 2. Polar-class icebreakers are heavy ships operated by the United States Coast Guard. These
4. cutters, specifically designed for icebreaking, have reinforced hulls, special icebreaking
5. bows, and a system that allows rapid shifting of ballast to increase the effectiveness of
6. their icebreaking.
7. SECTION 3. The United States Department of Defense and the United States Coast Guard shall
8. oversee implementation of this bill. Funding of this bill shall be obtained from the most
9. recent Biden administration $24 billion supplemental appropriations request for Ukraine
10. assistance.
11. SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on approval of the Ukraine appropriations request.
12. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

**A Bill to Create a Mandatory Age of Retirement for Federal Officials Submitted by Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School**

* 1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED**
  2. **SECTION 1.** The ability to run for public political office or to be
  3. appointed to a public office under the jurisdiction of the United States
  4. shall be limited after age 70.
  5. **SECTION 2.** After the age of 70, any person wishing to run for office
  6. must be able to pass the Five Cognitive Tests (5-Cog) to prove they
  7. have not experienced cognitive decline. These examinations shall be
  8. administered by Doctors approved by the
  9. Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plans.
  10. **SECTION 3.** The exam results administered by the approved Doctor
  11. shall be submitted to public record by the Federal Official before
  12. inauguration. Failure to do so will be handled as fraud.
  13. **SECTION 4.** All federal officials currently serving a term when at the
  14. time this legislation takes effect may finish out their term without
  15. needing to pass any examination.
  16. **SECTION 5.** Supreme Court justices and all other federal judges will
  17. not be affected by this bill, as the constitution specifically states that
  18. they "shall hold their Offices during good behavior".
  19. **SECTION 6.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025

**A Bill to Decrease Innovation Espionage**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** A special interagency task force shall be created to stop innovation
3. espionage.
4. **SECTION 2.** Innovation espionage shall be defined as any activity of a non U.S. citizen
5. that transmits intellectual property to a foreign corporation, government,
6. or agency.
7. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense (DoD), National Security Administration (NSA)

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### SECTION 4.

* 1. **SECTION 5.**

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and the Department of Homeland Security (OHS) will hire more cybersecurity personnel, raise cybersecurity salaries, and create incentives for cybersecurity personnel to work for the government. In addition, they will develop methods to stop cyber attacks aimed at gaining intellectual property and educate companies on how to prevent innovation espionage.

1. $500 million shall be given to hire extra personnel, raise cyber security salaries, create incentives for cybersecurity personnel, and develop methods against cyber attacks.
2. $10 million shall be given to increase awareness and educate companies on innovation espionage.

This legislation will take effect three months from passage.

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

Introduced for debate by *Southern Lehigh High School*

## A Bill to Provide Aid to Laos for the Removal of Faulty Explosive Ordinances

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

* 1. **SECTION 1.** The United States Government shall provide aid in the
  2. form of training, supplies, and the wages of foreign bomb defusing
  3. personnel to Laos for the removal of faulty explosive ordinances leftover
  4. from the Vietnam War.
  5. **SECTION 2.** A) Faulty explosive ordinances shall be defined as ballistic
  6. devices that failed to detonate on impact, or ballistic devices that have not
  7. yet been detonated.
  8. B) Supplies will be defined as the equipment needed to
  9. defuse the faulty explosive ordinances, and the equipment needed to train
  10. the bomb defusing personnel.
  11. **SECTION 3.** The Department of State shall oversee the
  12. implementation of this legislation, and an extra 15 billion dollars will be
  13. allocated to the annual budget of the Department of State, from the
  14. Department of Defense's budget, and will be withdrawn annually, until the
  15. expiration date of this legislation.
  16. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will come into effect on January 1st, 2025
  17. and will expire in 2035.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by*

*Gavin Mahony Southern Lehigh High School*

**A BILL TO REPEAL THE PATRIOT ACT OF 2001**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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* 1. SECTION 5.

All sections of the Patriot Act of2001 pertaining to the federal government's capabilities to monitor and collect data, phone calls, images, and any other private information of United States Citizens specifically Section 215 are to be repealed.

All FISA Court decisions will be reviewed by an independent national

security congressional committee for any probable cause or reasonable evidence for

any form of data collection.

The Original FISA Court will be immediately abolished and reinstated with stricter approval guidelines that are to be drawn up by the National Security Advisor, the head of the Department of Homeland Security, the head of the Department of Defense, and the independent congressional committee within 9 months of the passing of the bill.

All data that the committee finds to not have had probable cause or reasonable evidence linking the individual to a terrorist organization is to be destroyed.

There will be a complete restructuring of the NSA and the CISA that is to

* 1. be overseen by the U.S. Attorney General, the head of the Department of
  2. Homeland Security, and the previously mentioned independent congressional
  3. committee.
  4. Section 6. With regards to any individual that either of the two organizations feels
  5. that data collection would be necessary to confirm a particular case going
  6. forward, a request must be submitted to the independent congressional committee
  7. as well as three federal judges from the new substitute for The FISA Courts who
  8. must unanimously approve the collection prior to any data being collected.
  9. Section 7. This approval request must contain the individual's, name, age, location,
  10. criminal history, and all definitive links and connections to a foreign or domestic
  11. terrorist cell as well as formal criminal organizations (cartels, mafias, cults, etc.)
  12. Section 8. This Legislation will take effect immediately.
  13. Section 9. Any remaining articles or laws in conflict with this legislation would be hereby
  14. declared null and void.
  15. Introduced For Congressional Debate By William Tennent High School

**A Bill to Amend the Fifth Amendment and Legalize Double Jeopardy**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED**
2. **SECTION 1.** Three fourths (or more) of state legislators will ratify the
3. amendment to the Fifth Amendment, which will legalize Double
4. Jeopardy in the United States court system.
5. **SECTION 2.** If an individual is tried for a case and found innocent,
6. but later admits to being guilty, or new evidence surfaces proving
7. that said individual is guilty, then they have the right to be tried again.
8. **SECTION 3.** All original witnesses and jury from the previous trial
9. must be present in the current trial. Along with the judge, lawyers,
10. and prosecution.
11. **SECTION 4.** The second trial will be run just as the first, all prior
12. evidence must be represented followed by the new found evidence.
13. Failure to do so will result in the case being immediately closed.
14. **SECTION 5.** An individual will only be tried for a case more than
15. once if new evidence is found. The prosecution may not try the
16. individual without new-found evidence.

**Submitted by Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School**

**A Resolution to Extend Daylight Saving Time Throughout the Year across the United States**

1. WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has adopted various versions of daylight
2. saving time since 1918, when the policy originated to support the war industries;
3. and
4. WHEREAS, Continuous daylight saving time was observed during World War II, referred to as
5. War Time, and was reinstated during the 1973 oil embargo; and
6. WHEREAS, Daylight saving time is a policy issue for many states; and
7. WHEREAS, Arizona, except for its Navajo Nation residents, Hawaii and the insular territories
8. are exempt from the biannual time changes; and
9. WHEREAS, Congress has noted such benefits as more daylight, increased outdoor playtime
10. for the children and youths of our nation, greater utilization of parks and
11. recreation areas and expanded economic opportunity through extension of
12. daylight hours to peak shopping hours; and
13. WHEREAS, Federal Government analysts have further identified positive effects relating to
14. energy savings, traffic safety and crime reduction; and
15. WHEREAS, S. 582 and H.R. 1279, introduced in the 118th Congress, would make daylight
16. saving time permanent nationwide; and WHEREAS, Without congressional
17. action, daylight saving time begins March 12, 2023, and ends November 5, 2023;
18. therefore be it
19. RESOLVED, by the Pennsylvania High School Speech League Student Congress assembled
20. that the United States should to extend daylight saving time throughout the year
21. across the country; and be it further
22. RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each
23. house of Congress.

# Finals Legislation

**A Bill to Require DNA Evidence for Death Penalty Sentencing**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1. SECTION l. No convicted criminal shall be sentenced to death unless DNA evidence linking the
2. criminal to the crime comprises a central element of that conviction, as determined by the
3. judge overseeing the case.
4. SECTION 2. Any inmate currently sentenced to death and awaiting the completion of that sentence
5. whose conviction was not significantly predicated on DNA evidence shall have their
6. sentence commuted to life in prison. District attorneys with jurisdiction in the court
7. where the crime was originally tried shall be responsible for making these determinations
8. and shall have one year from the passage of this legislation to do so.
9. SECTION 3. If a judge is found to have violated this legislation, this shall serve as compelling grounds
10. for that judge's impeachment.
11. SECTION 4. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Justice.
12. SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.
13. SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

### A Bill to Ban Noncompete Clauses from Employment Contracts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION I. Employers may no longer require their employees to sign noncompete agreements.
2. SECTION 2. A noncompete agreement will be defined as a contract that prohibits an employee from
3. competing with their former employer/business directly or indirectly for a specific
4. duration of time after their employment has ended.
5. SECTION 3. The Department of Labor and the Federal Trade Commission will work together to
6. oversee the implementation of this legislation and ensure that all businesses and
7. employees are abiding by the requirements.
8. SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January I, 2024. All laws in conflict with this
9. legislation are hereby declared null and void.

**A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish Personhood for Rivers**

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

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6 **SECTION 1.**

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13 **SECTION 4.**

when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

**ARTICLE** -

All rivers, streams, and other natural waterways are recognized as having legal personhood.

Any federally recognized Native American Tribe with a current or historical claim to a relationship with a given river, stream, or natural waterway is entitled to pursue legal action in defense of the rights of that entity.

No legal proceedings may be brought in which a river, stream, or natural waterway is named as a defendant.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**A Bill to Block Advanced Creative AI Websites and Apps**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1. SECTION l. All domestic internet service providers (ISPs) are directed to block websites and apps that
2. utilize artificial intelligence to enable users to produce art, writing, and other creative
3. works based on original prompts.
4. SECTION 2. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) shall be
5. entrusted with determining and publicizing which websites meet these criteria and must
6. be blocked, as well as with overseeing implementation of this legislation generally.
7. SECTION 3. Any ISPs found to be in violation of this legislation shall be fined a minimum of $5,000
8. and a maximum of $50,000 per infraction. Repeated violations (more than five in a one-
9. year period) shall result in the revocation of that ISP's license to provide internet
10. services.
11. SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.
12. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.