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|  | <p><b>2025 MARSHALL UNIVERSITY JOHN MARSHALL<br/>SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT</b></p> <p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE DOCKET</b></p> |
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**PRIMARY\*:**

1. A Bill to Remove Space Debris
2. A Bill to Ban the Buy Borrow Die Method
3. A Bill to Compensate Users for their Data
4. An Amendment to Lower the Voting Age Based on Employment
5. A Bill to Require Payment Terminals to Accept Tap to Pay

**Secondary:**

6. A Bill to Ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
7. A Bill to Require Inmates to Perform Community Service
8. A Bill to Establish Income-Based High School Vocational Programs
9. A Bill to Replace Congressional Debate with Public Discussion
10. A Bill to Establish a National Carbon Fee and Dividend Program

\* The order of items on the docket may not be changed.

# A Bill to Remove Space Debris

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   The U.S. shall allocate \$2.25 billion to fund the research and development  
2                   of space debris removal technologies. This funding will go towards private  
3                   or public companies and research institutions working on debris removal  
4                   solutions (i.e. spacecraft, robotic arms, lasers) that can de-orbit, destroy, or  
5                   remove the existence of space debris.
- 6   **SECTION 2.**   Space debris shall be defined as non-functional, artificial objects, including  
7                   fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering into Earth's  
8                   atmosphere. Space debris can vary in size, being as large as a space shuttle  
9                   or as small as a speck of dust, and can move at 18,000 miles per hour,  
10                  according to NASA.
- 11 **SECTION 3.**   Funding for this legislation shall be overseen by Congress. This bill's  
12                   implementation shall be overseen by the U.S. Office of Space Affairs.  
13                  Congress and the U.S. Office of Space Affairs ought to ensure that none of  
14                  the funding goes directly to NASA.
- 15 **SECTION 5.**   This legislation will take effect on FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this  
16                   legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dani Scantlin of Ripley High School.*

**PRIMARY**

**A Bill to Ban the Buy Borrow Die Method**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Buy Borrow Die method of avoiding taxes be considered a federal crime.

3 **SECTION 2.** The National Taxpayers Union defines Buy Borrow Die as buying non-liquid  
4 assets, borrowing against the value of the assets, rather than selling them, to  
5 avoid the tax on capital gains, and ultimately dying and passing the non-  
6 liquid assets onto their heirs, so they can use the same method.

7 **SECTION 3.** The term federal crime is defined as an action made illegal by and enforced by  
8 the federal government.

9 **SECTION 4.** The government agency in charge of enforcement will be the Internal  
10 Revenue Service. The consequences for this crime would be on one offense a warning; on  
11 the second, a fine; and on the third, seizing of assets.

12 **Section 5.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026.

13 **Section 6.** All laws in contradiction will hereby be declared null and void.

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Respectfully Submitted,

William Bashaw

Parkersburg High School

# A Bill to Compensate Users for their Data

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** Any company which sells personal data collected from users of any product of said company must pay the user 15% of any profit from the sale of that personal data.

**SECTION 2.** Companies which don't comply with this legislation will be fined for the full value of the personal data sold without compensating the user.

**SECTION 3.** The payment outlined in Section 1 must be delivered in full at least once every fiscal year in either physical or digital transfer of United States dollars.

**SECTION 4.** All companies who sell personal data shall request a method for delivery of payment (including but not limited to an address or bank number).

**SECTION 5.** Should a user refuse to provide enough information to make the payment possible, the company selling the data does not need to compensate the user until the next fiscal year in which the relevant information is made available.

**SECTION 6.** For the purposes of this legislation, personal data shall be defined as any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. User shall be defined as any individual who has personal data collected.

**SECTION 7.** This legislation will be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission.

**SECTION 8.** This legislation will take effect at the start of the 2026 fiscal year.

**SECTION 9.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Joseph Farrell, Huntington High School.*

# An Amendment to Lower the Voting Age Based on Employment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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

## ARTICLE --

7 **SECTION 1:** The right of citizens of the United States, who are sixteen years of  
8 age to seventeen years of age, to vote shall not be denied or  
9 abridged by the United States or by any State, should they meet the  
10 requirements in Section 2.

11 **SECTION 2:** Citizens must have been employed for six months with a consistent  
12 income to be eligible.

13 **SECTION 3:** For the purpose of this legislation, consistent income shall be  
14 defined as receiving income at a steady rate such as biweekly.

15 **SECTION 4:** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by  
16 appropriate legislation.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Audrey Barrios*

*Huntington High School*

## PRIMARY

### **A Bill to Require Payment Terminals to Accept Tap to Pay**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** This bill will require all bank cards and payment terminals to accept tap to  
2 pay.

3 **SECTION 2.** Local police departments will be in charge of serving fines of \$50 per  
4 payment terminal that doesn't accept tap to pay cards.

5 **SECTION 3.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict  
6 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Evan McCleary.*

# A Bill to Ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States must ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of  
2 the Sea.

3 **SECTION 2.** The following for the purposes of this piece of legislation shall be defined  
4 as:

5 A. "The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea" is an  
6 international agreement that lays down a comprehensive regime of law  
7 and order in the world's oceans and seas such as how the world's oceans  
8 are used and their resources are managed.

9 **SECTION 4.** The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the National Oceanic and  
10 Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the  
11 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would oversee the implementation  
12 of this legislation.

13 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with  
14 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Claire Salisbury.*

# **A Bill to Require Inmates to Perform Community Service**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. Section 1: That all inmates located in the state of West Virginia be required to
2. perform community service during their incarceration.
3. Section 2: The type of community service shall have the same parameters as a
4. sentencing of community service.
5. Section 3: The West Virginia Department of Justice will be in charge of enforcing this
6. bill.
7. Section 4: No budget outlay is required.
8. Section 5: This bill will go into effect January 1, 2026.
9. Section 6: All legislation in conflict with this bill will be declared null and
10. void.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Farrell,

Huntington High School



# A Bill to Establish Income-Based High School Vocational Programs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** All public high schools shall establish comprehensive vocational education programs that combine traditional academic coursework with paid apprenticeships and industry certifications.

**SECTION 2.** The following terms are defined as:

A. Vocational education programs - Structured learning experiences that combine classroom instruction with work-based learning in specific career paths

B. Paid apprenticeships - Employment arrangements where students work under skilled professionals while receiving training and competitive wages

C. Industry certifications - Credentials recognized by specific industries that verify student competency in technical skills

D. Participating employers - Businesses that provide apprenticeships and agree to standard wage and training requirements

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Labor, shall oversee implementation and enforcement.

A. Schools shall receive federal grants to establish and maintain vocational programs.

B. Programs must include partnerships with local employers and community colleges.

C. Students must be paid at least minimum wage during apprenticeships.

D. Schools must track and report program outcomes, including certification rates and post-graduation employment.

E. Employers shall receive tax credits for participating in apprenticeship programs.

F. Schools failing to meet program requirements shall face reduction in federal funding.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Marshall University Speech and Debate Team.*

# A Bill to Replace Congressional Debate with Public Discussion

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The National Speech and Debate Association shall phase out Congressional Debate and replace it with Public Discussion as an official competitive event.

**SECTION 2.** The following terms are defined as:

A. Public Discussion - A collaborative speaking event where 4-6 students engage in structured dialogue to analyze problems and propose solutions.

B. Round Structure - Each round consists of three 10-minute segments: problem analysis, solution development, and implementation planning.

C. Scoring Criteria - Participants are evaluated on analytical depth, collaboration skills, evidence usage, and solution viability.

D. Qualification Points - Points earned toward NSDA merit degrees through participation in Public Discussion events.

**SECTION 3.** The National Speech and Debate Association shall oversee implementation.

A. NSDA shall develop comprehensive rules, rubrics, and training materials.

B. The 2026-27 season shall be a transition year where both events are offered.

C. Starting in 2027-28, Public Discussion will fully replace Congressional Debate.

D. Districts must provide judge training on the new format.

E. Schools may apply for grants to support the transition.

F. Tournament hosts must offer Public Discussion to maintain NSDA qualification status.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Marshall University Speech and Debate Team.*

# **A Bill to Establish a National Carbon Fee and Dividend Program**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** A national carbon fee and dividend program shall be established to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide economic benefits to American citizens.

**SECTION 2.** The following terms are defined as:

A. Carbon fee - A fee of \$40 per metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions, increasing by \$10 per year, applied at the point where fossil fuels enter the economy

B. Dividend - The net revenue collected from the carbon fee distributed equally to all American citizens with a valid Social Security number

C. CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions - The amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that would have the same global warming potential as a given mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases

**SECTION 3.** The Department of the Treasury shall be responsible for implementing and enforcing this legislation.

A. The Treasury shall collect the carbon fee from fossil fuel companies at the point of extraction, import, or processing

B. The Treasury shall distribute 100% of net revenue as monthly dividend payments to eligible citizens

C. The Environmental Protection Agency shall assist in measuring and verifying emissions data

D. Companies that fail to pay required carbon fees shall face fines of three times the unpaid amount

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Marshall University Speech and Debate Team.*