

2025 Minnesota State Debate Tournament – Legislative Packet



The following legislation has been submitted for debate at the 2025 MSHSL State Debate Tournament to be held on January 17th and 18th at the University of Minnesota.

Primary Legislation

- A Bill to Ban Mandatory Minimum Sentences
- A Bill to Ban the Privatization of Medicare
- A Bill to Cease Human Rights Abuses Vietnam
- A Bill to Defund Gifted and Talented Programs
- A Bill to Eliminate Mandatory Minimum Sentencing to Create a More Equitable Justice System
- A Bill to Eliminate Taxation on Tipped Income
- A Bill to Establish a Free Trade Agreement with the Argentine Republic
- A Bill to Expand Federal Childcare Subsidies for Working Families
- A Bill to Fund Research for Autoimmune Diseases
- A Bill to Improve the Nation’s Police
- A Bill to Increase US Cyber Security Efforts
- A Bill to Support Public Health in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Strengthen American Media and Identification Act

Final Round Legislation

- A Bill to Raise the Federal Excise Tax on Fuel
- A Bill to Reduce Arms Sales
- A Bill to Ban United States Offshore Fossil Fuel Drilling
- A Bill to End Forced Arbitration
- A Bill to Aid Sudan in its Civil War

A Bill to Ban Mandatory Minimum Sentences

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Due to the issues of mass incarceration and lack of deterrence, mandatory minimum sentences are hereby banned from all federal criminal cases. Cases shall proceed through the justice system without mandatory minimums.

SECTION 2. According to the Congressional Research Services, mandatory minimum sentences require judges to impose a sentence of a term of imprisonment of at least the time specified in a statute, a requirement generally triggered by the offense of conviction and/or the defendant's recidivism.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Sentencing Commission shall oversee the implementation of this legislation. If necessary, any funding to address the court backlog that may be created by this legislation, shall be provided from the Department of Defense's budget.

SECTION 4. This bill will be implemented January 1, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Nabiha Kashif

A Bill to Ban the Privatization of Medicare

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** In order to increase access to care, the privatization of
2 medicare programs will hereby be banned.

3 **SECTION 2.** Privatization of medicare programs will include programs
4 such as medicare advantage plan recipients (part c). All individuals on
5 medicare advantage plans will be switched over to original medicare.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services will be in
7 charge of the implementation of this legislation.

8 A. An additional \$100 billion will be added to the bud get of Medicare.

9 These funds will come directly from the Department of Defense.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately. All laws in
11 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Charles Lindstrom.

A Bill to Cease Human Rights Abuses in Vietnam

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall place sanctions on multiple industries and individuals in the country of Vietnam. The goal of these sanctions is to encourage Vietnam to join a new Asia-Pacific Human Rights coalition made up of Vietnam, United States, South Korea, and Japan.

SECTION 2. The specified sanctions will be defined as sanctions on Power Generation, Power Grid, and telecommunications.

SECTION 3. The Department of State will be empowered to enforce this legislation. Failure of the Vietnam government to join and enact meaningful change, the Department of State will encourage the Department of Defense to significantly increase its military presence at Anderson Air Force Base, Clark Air Base, and increase military exercises with Japan and South Korea.

SECTION 4. This bill shall be implemented on March 1st, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alison Wandmacher



A Bill to Defund Gifted and Talented Programs

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall stop providing funds for and will actively
3 discourage the continuance of Gifted and Talented programs in public school districts.

4 **SECTION 2.** “Gifted and Talented Programs” shall be defined as curricular programs
5 that separate groups of students based on academic achievement or performance
6 ability.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall be tasked with the implementation of
8 this legislation.

9 A. School districts shall have 2 school years to implement this legislation fully.

10 B. Any school districts not in compliance with this legislation by the school year
11 2027-2028 shall have their general federal funding cut by 10% per year until stated
12 programs are removed or federal funding is cut completely.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 1, 2025.

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

Submitted for Congressional Debate by Ebrahim Mohamed

A Bill to Eliminate Mandatory Minimum Sentencing to Create a More Equitable Justice System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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SECTION 1. All federal mandatory minimum sentences are hereby removed.

SECTION 2. A mandatory minimum sentence shall be defined as any law that requires judges to administer prison terms of a particular length for people convicted of certain crime

- a. This legislation shall exclude mandatory minimum sentencing on sex offenses

SECTION 3. This legislation will be overseen by The United States Department of Justice In cooperation with the United States Sentencing commission

- a. The Department of Justice will enforce this legislation
- b. The sentencing commision will ensure the effectiveness of this legislation and collect data over a two year period

SECTION 3. This legislation will take effect immediately after passing all laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Azalea Steffes.

A Bill to Eliminate Taxation on Tipped Income

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Income from tips or gratuities will be exempt from taxation,
2 including 3 Social Security and Medicare taxes. All income derived from tips or 4
3 gratuities must be reported on IRS form 4070A to differentiate it from 5 wages
4 earned from an employer.

5 **SECTION 2.** Income from tips or gratuities will include, but is not limited to:
6 A. Cash tips received directly from customers
7 B. Tips from customers who leave a tip through electronic
8 settlement or payment. This includes a credit card, debit card, gift card or
9 any other electronic payment method.

10 C. The value of any noncash tips, such as tickets or other
11 items of value.

12 D. Tip amounts received from other employees paid out
13 through tip pools, tip splitting, or other formal/informal tip-sharing
14 arrangements.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service will adjust form 1040 and 1040A to
16 reflect 17 the tax exemptions when calculating income tax owed.

17 A. No fewer than ten percent of all returns which contain
18 income from tips or gratuities shall be subject to audit during a fiscal year.

19 B. If the result of the audit shows income fraudulently
20 categorized as tip or gratuity, a penalty of no less than double the amount
21 falsely claimed shall be assessed.

22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented immediately upon passage. All
23 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pranika Kumar.

A Bill to Establish a Free Trade Agreement with the Argentine Republic

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall initiate the negotiations and begin a free trade
2 agreement with Argentina.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** “Infrastructure”, as defined by FEMA, the structures, facilities, and
4 equipment for roads, highways and bridges; public transportation; dams,
5 ports, harbors and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight
6 railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems,
7 including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission
8 facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings
9 and real property; and structures, facilities and equipment that generate,
10 transport and distribute energy including electric vehicle (EV) charging.
- 11 **SECTION 3.** USAID will oversee the distribution previously mentioned aid
- 12 A. In the event Argentina agrees, the U.S. shall send \$1 billion in the form
13 of infrastructure aid
- 14 B. Infrastructure aid will be distributed by USAID directly to contractors;
15 aid will not be given to the Argentinian government.
- 16 C. Funding for the infrastructure aid to Argentina shall come from an
17 increase of tariff on all goods produced in China.
- 18 **SECTION 4.** Negotiations will begin immediately after this legislation and aid will be
19 sent beginning October 1st, 2025
- 20 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alex Goldfine



A Bill to Expand Federal Childcare Subsidies for Working Families

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal government shall provide childcare subsidies to working
3 families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level through a sliding scale
4 assistance program.

5 **SECTION 2.** Childcare Subsidies include financial assistance provided by the federal
6 government to reduce childcare expenses for eligible families. Affordable daycare
7 defines childcare services that cost no more than 7% of a household's annual income.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of health and human services shall oversee the
9 implementation and enforcement of this legislation by:

- 10 A. Distributing funds to state child care agencies.
- 11 B. Allocating funding through discretionary spending authorized by Congress.

12 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

Submitted for Congressional Debate by Joann Kariapuram

A Bill to Fund Research for Autoimmune Diseases

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Defense shall allocate \$1.5 billion annually to fund
2 advanced research into autoimmune diseases. This funding will prioritize
3 improving diagnostic methods, expanding treatment options, and
4 identifying potential cures.

5 **SECTION 2.** For this legislation:

6 A. "Autoimmune diseases" shall refer to conditions in which the immune
7 system mistakenly attacks the body's tissues, including but not limited to
8 lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and Type 1 diabetes.

9 B. "Advanced research" shall include studies conducted by accredited
10 medical institutions, universities, and private-sector organizations on the
11 genetic, environmental, and immunological causes of autoimmune
12 diseases.

13 C. "Diagnostic methods" shall encompass technologies, procedures, and
14 protocols designed to identify autoimmune diseases in their early stages.

15 **SECTION 3.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) shall oversee the allocation and
16 management of funds. Funding will come from the Department of Defense.
17 Enforcement mechanisms include:

18 A. NIH shall establish a competitive grant system for distributing funding to
19 eligible research institutions.

20 B. All grant recipients must provide annual progress reports to
21 demonstrate measurable advancements in understanding autoimmune
22 diseases, as determined by NIH guidelines.

23 C. NIH shall conduct biennial audits to ensure appropriate use of funds,
24 with penalties, including fund revocation, for mismanagement or lack of
25 progress.

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

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A Bill to Improve the Nation's Police

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1.** The United States shall take several measures to improve police forces nationally.
- a. Police officers shall receive Police Peace Bonuses.
 - b. \$100 million shall be diverted from the Department of Defense toward the research and development of Conflict-Free Policing.
 - c. Police Chiefs shall be elected via local elections of all eligible voters in their area of force.
 - d. Police unions shall be banned.
- Section 2.** Police Peace Bonuses shall be defined as the offer of monetary incentives for officers and departments that demonstrate consistent reductions in use-of-force incidents. Conflict-free policing shall be defined as drones and other non-human intervention tools to handle potentially violent situations without direct police involvement.
- Section 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Justice.
- A. Any state whose police departments fail to follow this legislation shall have all federal funding revoked until this policy is implemented.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented at the start of FY 2026
- Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lily Plahn

A Bill to Increase US Cyber Security Efforts

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States of America shall greatly increase the
3 research and development of cyber security to protect and retaliate
4 against foreign and domestic cyber-attacks.

5 **SECTION 2.** Cyber attacks shall be defined as intentional efforts to
6 steal, expose, alter, disable, or destroy data, applications, or other assets
7 through unauthorized access to a network, computer system, or digital
8 device.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense, Department of Homeland
10 Security, and CISA (Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency)
11 shall receive \$30B annually to fund a collaborative effort to research and
12 develop new methods to increase the United States' cyber security.

13 A. \$20B shall be appropriated from the discretionary budget of the DOD.

14 The remaining \$10B shall be reallocated from other departments at
15 the discretion of the US Congress and shall be reevaluated on a
16 biannual basis.

17 B. Misappropriation of the allocated funding shall result in future budget
18 cuts for the department found responsible, and an investigation shall
19 be opened by the FBI to determine the actor or actors directly
20 involved with the mismanagement of funds to penalize them
21 accordingly.

22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2026

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ellison Mcdonald

A Bill to Support Public Health in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The US will give aid to the DRC for public health in the
3 form of the following given that the DRC increases trade with the US and
4 decreases trade with China:

5 A. \$50 million to vaccine administration.

6 B. \$70 million to mosquito control.

7 C. \$1 billion to healthcare infrastructure.

8 **SECTION 2.** This one time aid payment will be processed through
9 USAID, to receive the funding the DRC must submit proof of intentional
10 steps to decrease trade with China by 15%.

11 **SECTION 3.** Implementation and enforcement will be through the
12 Department of State and USAID. 1.12 billion will be allocated from the
13 Department of Defense FY 2025 budget.

14 **SECTION 4.** Monitoring for this bill will be implemented January 1st
15 2025 aid will be given on or before January 1st 2026. All laws in conflict
16 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Addison Wendt.

Strengthen American Media and Identification Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** In effort to protect data privacy, the following are hereby
2 law:

3 A. Covered entities must limit the collection, processing, and transfer
4 of personal data to that which is reasonably necessary to provide a
5 requested product or service.

6 B. Covered entities are prohibited from transferring personal data
7 without the affirmative express consent of the data owner or
8 platform user.

9 C. Consumers will have the right to access, correct and delete
10 personal data provided to covered entities.

11 D. Covered entities are required to create opt-in arrangements for all
12 targeted advertisements hosted on their platforms.

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 A. Covered entities are any entity or person that collects, processes or
15 transfers covered data and is either subject to the Federal Trade
16 Commission Act or is a common carrier subject to the
17 Communications Act of 1934.

18 B. Covered data is any information that identifies or is reasonably
19 linkable to an individual or a device that identifies an individual.
20 This does not include employee data.

21 **SECTION 3.** The FTC is responsible for enforcement of this legislation.
22 The FTC is empowered to create additional regulations to ensure
23 compliance and will create a Bureau of Privacy to enforce the laws in
24 Section 1. Any state attorney general may bring a civil action in federal
25 court to enforce compliance with this Act.

26 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 20th, 2025. All
27 laws in conflict are hereby null and void.

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A Bill to Raise the Federal Excise Tax on Fuel

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The federal excise tax on gasoline shall henceforth be raised to 28.4 cents
2 per gallon of gasoline and 34.4 cents per gallon of diesel.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** The federal fuel excise is defined as the tax collected on all sales of gasoline
4 or diesel in the United States.
- 5 **SECTION 3.** The IRS, The Federal Highway Administration, and the Environmental
6 Protection Agency (EPA) shall be responsible for implication, enforcement,
7 and allocation of the funds.
- 8 A. The Highway trust fund shall receive 60% of all funds generated.
- 9 B. The EPA shall be responsible to create a program to receive requests
10 and distribute the remaining 40% of revenue to research or
11 development programs that create renewable energy resources to
12 replace the need for fossil fuels.
- 13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this
14 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Reduce Arms Sales

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1.** The United States will only sell arms to countries officially recognized as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- Section 2.** Arms are defined as any weapon, equipment, or technology designed or used for military purposes, including but not limited to: aircraft-mounted weaponry, explosives such as grenades, missiles and rockets, fully automatic firearms, artillery systems, and other related munitions or combat equipment classified as military-grade by international standards.
- Section 3.** The Department of Defense will oversee this legislation. Congress will create a committee to oversee the implementation and validation of this legislation.
- Section 4.** This bill will go into effect in FY2026.
- Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tessa Lench

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.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Saanvi Seth

A Bill to End Forced Arbitration

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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SECTION 1. No contract or agreement shall be written or agreed to between two parties which has the effect of denying a party access to the court system for relief in the event of negligence or breach of contract.

SECTION 2. Such contracts and agreements may be, but are not limited to, employment agreements or contracts for goods and services.

SECTION 3. Enforcement will be handled by the following departments:

- A. Employment contracts and agreements will be overseen by the Department of Labor.
- B. Agreements involving the exchange of physical goods or online services will be overseen by the Federal Trade Commission.
- C. Agreements involving financial products will be overseen by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- D. Violations of this legislation which are deemed to deny consumers the right to relief in a court of law shall result in treble damages.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect as soon as passed.

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

A Bill to Aid Sudan in its Civil War

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1: The United States Government will commit to the following actions to aid the Sudanese people in their civil war:

- A. Provide \$500 million in humanitarian aid to the people of Sudan by using USAID.
- B. Fund \$1 billion to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to reinvest in rebuilding their country.
- C. Deployment of private military contractors (PMCs) into Sudan to ensure peace is being kept, with the PMCs going into the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) territories. This is to deliver previously mentioned humanitarian aid to the people, but also to maintain peace.

SECTION 2: Humanitarian aid is defined as food allocation, clean water, temporary housing, medical care, and any other form of physical aid needed upon reaching the Sudanese people. PMCs are defined as military forces under the command of a private person or organization, rather than a nation or state.

SECTION 3: The Department of State and USAID will be responsible for overseeing, funding, and implementing this aid to ensure it reaches the people in Sudan. If more funding is needed, it'll be up to the allocation and discretion of the Department of State.

SECTION 4: This bill shall be in effect immediately after passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Submitted for Congressional Debate by Savannah Smalley