

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE: JANUARY 2025 LEGISLATION DOCKET

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

5 **ARTICLE —**

6 **SECTION 1.** All citizens of the United States and its territories are henceforth entitled to comprehensive
7 healthcare free of charge.

8 **SECTION 2.** Comprehensive healthcare shall include at minimum preventative, urgent, and emergency
9 care in the areas of traditional healthcare, dental care, ophthalmological care, and
10 behavioral healthcare.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Provide Senatorial Representation for Inhabited Territories

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

5 **ARTICLE —**

6 **SECTION 1.** The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State and
7 one Senator from each inhabited Territory, to be elected in accordance with the 17th
8 Amendment of the Constitution.

9 **SECTION 2.** For the time being, this means each of the following territories shall gain one Senator:
10 Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands.
11 Puerto Rico and Guam shall elect their first Senators in the next general election
12 practicable following ratification, U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa shall elect their
13 first Senators two years later, and Northern Mariana Islands shall elect its first Senator two
14 years following that.

15 **SECTION 3.** Should the United States acquire additional inhabited Territories following ratification,
16 Senatorial representation shall be bestowed accordingly.

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

#3

A Bill to Standardize Regulations on Passenger Cars and Light Trucks for the Environment and Community Safety

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, including later amendments, is hereby

amended to no longer require the Department of Transportation to establish standards separately for passenger cars and light trucks; and shall require such federal fuel economy standards to be uniform among passenger cars and light trucks.

SECTION 2. Nonpassenger vehicles/light trucks shall be defined as “any motor vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating of no more than 8,500 pounds either designed primarily for purposes of transportation of property, transportation of persons with a capacity of more than 12 persons, or has special features enabling off-street or off-highway operation and use.”, and references vehicles such as pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles, vans, and minivans.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall be enforced by the Department of Transportation and National Traffic Safety Administration.

SECTION 4. This bill shall come into effect 1 year after the passage of this bill.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mount Vernon High School.

#4

A Bill to Instate Paid Jury Duty Leave

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. In addition to the existing compensation, lower-middle income employees who participate in the civic responsibility of mandatory federal jury duty will be paid their full salary for the duration of their jury duty length. Eligibility to receive certain travel reimbursements and allowances will continue to exist.

SECTION 2.

A. Existing compensation is defined as pay of \$50 a day for federal jurors provided by the government.

B. Mandatory jury duty is defined as the civic service obligation to act as a member of the jury or court for a period of time.

C. Lower-middle income employees are defined as a working individuals earning an annual salary of less than \$40,000.

D. Salary is defined as a fixed regular payment, typically paid on a biweekly basis.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Office of Personal Management will oversee implementation and funding. The Bureau of Labor will oversee regulation of this policy to ensure employers are providing these benefits to employees.

A. \$40 million dollars will be taken annually from the federal revenue and provided to companies making less than \$2 million yearly to distribute among their employees. Companies who make more than \$2 million will be responsible for paying their employee's paid leave.

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

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Eastside Preparatory School.

#5

A Bill to Create and Fund the Every Child College Savings Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Seeing as it is becoming increasingly difficult for students to further their education beyond highschool because of the financial burden, we shall establish a federally funded initiative that provides every child born in the United States \$3,000 in a 529 College Savings Account to promote higher education affordability, reduce student loan debt, and encourage long-term savings.

SECTION 2. Eligible Child is defined as: Any child born in the United States after the enactment of this bill.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Treasury, will oversee the enactment of this bill.

A. The federal government will allocate funding for the program from the general budget, with specific revenues derived from a slight increase in capital gains taxes or reallocation of non-critical expenditures.

B. The accounts will be managed by state-administered 529 programs under federal guidelines to ensure uniformity and proper investment practices with a biennial review.

C. Funds may only be used for qualified education expenses, including tuition, fees, books, and room and board, as defined by 529 program guidelines.

SECTION 4. This act will take effect on January 1, 2027, applying to all children born on or after this date.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lake City High School.

**A Bill to Enhance Rare Earth Element Collaboration with Namibia**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall provide Namibia with annual economic aid of \$1 billion, fostering
3 mutually beneficial partnerships between U.S. companies and local Namibian miners in the
4 rare earth element industry.

5 A. This collaboration aligns with the U.S. national security mission to diversify its rare
6 earth elements supply chains and simultaneously contribute to the economic
7 development of Namibia.

8 **SECTION 2.** The economic aid shall be utilized to subsidize local Namibian businesses, promoting
9 grassroots economic stabilization initiatives. Additionally, a portion of the aid will be
10 allocated to infrastructure enhancement and the construction of facilities.

11 A. In return, U.S. companies shall be granted priority access to partnership
12 opportunities with local miners, ensuring that contracts offered by U.S. companies
13 take precedence over those from other foreign nations.

14 B. U.S. companies shall receive full approval from the Namibian government to
15 establish infrastructure for mining and processing facilities on local land.

16 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Agency for International Development will
17 collaborate to implement this legislation.

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

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



A Resolution to Free Puerto Rico from Colonial Rule

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Puerto Rico is a United States territory, entirely denied political representation in the
2 Federal government; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** One-sided exploitative policies such as the Jones Act have been used to extract economic
4 value from the Puerto Rican people, stifling prosperity and financial stability; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** The United States has a history of suppressing independence movements throughout the
6 20th century, including by banning independence parties and opposition to federal
7 mandates; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Statehood and the accompanying political representation is insufficient to change the
9 systematic exploitative and illiberal policies enforced by the U.S. Federal Government; now,
10 therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States call a referendum of Puerto Rican
12 voters to decide between complete independence or free association with the United
13 States to be held at the discretion of the territorial legislature of Puerto Rico.



A Bill to Set a Maximum on the Caseload for Public Defenders

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Public defenders shall not concurrently work on more than 60 misdemeanor cases or 20
3 felony cases. If a public defender is handling misdemeanor and felony cases
4 simultaneously, they shall be restricted to 40 cases, with fewer than 10 being felony cases.

5 **SECTION 2.** "Misdemeanor" is defined as a crime punishable by fines or short terms of imprisonment in
6 local jails.

7 "Felony" is defined as a crime punishable by long terms of imprisonment in a federal or
8 state prison.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) will be responsible for the enforcement and
10 implementation of this bill.

11 A. The DOJ will collaborate with local and state public defense systems to hire more
12 public defenders.

13 B. The budget of the DOJ will be increased by \$1 billion annually, until FY 2030, when
14 the funding will be reevaluated.

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

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