

Barkley Form for High Schools at Emory University

2026 Congressional Debate Legislative Docket

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A Bill to Restrict Pharmaceutical Advertising to Protect Public Health

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs shall
2 be subject to the following restrictions:
- 3 A. No pharmaceutical advertisements may air on broadcast or cable
4 television between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM local time.
5 B. No pharmaceutical advertisements may appear in broadcast media
6 content (not inclusive of social media).
7 C. Pharmaceutical advertisements shall not include emotionally
8 manipulative imagery, high distraction imagery, testimonials from
9 actors portraying patients, or depictions of miraculous recovery
10 within the commercial content.

11 **SECTION 2.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in
12 consultation with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), shall be
13 responsible for enforcing the provisions of this act.

- 14 A. Broadcast media entities or pharmaceutical companies found in
15 violation of this act shall be subject to civil penalties not to exceed
16 \$500,000 per infraction.
17 B. The FCC shall be authorized to issue further guidelines necessary to
18 enforce this act in a manner consistent with First Amendment
19 protections.

20 **SECTION 3.** This bill shall take effect January 1, 2027
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Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Regulate the Water Usage of AI Systems

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Companies operating and developing artificial intelligence (AI) systems
3 shall be required to report annual water consumption, meet efficiency
4 benchmarks for infrastructure, and implement measures to reduce
5 excessive water usage during model deployment.

6 **SECTION 2.** “Artificial intelligence systems” shall be defined as computational models
7 designed to perform tasks that would typically require human
8 intelligence. It shall include but not be limited to image recognition,
9 natural language processing, and decision-making algorithms.

10 “Water usage” shall refer to all water used for cooling purposes, cleaning,
11 and any process that is directly related to AI model training, storage, or
12 operation.

13 “Efficiency benchmarks” shall be defined as the maximum allowable
14 water consumption recommended by the Department of Energy.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency shall oversee enforcement of water
16 reporting and efficiency compliance.

17 A. The Department of Energy shall establish the efficiency benchmarks.

18 B. Penalties for noncompliance shall include civil fines.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate

A Bill to Sanction Qatar

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall sanction Qatar by
3 limiting all forms of trade conducted with Qatar until improvements
4 are made regarding human rights in Qatar.

5 **SECTION 2.** Improvements include but are not limited to providing safe working
6 conditions, eliminating gender segregation, and terminating
7 persecution of the LGBTQ+ community. Sanctions are defined as
8 economic and trade restrictions placed on a country. Human rights
9 are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex,
10 nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other protected
11 status ensuring the protection of these rights.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of State (DoS) and the Department of Commerce
13 (DoC) will oversee enforcement of this legislation.

14 A. The Department of State will provide reports every six months to
15 check if requirements are met in order to lift sanctions.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict
with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate.

The Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 2026

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The “sunset clause” of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban will be eliminated,
3 and Section 921(a) of Title 18, USC, will be amended to ban the sale,
4 transfer, manufacturing, and importation of assault weapons.

5 SECTION 2. A. “Assault weapon” means any automatic/semiautomatic rifle, pistol,
6 or shotgun that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine
7 and includes two or more of the following features: (i) A pistol
8 grip or thumbhole stock; (ii) A folding, telescoping, or detachable
9 stock; (iii) A flash suppressor; (iv) A grenade or flare launcher; or
10 (v) A barrel shroud that encircles the barrel.

11 B. This Act shall not apply to firearms used by the United States
12 Armed Forces, federal or state law enforcement agencies, or
13 contractors acting under government authorization.

14 SECTION 3. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) will enforce this
15 legislation, coordinating with the Attorney General and Department of
16 Justice.

17 A. Owners of grandfathered assault weapons shall register such
18 weapons with the ATF within one year of enactment. Transfers of
19 grandfathered weapons shall require a federal background check
20 through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate

A Bill to Allow Voting by Phone in All Federal Elections

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION I** Mobile voting (voting by phone) shall hereby be permitted and available
3 in all federal elections for all registered voters.

4 **SECTION II** The voting technology being utilized is End-to-End Verifiability (E2E-V).
5 This provides cryptography evidence, including audits of vote casting. The
6 voters can also check themselves if their vote is tabulated correctly.

7 A. In collaboration with experts employed by the organization leading
8 this legislation, state and federal election officials will implement and
9 oversee the system.

10 B. This option will be available for every registered voter, especially
11 voters who face barriers to traditional voting options, including voters
12 with disabilities, military and overseas voters, voters on tribal lands,
13 hospitalized voters, and voters experiencing natural disasters or other
14 emergencies.

15 **SECTION III** The Federal Elections Commission will oversee the enforcement of this
16 legislation.

17 C. Tusk Philanthropies, in cooperation with its partners, including the
18 National Cybersecurity Center and the National Federation of the
19 Blind, will oversee the implementation and funding of mobile voting
20 and monetary compensation for federal election officials.

21 **SECTION IV** This legislation will take effect in FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this
legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate

A Bill to Establish a Minimum Wage for Working Incarcerated Individuals to Reform Prison Labor

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All private prisons shall pay their working inmates a minimum wage of \$7.25
3 per hour.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. "Working inmates" are defined as prisoners in private prisons who do
5 labor for their prisons (i.e. cooking, cleaning, etc.)

6 B. "Minimum wage" is defined as the minimum amount of money a working
7 inmate must make per hour.

8 C. "Private prisons" are defined as prisons and correctional facilities not
9 owned and/or operated by the federal, state, or local government.

10 **SECTION 3.** This legislation will be overseen jointly by the Federal Bureau of Prisons
11 (FBOP) and the Department of Labor (DOL).

12 A. Any and all private prisons who do not adhere to this minimum wage by
13 the time this legislation takes effect will be paid half as much as they
14 previously were by the government in all future payments until they adhere
15 to the \$7.25 minimum wage.

16 B. Private prisons that adhere to this \$7.25 minimum wage will be
17 reimbursed 25% of the wages they pay to prisoners.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2027. All laws in conflict with
19 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Resolution to Prioritize Nigerian Sovereignty in U.S. Foreign Policy to Prevent Coercive Intervention and Strategic Overreach

1 **WHEREAS,** the United States has leveraged aid, diplomatic
2 influence, and security policy in ways that may pressure
3 Nigeria’s internal decision-making; and

4 **WHEREAS,** such involvement risks functioning as soft coercion
5 and undermining Nigeria’s right to autonomous policy
6 formation; and

7 **WHEREAS,** foreign policy lacking sovereignty safeguards invites
8 escalation, anti-U.S. sentiment, and weakened bilateral
9 stability; now, therefore, be it

10 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled urges the United
11 States to adopt sovereignty-first standards in all engagement
12 with Nigeria, avoiding interventionist precedent or
13 conditional leverage that compromises autonomy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That future involvement emphasizes
consent-based cooperation rather than coercive diplomatic or
security tactics.

Introduced for Congressional Debate.

The Medical Appearance Restoration Act (MARA)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, and all federally regulated
3 private insurers shall provide coverage for medically verified *restorative*
4 *treatments* for conditions currently classified as “cosmetic,” previously
5 denied under cosmetic exclusions.

6 SECTION 2. Restorative treatments are medically necessary
7 interventions intended to restore normal appearance or function that has
8 been altered by disease, congenital anomalies, trauma, or required
9 medical care, and are prescribed to prevent or reduce physical or
10 psychological harm.

11 SECTION 3. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),
12 under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), shall oversee
13 and administer all coverage requirements and enforcement actions.

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15 A. D. A total of \$25 million shall be appropriated for each fiscal year
16 from 2026 through 2030 to implement this Act.

17 a. \$15 million shall be allocated to the National Institute of
18 Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)
19 within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for research.

20
21 b. The remaining funds shall be distributed through grants to
22 rural and medically underserved areas.

23 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on FY 2027. All laws in
conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate

A Bill to Establish Teacher Maximums

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All schools within the United States are directed to assign no more than
2 90 students to each teacher within a given school year, and to assign no
3 more than 25 students to a given class period

4 **SECTION 2.** Any federally funded school or school district that violates this
5 legislation shall lose said funding until such time as compliance is
6 reached

7 **SECTION 3.** To support compliance with this legislation, Congress shall increase the
8 annual budget of the Department of Education by \$10 billion, with these
9 funds to be used to support schools in hiring additional teachers and
10 building additional classrooms as necessary.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of v Education.

12 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act to Enhance Maritime Readiness

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Cabotage Provision of the Jones Act shall hereby be repealed to allow
3 foreign competition in the U.S. maritime industry for the purpose of lowering
4 shipping costs for the benefit of American manufacturers, consumers, and
5 businesses.

6 **SECTION 2.** The Cabotage Provision of the Jones Act shall be defined as the part of
7 Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, requiring vessels carrying cargo
8 between US ports to be owned, built, and crewed by U.S. citizens.

9 **SECTION 3.** Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Homeland
10 Security (DHS) shall oversee the enforcement and implementation of this
11 legislation.

12 A. The DHS shall establish clear guidelines and implementation timelines for
13 foreign vessels wishing to enter U.S. ports with specific consideration for
14 security protocols and operational safety.

15 B. State and local governments who refuse to comply with the standards
16 regarding the entry of foreign vessels into U.S. ports will be fined \$90,000
17 for each transgression.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with
19 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Establish Independent Redistricting Commission to Abolish Gerrymandering

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States hereby establishes Independent Redistricting
2 Commission in each of the 50 states to redraw congressional district lines
3 every 12 years following the U.S. Census Demographic shift. This
4 Independent Redistricting Commission will be created by the state.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** A. The Independent Redistricting Commission will have its members
6 selected to reflect the state’s geographical, racial, gender, and political
7 diversity. The commission will require 8 members, with 2 chosen from the
8 two major political parties respectively, and four independents. Any map
9 will have to pass with eight members in favor of the map to pass.
- 10 B. Each state will create its own independent redistricting commission.
11 State legislatures shall only reject the district map if they are found to
12 violate the state Constitution or the Constitution of the United States.
- 13 C. The independent commission will be established every 12 years
14 according to the U.S. Census demographic survey.
- 15 D. In the case that these maps violate the constitution, redistricting will be
16 done repeatedly until a map is approved.
- 17 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Election Commission will work alongside states to implement
18 this bill. The Federal Election Commission will intervene if it’s observed that
19 there exist any discrepancies in any of the terms listed above.
- 20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with
21 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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A Bill to Adopt the CURE Pharma Act to Reform the Pharmaceutical Industry

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This Comprehensive Universal Reform of Expensive Pharmaceuticals (CURE Pharma)
3 Act is enacted to restructure the pharmaceutical industry, eliminate price gouging on
4 essential medications, and ensure affordable access to life-saving drugs for all
5 Americans.

6 **SECTION 2.** Congress shall enact reforms to pharmaceutical pricing and patent protections.

7 A. "Essential Medications" means drugs designated by the Department of Health and
8 Human Services as necessary for treating life-threatening conditions or chronic
9 diseases.

10 B. Drug patent exclusivity periods are reduced from twenty years to seven years for all
11 new pharmaceuticals, including those for rare diseases.

12 C. Congress shall allocate \$50 billion over ten years to the National Institutes of Health
13 for public drug development; resulting medications are immediately available for
14 generic production upon FDA approval.

15 D. All pharmaceutical companies with annual revenues exceeding \$5 billion must
16 dedicate at least 40% of gross revenues to research and development or face federal
17 takeover of patent portfolios.

18 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Commerce and Department of Health and Human Services shall
19 jointly oversee implementation of this legislation and shall:

20 A. Implement mandatory price caps on all prescription medications limiting prices to no
21 more than 110% of the lowest price charged in Canada, the United Kingdom,
22 Germany, France, Cuba, or Venezuela.

23 B. Authorize Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate prices, with unilateral government
24 pricing authority if negotiations fail after 90 days.

25 C. Establish a Federal Drug Manufacturing Authority to seize patents and produce
26 generics when price increases exceed 2% annually.

27 D. Impose penalties up to \$100 million per violation and criminal charges against
28 executives for price increases beyond inflation rates.

29 E. Prohibit all pharmaceutical advertising and marketing, including educational programs
30 for healthcare providers.

31 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with this
legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate

The Sudan Aid For Emergency Relief Act (S.A.F.E.R. Act)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall officially send aid to Sudan to address the ongoing
3 humanitarian crisis

4 A. The United States shall allocate \$350 million in humanitarian aid
5 to the Darfur region of Sudan to mitigate the effects of violence
6 and human rights abuses.

7 B. Additionally, 10,000 US troops will be sent to Sudan to work with
8 humanitarian aid groups currently in Sudan to provide protection
9 and logistical support for international peacekeeping operations

10 C. The US troops will be stationed in Sudan for a 12-month period,
11 with an option for additional time depending on the situation's
12 progression.

13 D. The US troops will only be permissible to use force in self-defense
14 situations or to protect the humanitarian-aid groups.

15 **SECTION 2.** "Humanitarian aid" shall be defined as food, water, shelter, healthcare,
16 and other similar assistance.

17 "Peacekeeping operations" refer to international missions aimed at
18 protecting civilians and maintaining peace in conflict zones, such as
19 United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission In Sudan
20 (UNITAMS) or the World Food Programme (WTF)

21 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of State and the United States Department
22 of Defense will oversee this legislation's implementation.

23 A. Funding for this bill will come from the Department of Defense.

24 B. The Department of State will conduct bimonthly audits to confirm the
25 proper implementation of this bill.

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

A Bill to Remove Arms from Egypt

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall cease all military aid and arms sales
2 to Egypt.

3 **SECTION 2.** Military aid includes all weaponry and military intelligence
4 the United States provides to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

5 **SECTION 3.** The Department of State’s Bureau of Political-Military
6 Affairs and the Department of Defense will oversee the passage of this
7 legislation. Defensive military capabilities to Egypt will be restored
8 contingent on human rights conditions improving in Egypt and the Sinai
9 Peninsula, based on U.S. audits.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be implemented upon passage. All laws
 in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate.

