

# Yale University Invitational Congressional Debate 2025

Preliminary Docket

Out Round Docket

Session Details

## A Bill to Condition U.S. Trade with South American Nations on Amazon Deforestation Reduction

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Amazon spans nine South American nations and is vital to global  
3 biodiversity and climate stability. As deforestation rises due to illegal logging,  
4 mining, and agriculture, the United States shall condition trade benefits with  
5 countries containing sizable Amazon rainforest territory on measurable annual  
6 reductions in forest loss.

7 **SECTION 2.** **A.** “Trade benefits” refer to tariff reductions, preferential trade agreements, and  
8 import privileges granted by the United States.

9 **B.** “Sizable Amazon rainforest territory” refers to the national boundaries of  
10 Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia, which together contain the majority of the  
11 Amazon’s land area.

12 **C.** “Measurable reductions” shall mean an annual decrease in deforestation of  
13 at least 10%, as verified by satellite data from Global Forest Watch, continuing  
14 each year until total deforestation falls to 20% of the 2024 baseline rate.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), in coordination  
16 with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), shall monitor deforestation  
17 data and determine eligibility for trade benefits.

18 **A.** Any country that fails to meet the deforestation reduction benchmark for  
19 two consecutive years shall have its U.S. trade benefits suspended.

20 **B.** Suspended benefits may be reinstated after one full year of verified  
21 improvement in deforestation rates.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Zainab Ahmed, Bronx Science High School*

## A Bill to Establish Nationwide Lower Drug Prices

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall establish a national drug price negotiation  
3 program to negotiate and determine the maximum prices for covered  
4 drugs sold in the United States.

5 **SECTION 2.** The covered drugs are the top 50 drugs as determined by sales value in  
6 US dollars. The maximum price will be the result of negotiations between  
7 the US government and pharmaceutical companies. The mechanism and  
8 structure of negotiations will mirror procedures set out in drug  
9 negotiation programs under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

10 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will  
11 oversee and enforce this program.

12 A. Drug negotiations and any prices adjustments will occur on an annual  
13 basis.

14 B. Any non-compliant pharmaceutical company will not have any of  
15 their drugs, whether in the top 50 or not, covered by any United  
16 States federal government program, including Medicare, Medicaid,  
17 and Veterans' healthcare, until the company agrees to negotiations  
18 with the HHS.

19 C. The maximum price for covered drugs must be lower than the current  
20 market price.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Daniel Song, East Ridge High School*

# A Bill to Establish a Carbon Tax to Solve the Climate Change Crisis

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This bill will enact a \$75 per ton carbon tax on all corporations who exceed 10  
3 metric tons of carbon emissions per year.

4 **SECTION 2.** A carbon tax will be defined as a tax levied on carbon emissions. A corporation  
5 will be defined as any company or group of people authorized to act as a single  
6 entity and recognized as such by law.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency and the Internal Revenue Service  
8 will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

9 **A.** The collected tax money will be given to the Department of Energy to  
10 subsidize the cost of the creation of renewable energy sources as well  
11 as investing into the national power grid to expand its compatibility  
12 with renewable sector.

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

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alexander Schrier, American Heritage Palm Beach*

## A Bill to Cap the Price of Pharmaceutical Drugs

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Government will have the power to determine the  
3 market price of all pharmaceutical drugs by setting a price ceiling that all  
4 domestic pharmaceutical companies must comply with.

5 **SECTION 2.** Let the following definitions be used as interpretations:

6 **A.** Pharmaceuticals: any kind of drug used for medicinal purposes

7 **B.** Pharmaceutical Companies: a company that makes and sells  
8 pharmaceutical drugs.

9 **C.** Price Ceiling: the mandated maximum amount a seller is allowed to  
10 charge for a product or service.

11 **SECTION 3.** The price ceiling will be established and regulated by Health and Human  
12 Services (HHS). The will enforce this by having unilateral authority.

13 **A.** The Secretary of HHS will determine the prices through the drug's  
14 value.

15 **B.** The pharmaceutical companies will have 2 years to meet the adjusted  
16 prices through a step down process.

17 **C.** Companies that do not meet this deadline will face fines until they  
18 reach the adjusted price requirement.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2027.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Genevieve Osborn, Clark Advanced Learning Center*

## A Bill to Regulate AI Data Centers

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Artificial intelligence (AI) data centers across the United States shall hereby be  
3 subject to regulations on water and electricity usage.

4 **A.** Annual limits on water usage shall be capped at 50 million gallons per year  
5 for AI data centers under 100,000 sq. ft, and 100 million gallons per year for  
6 those surpassing 100,000 sq. ft.

7 **B.** Annual limits on electricity usage shall be capped at 50 megawatts per year  
8 for AI data centers under 100,000 sq. ft, and 100 megawatts per year for  
9 those surpassing 100,000 sq. ft.

10 **C.** Companies are hereby required to provide annual public reports that  
11 disclose the water and electricity usage of each AI data center.

12 **SECTION 2.** An AI data center shall be defined as a facility that houses the specific IT  
13 infrastructure needed to meet the demands of training, deploying and  
14 delivering AI applications and services, and that has the advanced compute,  
15 network and storage architectures and energy and cooling capabilities to handle  
16 AI workloads.

17 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy (DOE) shall oversee enforcement of this legislation.

18 **A.** If an AI data center is found to commit a minor exceedance ( $\leq 50\%$  over the  
19 cap), then the company shall be fined a total of 5% of their annual revenue.

20 **B.** If an AI data center is found to commit a moderate exceedance (50% to  
21 100% over the cap), then the company shall be fined a total of 7% of their  
22 annual revenue.

23 **C.** If an AI data center is found to commit a severe exceedance ( $> 100\%$  over  
24 the cap), then the company shall be fined a total of 10% of their annual  
25 revenue.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Iris Zhou, The Potomac School*

## A Bill to Invest in SMRs to Revitalize Nuclear Energy Potential

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. Federal Government shall invest \$10 billion in the research and  
3 development of small modular reactors (SMRs) through a federal grant program  
4 aiming to foster long-term public-private partnerships in nuclear energy.

5 **SECTION 2.** **A.** “Small modular reactors (SMRs)” are defined as advanced nuclear reactors  
6 with a rated capacity of less than 300 electrical megawatts; and that can be  
7 constructed and operated in combination with similar reactors at a single site.

8 **B.** “Research and development” are defined as efforts to create and innovate  
9 new or existing SMR technologies through advancing design, testing, licensing  
10 support, manufacturing methods, safety and efficiency, waste management,  
11 and other methods with the goal of decarbonizing the domestic electricity grid.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy shall be tasked with overseeing the enforcement of  
13 this legislation.

14 **A.** The DOE shall determine the eligibility of organizations in qualifying for the  
15 grant program.

16 **B.** An organization is eligible for the grant program if they are a US-based  
17 entity, including but not limited to private companies, accredited research  
18 universities, and non-profits that conduct research and development as  
19 defined in Section 2B. They must also submit an in-depth proposal for  
20 review

21 **C.** The DOE shall also run comprehensive semi-annual audits to determine the  
22 effectiveness of funding and has the right to withdraw funding if funds are  
23 misused.

24 **D.** Additionally, funding may be allocated after 5 years based on the grant  
25 program’s results.

26 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect FY 2027.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lukas Shrestha, Newtown South High School*

# A Bill to Restrict the Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Healthcare

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models are hereby banned from use in  
3 healthcare settings unless a human operator retains decision-making control at  
4 every step of the process. Under no circumstances should the aforementioned  
5 technologies be implemented without proper controls

6 **SECTION 2.** “Artificial Intelligence” is defined as any technology which makes autonomous  
7 decisions without human input. “Large Language Models” are defined as any  
8 chatbot technology that can process natural language and autonomously  
9 generate a response.

10 **SECTION 3.** Enforcement of this bill will be delegated to the Department of Health  
11 and Human Services. Healthcare entities found to be in violation of this  
12 bill will be fined no less than \$10,000 per violation.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately after passing. All laws in  
14 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Elizabeth Xiao, American Heritage Broward*



## A Bill to Place Limits on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Withdrawals from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve shall now be limited.

3 **A.** Oil may not be removed from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the  
4 purpose of lowering consumer gas prices.

5 **B.** Withdrawals from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve will only be allowed in the  
6 event of supply disruption of oil imports.

7 **SECTION 2.** Supply disruption of oil imports will be defined as an event in which U.S. States  
8 or the Federal government declares a state of emergency or previously existent  
9 foreign imports are disrupted.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy will oversee this legislation and ensure that the  
11 proper requirements are met before oil is taken from the Strategic Petroleum  
12 Reserve.

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

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rolando Tomasini, Western High School*

## The Haitian Recovery Act (HR Act)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government shall allocate \$1 Billion to support Haiti in  
3 restoring stability, strengthening its national police force, and addressing urgent  
4 humanitarian needs.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purpose of this bill, the following term shall be defined:

6 **A.** “Haitian National Police (HNP): The primary law enforcement agency of  
7 Haiti.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of State, in coordination with the Department of Defense and  
9 the Department of Treasury, shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

10 The specific enforcement mechanisms shall include:

11 **E.** Allocation of Funds: i. \$500 million shall be earmarked for enhancing and  
12 strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police, including training,  
13 equipment, and infrastructure. ii. \$300 million shall be allocated for urgent  
14 humanitarian aid, including food, medical supplies, and clean water. iii. \$200  
15 million shall be reserved for future governance support and economic  
16 development initiatives.

17 **F.** Deployment of U.S. Troops: A limited contingent of U.S. troops, not  
18 exceeding 1,000 personnel, shall be deployed to Haiti to assist in training  
19 the HNP and providing logistical support for aid distribution.

20 **G.** Monitoring and evaluation: The Department of State shall establish a  
21 monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the  
22 funds allocated and the progress achieved in stabilizing Haiti.

23 **H.** d) Reporting requirements: The Department of State shall provide quarterly  
24 reports to Congress on the implementation of this bill and the

25 **I.** situation in Haiti, which they will get from the HNP.

26 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Adam Alcin, Nova High School*

## A Bill to Implement Sectoral Bargaining in Favor of a Federal Minimum Wage

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A federal minimum wage, as established by the Fair Labor Standards Act,  
3 shall be abolished and instead sectoral bargaining shall be implemented.

4 All other provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act shall be preserved,  
5 and sectoral bargaining codified into federal law via amendment to the  
6 National Labor Relations Act.

7 **SECTION 2.** Sectoral bargaining shall be defined as the form of collective bargaining  
8 within which unions of employees negotiate wages and benefits with  
9 employers to set company and industry wide labor standards.

10 **SECTION 3.** The National Labor Relations Board, serving as an independent  
11 governmental agency already overseeing the enforcement of the  
12 National Labor Relations Act, shall be responsible for the implementation  
13 and enforcement of this legislation.

14 **A.** An additional \$150 billion dollars shall be allocated to the NLRB  
15 annually for the enforcement of standards set by sectoral bargaining.

16 **B.** Companies in violation of labor standards set by sectoral bargaining  
17 shall be subject to monetary fines imposed on them by the NLRB using its  
18 existing enforcement mechanisms over corporations.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on October 1st, 2026 in line with the  
20 beginning of the 2026 fiscal year. All laws in conflict with this legislation  
21 are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Andrew Light, Sarasota High School*

## A Bill to Rescind H.R. 4

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** H.R. 4 as passed by the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress (Recissions Act of 2025) is hereby  
3 repealed.

4 **SECTION 2.** All funding defined in H.R. 4 shall be provided in full for fiscal years 2026  
5 and 2027, with the exception of funding in **Section 2 (b)** (20) which shall  
6 receive fifty percent greater funding than originally allocated.

7 **SECTION 3.** Funding will be provided to the various departments as per the original  
8 allocations. Additional funding will be given through normal means.

9 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate the Yale Congressional Debate Staff*

## A Resolution to Protect Consumer Privacy

- 1   **WHEREAS,** Data privacy has become a top concern among American consumers; and
- 2   **WHEREAS,** according to the Identity Theft Resource Center’s 2024 Annual Data Breach
- 3               Report, data breach notices increased 211% from 2023 and resulted in over
- 4               1.3 billion victim notices; and.
- 5   **WHEREAS,** the Federal Bureau of Investigation Internet Crime Report details consumer
- 6               financial loss of \$16.6 billion USD to cybercrime in 2024; and
- 7   **WHEREAS,** IBM reported in July 2025 that the average cost of a U.S. data breach
- 8               reached an all-time high of \$10.22 million USD per breach in 2025
- 9               compared to the global average cost of \$4.44 million USD per breach; and
- 10   **WHEREAS,** California deviated from the U.S. market-based model to a more rights-
- 11              based model with the enforcement of the California Consumer Privacy Act
- 12              (CCPA) in 2020; and
- 13   **WHEREAS,** the CCPA closely aligns in policy with the European Union’s General Data
- 14              Protection Regulation (GDPR); and
- 15   **WHEREAS,** GDPR has provided European Consumers with transparency, increased
- 16              security, and an infrastructure of data choice; now, therefore, be it
- 17   **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled develop a policy similar to the CCPA to
- 18              safeguard consumer privacy across the U.S.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate the Yale Congressional Debate Staff*

## A Bill to Revitalize Urban Retail

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** State governments shall be provided with block grants to purchase and  
3 repurpose current retail centers which they determine are no longer  
4 viable.

5 **A.** The state government will determine viability of retail properties.

6 **B.** The Department of Homeland Security will oversee the awarding of  
7 the grants.

8 **SECTION 2.** Acceptable repurposing includes:

9 **A.** Continuing education facilities

10 **B.** Affordable housing

11 **C.** Law enforcement facilities

12 **D.** Non-profit organizations

13 **E.** Community meeting areas.

14 **SECTION 3.** A total of \$40 billion will be taken from the 2026 Immigration and  
15 Customs Enforcement (ICE) budget. To be eligible for the grant, any  
16 repurposed property must include a satellite office for ICE

17 **SECTION 4.** This will take effect on October 1, 2026.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Yale Congressional Debate Staff*

## A Resolution to Innovate the Banking Industry

- 1   **WHEREAS,**   The Financial Technology sector (Fintech) generated approximately \$340.1  
2                   billion USD globally in 2024; and
- 3   **WHEREAS,**   according to *Fintech Weekly*, the United States has over 10,000 Fintech  
4                   companies operating within its borders; and
- 5   **WHEREAS,**   Traditional Banking Institutions fall short of improving underserved  
6                   communities; and
- 7   **WHEREAS,**   a June 2025 World Economic Forum and University of Cambridge report states,  
8                   “Financial inclusion remains central to the Fintech value proposition, with  
9                   traditionally underserved segments comprising significant portions of  
10                  customer bases;” and
- 11   **WHEREAS,**   there is a need to innovate legacy industries in the US such as Banking through  
12                  regulation and oversight; and
- 13   **WHEREAS,**   the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) provided guidelines for a  
14                  Special Purpose National Bank (SPNB) Charter in 2016; now, therefore, be it
- 15   **RESOLVED,**   That the Congress here assembled adopt the OCC’s Special Purpose National  
16                  Bank Charter.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate the Yale Congressional Debate Staff*

## A Bill to Allow Officials to Focus on Their Jobs

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** No person who has been confirmed by the Senate for a position in the  
3 Executive Branch may concurrently serve in any other position, whether  
4 acting, interim, or permanent.

5 **SECTION 2.** No person shall be named as an acting or interim official for a period of  
6 more than three months.

7 **A.** If the acting or interim official is in an office which requires Senate  
8 approval, they must receive approval before the three-month period  
9 expires.

10 **B.** If the office does not require Senate approval, they must be named to  
11 the position permanently or vacate the office.

12 **C.** In no case may someone who has been named as an acting or interim  
13 officer and has vacated said position serve in that same position again  
14 in any capacity, whether acting, interim, or permanent.

15 **SECTION 3.** Acceptance of, or appointment to, any other position shall constitute  
16 resignation from their prior Senate-confirmed office.

17 **SECTION 4.** This will take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate the Yale Congressional Debate Staff*



## A Bill to Extend AGOA

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is extended to  
3 September 30, 2050.

4 **SECTION 2.** The following sections shall be removed from the current agreement:

5 **A.** SEC. 104 (B) pertaining to government stability.

6 **B.** SEC. 104 (D) pertaining to member nations economic policies.

7 **C.** SEC. 406 pertaining to the amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 that  
8 created the role of Chief Agricultural Negotiator under AGOA.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) will oversee  
10 the compliance of this legislation.

11 **A.** No country in the region will receive benefits provided by AGOA until  
12 the USTR verifies their eligibility based on the revised legislation.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Yale Congressional Debate Tab Staff*

## PRELIM SESSION LEGISLATION

Order	Title	Author
1	A Bill to Condition U.S. Trade with South American Nations on Amazon Deforestation Reduction	Zainab Ahmed
2	A Bill to Establish Nationwide Lower Drug Prices	Daniel Song
3	A Bill to Establish a Carbon Tax to Solve the Climate Change Crisis	Alexander Schrier
4	A Bill to Cap the Price of Pharmaceutical Drugs	Genevieve Osborn
5	A Bill to Regulate AI Data Centers	Iris Zhou
6	A Bill to Invest in SMRs to Revitalize Nuclear Energy Potential	Lukas Shrestha
7	A Bill to Restrict the Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Healthcare	Elizabeth Xiao
8	A Bill to Place Limits on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve	Rolando Tomasini
9	The Haitian Recovery Act (HR Act)	Adam Alcin
10	A Bill to Implement Sectoral Bargaining in Favor of a Federal Minimum Wage	Andrew Light

## SEMI SESSION LEGISLATION

Order	Title
A	A Bill to Rescind H.R. 4 (Correction on 09/11/2025)
B	A Resolution to Protect Consumer Privacy
C	A Bill Revitalize Urban Retail

## FINAL SESSION LEGISLATION

Order	Title
A	A Resolution to Innovate the Banking Industry
B	A Bill to Allow Officials to Focus on Their Jobs (Correction on 09/11/2025)
C	A Bill to Extend AGOA

# Yale Congressional Debate 2025

## SESSION DETAILS

- For the 2025 tournament, Chamber Assignments will be released at least one hour prior to the start of the first session of the day.
- A Presiding Officer will be elected in each session even if there is only one candidate.
  - Voting is required to be run by the Parliamentarian.
  - The candidate with a majority of votes is declared the P.O.
  - If a majority is not reached, a run-off election is required until a majority is reached.
  - The Election Record may be requested by the Tab Room.
- For the 2025 tournament, the Yale Congress will adopt **recognition by placard** per the NSDA National Tournament rules.
  - Competitors are required to raise placards instead of standing for recognition.
- Direct Questioning will be in effect for all rounds of competition.
- Recency and Precedence is determined by the Presiding Officer
  - The Presiding Officer must be ready to provide transparency to their documentation to the chamber, the Parli, Scorers, and Tournament Staff.
  - Recency and Precedence will reset each session.
- **Final Appeal:** For each piece of legislation, the Sponsor/Author of the bill will also have a 1 minute 30 second Final Appeal speech at the end of legislative debate.
  - The Final Appeal is triggered when the chamber moves to the previous question.
    - **New Info 2025:** This is scored a separate speech and should be awarded speech points, but the Final Appeal does not affect precedence and recency.
- **Authorship in Prelim Docket:** Authorship rights are provided to the Author of the legislation, not the school.
  - If an author is not present in chamber, Sponsorship of the legislation is open to the chamber members.
- **Out Round Legislation:** Legislation in the Semi Final and Final rounds is open to all participants in the chamber for Sponsorship.