

# Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

## 2025 Gracia Burkill Memorial Tournament

### Legislation Docket

Welcome to Natick High School, and welcome to the 2025 Gracia Burkill Memorial Tournament! Enclosed, please find the following legislation and special information.

#### Legislative Items for Debate:

- [A Bill to Remove the National Guard from American Cities](#) (Natick HS)
- [A Bill to Cap Annual College Tuition Growth Based on Income Trends](#) (Sen. Weirup, Needham HS)
- [A Bill to End Qualified Immunity for Law Enforcement to Increase Police Accountability](#) (Sen. Henry, Newton South HS)
- [An Amendment to Remove the Electoral College from the Constitution](#) (Sen. Rahman, Shrewsbury HS)
- [A Bill to Establish Federal Prison Education Programs](#) (Thayer Academy)
- [A Bill to Ensure Access to Reproductive Health Services](#) (Thayer Academy)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Mandate Third-Party Audits for High-Impact AI Systems](#) (MSDL)

I strongly encourage all debaters to prepare to debate both sides of each piece of legislation. This helps to keep debate fresh and interesting not only for you, but also for the judges. If the “split” is heavy on one side of the legislation, then speaking on the opposite side can help to keep the debate going.

We had a successful experience with a competitor serving as Presiding Officer in the final round at Xaverian, so I expect that we will do that again this time.

Happy prepping, and best of luck!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden  
MSDL Chair of Congress

# Thankful for Memes



big candle



big electricity doesn't want you to know about this



Me: I have a superior sense of humor

Also the type of things I laugh at:



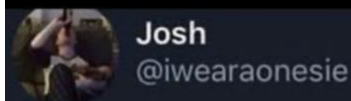
VITAMIN WATER: we're like water, but with vitamins

ME: which ones

VITAMIN WATER: well sugar is a vitamin

ME: no it's not

VITAMIN WATER: what about blue



wife: We just ate, why are you making pancakes?

me: They're for the dogs

wife: Why are you making pancakes for the dogs?

me: They don't know how

# A Bill to Remove the National Guard From American Cities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.**     Since June 7, 2025, the Trump administration has deployed  
2                   National Guard troops to facilitate immigration enforcement efforts and  
3                   tackle crime across American cities. The United States shall withdraw  
4                   National Guard soldiers deployed in cities including, but not limited to, Los  
5                   Angeles, CA, Washington, DC, and Chicago, IL.

6                   **SECTION 2.**     **A.** “National Guard troops” shall be defined as the primary  
7                   combat reserve of the Army and Air Force who fight to win the nation’s  
8                   wars and defend the homeland.

9                                   **B.** “Withdrawn” shall be defined as the removal of all  
10                  National Guard soldiers assigned by President Trump without the approval  
11                  of the United States Congress.

12                  **SECTION 3.**     This bill shall be enforced by the Department of Defense.

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

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Natick High School.*

# A Bill to Cap Annual College Tuition Growth Based on Income Trends

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2           **SECTION 1.**    The United States Federal Government shall require all  
3           accredited colleges and universities to limit annual tuition increases to a  
4           rate no greater than the national median household income growth from  
5           the previous year. Institutions exceeding this cap shall forfeit eligibility for  
6           federal tax benefits and funding programs.

7           **SECTION 2.**    Federal tax benefits shall include access to tax-deductible  
8           donations, exemptions from property and income taxes, and eligibility for  
9           federally supported infrastructure or research grants.

10          **SECTION 3.**    The Department of Education shall collaborate with the  
11          Department of the Treasury to monitor compliance. Colleges or  
12          universities seeking to increase tuition beyond the permitted threshold  
13          must submit a formal financial justification to Congress for approval.

14          **SECTION 4.**    This act shall take effect beginning July 1, 2026. All  
15          previous laws or provisions conflicting with this legislation are hereby  
16          nullified.

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## **A Bill to End Qualified Immunity for Law Enforcement to Increase Police Accountability**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** For the purpose of increasing police accountability in civil courts, the legal  
3 doctrine of qualified immunity shall be abolished as a defense for law  
4 enforcement officers in civil lawsuits concerning violations of  
5 constitutional or federal statutory rights.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. "Qualified immunity" shall be defined as the judicially created doctrine  
7 that shields law enforcement officers from personal liability for  
8 constitutional violations unless the violated right was "clearly  
9 established" at the time of the incident.

10 B. "Law enforcement officer" shall be defined as any person at the local,  
11 state, or federal level who has the legal authority to enforce laws or  
12 maintain public order.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice shall oversee the enforcement and  
14 interpretation of this legislation. Federal courts shall no longer apply the  
15 qualified immunity doctrine in applicable civil cases.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by June Henry of Newton South High School.*

# **An Amendment to Remove the Electoral College from the Constitution**

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

**SECTION 1:** All presidential and vice-presidential elections shall hereby be decided by popular vote. This shall replace the Electoral College.

**SECTION 2:** "Electoral College" shall be defined as established in Article II, Section 1, Clauses 2, 3, and 4 of the U.S. Constitution. "Popular Vote" shall be defined as proportional ranked-choice voting, or single transferable vote.

**SECTION 3:** The Supreme Court shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tahiya Rahman, Shrewsbury High School.*

# A Bill to Establish Federal Prison Education Programs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1:** All federal correctional institutions shall provide high school equivalency education and basic literacy programs to inmates who lack a high school diploma or demonstrate reading levels below grade 8. Participation in educational programs shall be mandatory for inmates serving sentences longer than two years, unless exempted for medical or security reasons.

**SECTION 2:** "Federal correctional institutions" are defined as all prisons, detention centers, and correctional facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. "High school equivalency education" refers to programs preparing inmates for GED certification or equivalent credentials. "Basic literacy programs" include reading, writing, and mathematics instruction at elementary through middle school levels.

**SECTION 3:** The Federal Bureau of Prisons shall implement these programs in partnership with the Department of Education. Each federal prison shall employ at least one certified educator per 200 eligible inmates. Prisons failing to maintain required educational programming shall face budget reductions of up to 5% of their operational funding. \$200 million annually shall be appropriated from the Department of Justice budget to fund these programs.

**SECTION 4:** This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2026, with full implementation required by July 1, 2027.

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

***Introduced for Congressional Debate by Thayer Academy.***

# A Bill to Ensure Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1:** All federally funded healthcare facilities and programs shall provide comprehensive reproductive healthcare services, including contraception, prenatal care, and pregnancy termination procedures. Federal employees and military personnel shall have access to these services through their federal health insurance plans regardless of their state of residence.

**SECTION 2:** "Federally funded healthcare facilities" are defined as any medical facility receiving federal funding, including Veterans Affairs hospitals, military medical facilities, and clinics receiving federal grants. "Comprehensive reproductive healthcare services" includes family planning, contraceptive services, prenatal and postnatal care, and medical procedures related to pregnancy termination within the first 24 weeks of pregnancy.

**SECTION 3:** The Department of Health and Human Services shall oversee implementation and ensure compliance. Federal healthcare facilities failing to provide required services shall lose eligibility for federal health funding. States may opt to receive additional federal Medicaid matching funds by guaranteeing resident access to reproductive healthcare services. \$500 million annually shall be appropriated to expand reproductive healthcare capacity at federal facilities.

**SECTION 4:** This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2027, with full implementation required by January 1, 2028.

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

***Introduced for Congressional Debate by Thayer Academy.***



# A Bill to Mandate Third-Party Audits for High-Impact AI Systems

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The United States shall require third-party audits every 24 months for any AI system that materially influences decisions in hiring, lending, criminal justice, or government benefits, with public reports and fines up to 4% of global revenue for violations. Small entities (<50 employees or <\$25M revenue) are exempt for three years and eligible for subsidized audits.

**SECTION 2.** a. “High-impact AI system” is AI used to decide or influence hiring, firing, promotion, lending, credit, insurance, criminal risk assessment, or public benefits allocation.

b. “Third-party audit” is an independent technical and fairness review by an FTC-accredited entity unaffiliated with the developer or deployer.

**SECTION 3.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shall accredit auditors, receive reports, impose penalties, and administer subsidies. \$750 million is appropriated annually for five years, offset by a 0.1% excise tax on high-impact AI revenue.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League. This legislation is for educational and competitive purposes only and does not necessarily constitute the endorsement of a policy position by the Board of Directors of the MSDL.*