

Northern Lights District Congressional Debate Qualifier



Legislation Packet
2026

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A Bill to Expand Broadband Access in Rural America

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The United States shall streamline the installation of fiber-optic internet and expand long-range cellular service in rural communities.
- SECTION 2.** Rural communities are areas where one-fifth or more of households lack reliable broadband or mobile coverage.
- SECTION 3.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) shall jointly administer this program.
- A. A total of \$24 billion shall be allocated as follows:
1. \$12 billion for fiber-optic deployment;
 2. \$10 billion for new or upgraded cellular towers and equipment;
 3. \$2 billion for mapping and verifying true coverage.
- B. Agencies must approve permit decisions within 90 days to reduce deployment delays.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pequot Lakes High School

A Bill to Restore Government Integrity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1.

- A. Corporations, Super PACs, and dark money groups shall be prohibited from making direct contributions to federal political campaigns or candidate committees.
- B. Any independent expenditures made by such groups must be publicly disclosed within 48 hours, including the source of any donation exceeding \$500.
- C. Any coordination between campaigns and outside spending groups shall be treated as a direct contribution and penalized accordingly.

SECTION 2.

- A. All political contributions exceeding \$500 must be publicly disclosed within 48 hours in a federal database accessible to the public.
- B. Lobbyists shall be required to report any meeting, gift, or financial interaction with an elected or appointed federal official within 7 days.

SECTION 3.

- A. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) shall be granted expanded enforcement power, including the ability to issue subpoenas and impose fines up to \$5 million per violation.
- B. Individuals or entities found funneling money through shell organizations or intermediaries to influence elections shall face felony charges with a maximum sentence of 10 years.

SECTION 4. The FEC and Department of Justice will jointly oversee and enforce this legislation.

SECTION 5. This bill shall take effect January 1, 2027

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School

A Bill to Defund For-Profit Charter Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** This bill amends the definition of a charter school in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to exclude for-profit schools from receiving federal funding.
- SECTION 2.** Section 4310 shall now include the following language: A charter school is defined as a publicly funded, independently operated school that is established by a chartering authority. A charter school shall not be classified as a for-profit entity, nor shall it be operated, overseen, or managed by a for-profit entity, including through a contract with a for-profit charter management organization (CMO) or education management organization (EMO).
- SECTION 3.** Charter schools that meet the following criteria will remain eligible for federal funding: operated by a nonprofit organization; do not outsource core administrative functions to for-profit entities; may still contract with for-profit vendors for ancillary services, including but not limited to food services, payroll processing, facilities maintenance, transportation, and classroom supplies.
- SECTION 4.** The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of this bill and ensure compliance through annual audits and reporting requirements.
- SECTION 5.** Federal funding for charter schools that do not comply with the requirements shall not be renewed beyond the 2025-2026 academic year. Existing nonprofit charter schools and traditional public schools are not affected by this legislation.
- SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the NSDA

A Bill to Extend Previous Fiscal Year Funding During a Government Shutdown

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. If a government shutdown exceeds 30 days, the previous year's fiscal funding bill shall be extended for the rest of the current fiscal year to protect Americans and federal workers.

SECTION 2. The term 'fiscal funding' shall be defined as the previous year's funding resolution that funds the government and its programs.

SECTION 3. The Office of Management and Budget shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

A. Congress can still appropriate more funds to the budget once the previous year's appropriations are re-enacted.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on September 30th, 2027. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pequot Lakes High School

A Bill to Eliminate Squatter Laws

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The legal recognition of squatters' rights shall be abolished across all states. Additionally, federal funding shall be allocated to create or reform homeless shelters to provide adequate housing alternatives.

SECTION 2.

A. "Squatter rights" shall be defined as any claim to the property by individuals occupying it without ownership or a formal lease agreement.

B. "Homeless shelters" shall be defined as government-funded facilities offering temporary housing, rehabilitation programs, and job assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

A. \$1 billion will be given to HUD to provide federal grants to state and local governments to expand or build homeless shelters and implement support services, including housing alternatives, rehabilitation, and job training programs.

B. Squatters arrested or caught by law enforcement will be subject to 100 hours of community service and will be released in homeless shelters with no criminal record related to squatting.

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

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The NSDA

A Bill to Limit AI Facility Growth to Protect American Interests

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The American Federal Government shall hereby limit AI facilities development

SECTION 2. AI Facilities are defined as any structure designed, built, or utilized for the storing, processing, and managing of data utilized by AI technologies. Artificial Intelligence, or AI, shall be defined as technology that uses a computer system to perform tasks that normally would require human intelligence or decision-making.

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy (DOE) shall be the enforcer of this legislation

- A. All artificial intelligence facilities shall be required to be built no less than 50 miles away from any township with over 100 people, and must not increase the cost of energy for anyone living within one hundred miles of the facility.
- B. Companies attempting to establish artificial intelligence facilities must provide the DOE a proposal including needed water, land, and electricity uses, and demonstrate how they will not interfere with local populations and the environment. Failure to provide a compelling argument shall result in no permit for construction being provided.
- C. Any pre-existing facility will have one year from implementation to provide a plan of action to make it so that their operation does not interfere with the local environment or populations, and will have one year after proposing that plan of action to implement it. Failure to do either will result in the DOE seizing the facility to be dismantled and sold or repurposed.
- D. Any violation of this legislation shall result in the immediate loss of the land the facility is constructed on.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Change the Qualifications for the Presidency

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:

ARTICLE --

SECTION 1: The wording shall be hereby changed in Article. II. Section. 1. of the U.S. Constitution to now read “No Person except a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Citizen within the United States.”

SECTION 2: The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by St. Francis High School

A Bill To Expand Access to Veteran Hospitals

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. For every year a military service member spends overseas they shall receive double that in eligible time in Veteran Assistance Hospitals and VA medical facilities for their usage. Any service member dedicating eight (8) or more years overseas shall receive unlimited access to VA hospitals and medical facilities for life.

SECTION 2. A military service member shall refer to any individual who serves, or has served, in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Space Force.

A. Veteran Assistance (VA) Hospital and medical facility is defined as any health facility run by the Veteran Health Administration, including but not limited to hospitals, long term care facilities, mental health services, and outpatient care resources.

SECTION 3. The Department of Veteran Affairs as well as the Veteran Health Administration shall be tasked with the implementation and enforcement of the legislation.

A. The Veteran Health Administration shall be tasked with determining and requesting the funding necessary for implementation.

B. Funding shall be reallocated, as determined by the Veteran Health Administration, from the Department of Defense discretionary budget.

C. The Veteran Health Administration shall also be tasked with establishing a record of an individual's service overseas, the amount of time that individual is entitled to, as well as how much time that individual has remaining.

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 by Bemidji High School

A Bill to Expand and Reform the Foster Care System and Protect Transition-Age Children

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The foster care system shall be expanded and reformed through increased federal investment, improved training for resource families, and enhanced protections and services for Transition-Age Youth.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation:

A. Foster Care System shall refer to state and federally supported agencies providing temporary care for minors removed from unsafe or unstable homes.

B. Resource Families shall include foster parents, kinship caregivers, and pre-adoptive families.

C. Transition-Age Youth shall refer to individuals ages 14-21 preparing to exit the foster care system.

SECTION 3. All states must extend optional foster care services until age 21. Transition-age youth shall receive:

A. Housing assistance, including rental subsidies for up to 36 months.

B. Life-skills training covering financial literacy, employment readiness, and healthcare navigation.

C. Automatic Medicaid eligibility until age 21.

SECTION 4.

A. Funding for this legislation shall be provided through an expansion of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) child-welfare budget and a federal grant program supporting state innovation.

B. Federal funding to states shall be increased specifically for the recruitment, training, and retention of qualified resource families.

C. All states shall require trauma-informed training for all resource families prior to the placement of any child.

SECTION 5.

A. A Federal Foster Care Review Board (FFCRB) shall be established to evaluate state performance annually.

B. States failing to meet minimum care standards for two consecutive years shall be subject to targeted federal intervention and conditional funding restriction.

C. Annual public reports shall be released detailing state outcomes, system improvements, and child well-being metrics.

SECTION 6. This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2028. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pequot Lakes High School