

Midtown High School Congressional Debate Docket 2025



Thank you,
Texas Forensic League

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Item 1- A Bill to Increase Funding for Stem Cell Research in Limb Regeneration

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The U.S. federal Government shall subjectively allocate \$2 billion annually to research institutions to fund research and development in stem cell-based limb regeneration for individuals who have suffered limb loss due to injury, illness, or congenital conditions.

SECTION 2. A. Stem Cell Research - scientific studies using pluripotent and multipotent stem cells to regenerate bone, muscle, nerves, and other tissues necessary for limb restoration.

B. Limb Regeneration -use of stem cells, tissue engineering, and regenerative medicine to restore full or partial function of a missing or damaged limb.

C. Eligible Research Institutions - federally recognized universities, medical institutions, and private-sector research facilities conducting stem cell and regenerative medicine research.

SECTION 3. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense (DoD) shall oversee the allocation of funds and ensure the following:

A. 60% of funding will support basic research on cellular regeneration, nerve reconnection, and bioengineering of tissues.

B. 30% of funding will be allocated to clinical trials testing regenerative therapies on human patients, prioritizing military veterans and individuals with limb loss.

C. 10% of the funding will be used for public-private partnerships to accelerate the commodification and development of regenerative treatments.

SECTION 4. To qualify for funding, research institutions must:

A. Demonstrate adherence to ethical guidelines in stem cell research.

B. Provide annual progress reports to Congress, NIH, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

C. Prioritize research that focuses on functional limb restoration, nerve regeneration, and immune response reduction.

SECTION 5. This legislation will take effect in August 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tompkins High School.



Item 6 - The American Climate Infrastructure and Resiliency Act (ACIRA)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Federal Government shall establish the American Climate Infrastructure and Resiliency Act, which shall fund and enforce infrastructure upgrades to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate change resilience in public buildings, transportation systems, and energy grids.

SECTION 2. For this legislation, Climate-resilient infrastructure refers to systems designed to withstand and recover from climate-related hazards, including heat waves, flooding, wildfires, etc.

SECTION 3. A. The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protections Agency (EPA) shall jointly oversee enforcement of this legislation.

B. These agencies are to administer a \$300 billion Green Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) over 10 years in the form of grants to local and state governments.

C. Both agencies will collaborate to set new federal climate-resilience construction standards that are required to be met by newly built public buildings, transportation systems, and energy grids.

D. Older public buildings, transportation systems and energy grids will be re-evaluated to reach a certain standard set by the agencies and will be required to renovate according to them if not met.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Walnut Grove High School.



Item 9 - A Bill to Utilize Artificial Intelligence in Immigration Courts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Federal Government shall implement an artificial intelligence system to streamline the legal migration process and reduce the case backlog in immigration courts.

SECTION 2. “Artificial intelligence systems” are software tools and platforms that use machine-learning algorithms and natural-language processing to perform tasks that traditionally require human intelligence, such as document review, case triage, and accurate decision-making.

SECTION 3. A. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Coordination with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), shall oversee the implementation and monitoring of these artificial intelligence systems.

B. The AI system shall sort cases, identify low-risk applicants, translate documents, schedule hearings, send notices to appear, provide real-time legal information to applicants, and make legally binding rulings on low-risk cases at Master Calendar and Individual Hearings.

C. Applications denied by the AI system may be appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals within 30 days of the decision.

D. Oversight Committees shall conduct quarterly audits to ensure fairness, accuracy, and provide bias mitigation.

E. Furthermore, the AI system shall be provided with access to any data necessary as attained by the GAO.

SECTION 4. 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 by Westlake High School.



Item 8 - A Bill to Regulate the Use of Facial Recognition Technology to Protect Civil Liberties

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. Federal agencies may not deploy facial recognition technology in public spaces
3 without a warrant, probable cause, or explicit legislative authorization.

4 SECTION 2. A. "Facial recognition technology" shall refer to software that uses biometric data
5 to identify or verify a person's identity using their facial features.

6 B. "Public spaces" include streets, parks, government buildings, transportation
7 hubs, and other areas accessible to the general public.

8 SECTION 3. The Department of Justice shall be responsible for the enforcement of this act.

9 A. The Department of Justice will create a transparency database tracking all
10 federal agencies' authorized uses of facial recognition.

11 B. The Department of Justice will conduct annual audits and publish a public
12 report assessing compliance and civil liberties impact.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jordan High School.



Item 11 - A Bill to Eliminate Cash Bail in the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. This Congress shall establish a grant program to provide financial and technical
3 assistance to states that enact legislation to eliminate cash bail and implement
4 risk-based pretrial release systems.

5 SECTION 2. The federal grant program shall prioritize states that implement a range of non-
6 monetary pretrial release options, including but not limited to supervised
7 release, electronic monitoring, check-in requirements, and community-based
8 support services. Cash bails are a monetary deposit required by the Court to
9 secure the temporary release of someone who has been arrested and charged
10 with a criminal offense.

11 SECTION 3. The Department of Justice, in consultation with district courts, shall develop
12 national standards and best practices for the development and implementation
13 of validated, objective risk assessment tools to determine an individual's risk of
14 flight or danger to the community. These standards shall emphasize fairness,
15 accuracy, and the avoidance of discriminatory outcomes.

16 A. The Department of Justice shall provide training and technical assistance to
17 state and local jurisdictions on the implementation of risk assessment tools, the
18 utilization of non-monetary release options, and the development of effective
19 pretrial services.

20 B. States that completely eliminate cash bail and adopt risk-based pretrial release
21 systems meeting the national standards established under this resolution shall be
22 eligible for enhanced federal funding within the Department of Justice's criminal
23 justice assistance programs.

24 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on June 19, 2025. All laws in conflict with this
25 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sandra Day O'Connor.



Item 27 - A Bill to Provide Paid Parental Leave

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States Federal Government shall mandate businesses with twenty or
3 more employees to provide paid parental leave to all employees experiencing a
4 qualifying life event.

5 SECTION 2. For this legislation:

6 A. Paid parental leave shall be defined as a period of fully paid time off from work
7 afforded to all parents, regardless of gender.

8 B. A qualifying life event shall be defined as the birth or adoption of a child or
9 children.

10 SECTION 3. The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division shall enforce this legislation:

11 A. An employer shall not reduce wages within six months prior to a known
12 qualifying life event.

13 B. Paid parental leave shall be provided for a period of at least ninety days.

14 C. Companies found to be out of compliance shall have their business license
15 revoked.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Westlake High School.



Item 13 - A Bill to Establish an Expanded North American Free Trade Agreement (ENAF TA)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States shall establish an Expanded North American Free Trade
3 Agreement (ENAF TA), eliminating all tariffs, quotas, and similar trade barriers
4 among key North American countries, explicitly excluding Cuba.

5 SECTION 2. "Trade barriers" shall include tariffs, quotas, embargoes, regulatory restrictions,
6 and any non-tariff measures intended to restrict imports or exports. The "Key
7 North American Countries" included in ENAF TA shall include Canada, United
8 States, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica,
9 Panama, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.

10 SECTION 3. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the Department
11 of Commerce shall oversee enforcement and negotiate terms with participating
12 countries.

13 A. The USTR shall publish a progress report every six months detailing
14 negotiations and compliance status.

15 B. ENAF TA shall enter into force upon ratification through bilateral or multilateral
16 written agreements between all participating countries listed in Section 2.

17 SECTION 4. ENAF TA shall replace and supersede previous trade agreements immediately
18 upon its enforcement. This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.
19 All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by San Angelo Central High School.



Item 18 - A Bill to Establish Independent Redistricting Commission to Abolish Gerrymandering

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States hereby establishes Independent Redistricting Commission in each of the 50 states to redraw congressional district lines every 12 years following the U.S. Census Demographic shift. This Independent Redistricting Commission will be created by the state.

SECTION 2. A. The Independent Redistricting Commission will have its members selected to reflect the state's geographical, racial, gender, and political diversity. The commission will require 8 members, with 2 chosen from the two major political parties respectively, and four independents. Any map will have to pass with eight members in favor of the map to pass.

B. Each state will create its own independent redistricting commission. State legislatures shall only reject the district map if they are found to violate the state Constitution or the Constitution of the United States.

C. The independent commission will be established every 12 years according to the U.S. Census demographic survey.

D. In the case that these maps violate the constitution, redistricting will be done repeatedly until a map is approved.

SECTION 3. The Federal Election Commission will work alongside states to implement this bill. The Federal Election Commission will intervene if it's observed that there exist any discrepancies in any of the terms listed above.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tompkins High School.



Item 30 - A Bill to Rejoin and Strengthen the JCPOA to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States shall rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)
3 with provisions to extend nuclear restrictions to ensure long-term compliance,
4 expand verification mechanisms, and address regional security concerns.

5 SECTION 2. "Verification mechanisms" include on-site inspections, constant monitoring of
6 nuclear sites, and access to suspected undeclared facilities by the International
7 Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

8 SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of State, in collaboration with the International Atomic
9 Energy Agency (IAEA) and allied nations, shall oversee the re-entry into and
10 strengthening of the JCPOA.

11 A. The Department of State shall negotiate additional agreements to curtail
12 ballistic missile developments and support of proxy groups.

13 B. The Department shall ensure that stronger provisions are included to prevent
14 nuclear missile development and regional destabilization.

15 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on July 14, 2026. All laws in conflict with this
16 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by W.B. Ray High School.