

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2025 St. Nick Showdown at Arlington

Legislation Docket

Welcome to Arlington High School, and welcome to the 2025 St. Nick Showdown! Enclosed, please find the following legislation and special information.

Legislative Items for Debate:

- [The Federal Workers Fairness Act](#) (Sen. Flynn, Boston Latin School)
- [A Resolution Regarding Venezuela](#) (Sen. Mollor, Catholic Memorial School)
- [A Bill to Implement Rank Choice Voting](#) (Sen. Barakat, Newton South HS)
- [A Resolution to Promote Workplace Pay Equity](#) (MSDL)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Combat Shrinkflation](#) (MSDL)

Reminders about Use of Evidence in Congressional Debate

Review these two points carefully, and let your coach or me know if you have any questions about them.

- When citing an authoritative source, always include at least the author/publication and the year. For example, citing the *New York Times* without the year or the date is ineffective and does not meet proper citation standards. While this is not an official evidence violation, it weakens your argument and credibility as a debater.
- Make sure any sources you cite actually support your argument. Use neutral, reliable sources for statistics, and when presenting analysis, check that the author's conclusion matches yours—don't use sources that misrepresent or oversimplify opposing views just to make them easier to refute. (You can review rules and guidelines for evidence and source citations [here](#). Pay particular attention to 7.2.4 – “Straw Argument”.)

State Qualification Update

After three tournaments, **19 students have earned full qualification** to the State Championship in April—that's another nine students on top of the 10 already fully qualified! Remember: even if you don't reach finals, placing in the **top six or top half** of a chamber still earns a bid. (In other words, we always give six bids per chamber. But if we have more than 12 competitors, then we give everyone in the top half a bid.)

Every speech counts!

Best of luck to everyone preparing for this tournament!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

O'er the Hills We Go, Meme-Ing All The Way



turing-tested [Follow](#)

guess who just found out the difference between wax paper and parchment paper the hard way



vraska-theunseen [Follow](#)

wait what's the difference?



turing-tested [Follow](#)

one you can use in the oven safely and the other you can also use in the oven if the thing you are trying to make happens to be fire



Single use fireplace

\$1,500



Send seller a message

Hi, is this available?

Send



Yeah, it WAS crazy. I had to run for my deer life.



The Federal Workers Fairness Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Members of the United States Congress will not receive their salaries during a government shutdown. Members of Congress will receive partial retroactive pay once the government shutdown ends. Members of Congress will continue to receive health insurance coverage as provided by the Federal Employee Health Benefits program.

SECTION 2. a. "Salaries" refers to the salaries as of date of members of the United States Congress.

b. "Government shutdown" refers to the outcome of a lapse in appropriations, during which the Congress of the United States fails to pass a budget and most employees of the federal government are furloughed.

c. "Partial retroactive pay" shall be defined as 50% of the pay members of Congress would've received in the time period if there had not been a government shutdown.

SECTION 3. The Congressional Budget Office in conjunction with the United States Department of Treasury shall oversee implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Flynn of Boston Latin School

A RESOLUTION REGARDING VENEZUELA

1. *Be it resolved by this Congress here assembled that:*
2. Whereas, the Government of Nicholas Maduro is an illegal regime which has thwarted
3. The will of the Venezuelan people at the ballot box and
4. Whereas, it associates with dictators who are inimical to the United States and
5. Whereas, the Maduro regime is involved in the drug trade, which is a threat to the health
6. and safety of citizens of the United States,
7. This Congress authorizes the use of force to overthrow the government of
8. Nicolas Maduro.

Submitted for Congressional debate by Se. Spencer Mollor , Catholic Memorial

A Bill to Implement Rank Choice Voting

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Rank choice voting shall be implemented for both Senators and
2 Representatives in state and national elections in . Rank choice voting shall
3 be implemented in single member districts to choose Representatives for
4 the State and Federal House of Representatives. This legislation will not
5 affect multi-member districts.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. Rank Choice Voting will be defined as a voting system where voters rank
7 their choices for office by order of preference.
8 B. This legislation will not change the number of Representatives and
9 Senators on both the state and national level.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Election Commission shall oversee the implementation of this
11 legislation. 1.5 Billion dollars will be allocated to the Federal Election
12 Commission to aid with the implementation of this legislation. This
13 funding will go towards hiring staff on election day, software, and any
14 infrastructure and equipment needed to implement RCV.

15 **SECTION 4.** To be implemented on Januray 1st 2027

16 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Zayna Barakat, Newton South High School.

A Resolution to Promote Workplace Pay Equity

WHEREAS, The gender wage gap persists in the United States, with women earning approximately 84 cents for every dollar earned by men;

WHEREAS, Wage disparities are even more pronounced for women of color, with Black women earning 69 cents and Latina women earning 57 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men;

WHEREAS, Pay inequity contributes to economic insecurity, limits retirement savings, and perpetuates systemic inequality;

WHEREAS, Transparency in compensation practices has been shown to reduce unexplained wage gaps and promote fair pay;

WHEREAS, Many employers lack systematic processes to identify and address pay disparities within their organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled urges all employers to conduct regular pay equity audits to identify and address unexplained wage disparities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress calls upon the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to develop and publish voluntary guidelines for conducting pay equity audits that account for legitimate factors such as experience, education, performance, and seniority; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress encourages states to adopt pay transparency legislation requiring employers to disclose salary ranges in job postings and prohibit retaliation against employees who discuss compensation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress recognizes the need for continued research, public awareness campaigns, and policy solutions to eliminate the gender wage gap and achieve economic justice for all workers.

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.

A Bill to Combat Shrinkflation

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A manufacturer of consumer packaged goods shall apply for a waiver from

3 the Federal Trade Commission for any changes made to reduce the size or

4 quantity offered on an item identified by a unique Universal Product Code

5 that exceed one such size or quantity reduction in any twelve-month period.

6 The Federal Trade Commission may issue a waiver based on balancing the

7 impacts of the change on consumers against the business concerns of the

8 manufacturer, except that any waiver application not acted upon within 60

9 days shall be considered approved. Any products whose quantities or sizes

10 have changed more than once in a twelve-month period without a valid

11 waiver shall be seized, and the manufacturer shall be fined \$100,000 per

12 incident.

13 **SECTION 2.** Consumer packaged goods shall be defined as food, drink, hardware, or

14 cosmetic items produced in packaging and intended for retail sale.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Trade Commission shall be responsible for enforcing this

16 legislation.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with

18 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 proposition by the Board of Directors of the MSDL.