

# **Ridge Invitational**

## **2026**

## **Congressional Debate Docket**

### **High School**

This packet contains nine prelim bills and three final bills. Two preliminary rounds will each include at least two pieces of legislation for debate (per the docket set by the chamber). If time and interest allows, chambers will be encouraged to move to a third piece of legislation. Each high school prelim round will be scheduled for 2 ½ hours.

The final round will include, at least, two bills of debate.

Presiding Officers will be elected for each session.

Preliminary

## PRELIM A: A Bill to Sanction the Sale of Arms to Russia

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.** All foreign nations selling arms to Russia will be  
2                   economically sanctioned by the US. Economic sanctions will be removed if  
3                   nations end arms sales to Russia.

4                   **SECTION 2.** Economic sanctions are defined as blocking trade with  
5                   specified countries.

6                   **SECTION 3.** The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is responsible  
7                   for maintaining a list of foreign nations needing economic sanctions and  
8                   implementing them. The Department of State will keep track of which  
9                   countries are selling arms to Russia and will provide monthly updates to  
10                   OFAC to ensure the list is current.

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

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Millburn High School*

# **PRELIM B: A Bill to Implement Naloxone Clinics to Reduce the Number of Yearly Overdoses**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1           **SECTION 1.**    The US Department of Health will allocate 2.5 billion dollars for  
2           staffing, building construction, and purchasing of Naloxone, with an added 750  
3           million additional dollars allocated every year after the passing of this bill, to  
4           implement 750 permanent naloxone clinics in large cities to help reduce  
5           overdoses in large cities.

6           **SECTION 2.**    A. Naloxone is defined as an opioid overdose prevention drug  
7           taken from a small needle or nasal spray that has been approved by the FDA.

8                           B. Naloxone clinics are defined as small buildings that will hand  
9           out Naloxone nasal spray and needles, these buildings will also deal with all ID  
10           checks that are usually required when purchasing naloxone.

11                           C. Large cities that these clinics will be implemented in are  
12           including but not limited to Miami, Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia, Los  
13           Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Orlando, and Pittsburgh.

14           **SECTION 3.**    The US Department of Health will be responsible for the  
15           enforcement of this legislation.

16                           A. State sponsored Identification, such as drivers' licenses, passports, and  
17           state-issued Photo ID, will be required to get said naloxone, and all citizens  
18           will be allowed 1 nasal spray or Needle to carry per week.  
19                           B. Any and all caught trying to abuse the naloxone clinics using fake IDs of any  
20           kind will be subject to the punishment for identity theft, including but not  
21           limited to a substantial fine along with a prison sentence with possible added  
22           probation and community service.  
23                           C. Any constituents who are showing visible signs of an overdose will be  
24           provided with necessary naloxone disregarding the rules previously stated.

25           **SECTION 4.**    This legislation will be implemented in the fiscal year of 2026.

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

# **PRELIM C: A Bill to Increase School Security Funding to Protect Students**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** \$3 billion shall be allocated in grant funding to enhance school security measures for public schools.

**SECTION 2.** School security measures shall be defined as investments made into student safety, intended to prevent, mitigate, or protect against school violence.

- A. School security measures may include, but are not limited to, training, metal detectors, technological improvements, and security personnel.
- B. Public schools shall be defined as any K-12 institution established under state law, regulated by local authorities, and funded by public taxation.

**SECTION 3.** The United States Department Of Education shall be tasked with the implementation of this legislation.

- A. The Department of Education shall be responsible for developing a grant application and evaluation criteria, as well as ultimately distributing and monitoring use of grant funds to public schools.
- B. Schools will have to meet the criteria established in the application in order to be eligible for the grant funding.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the beginning of FY 2027.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Cairee Upshur of Phillipsburg High School.*

# **PRELIM D: A Bill to Federally Mandate Paid Maternity Leave to Prioritize the Well-Being of Pregnant People and their Infants**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT

1 **SECTION 1.** Businesses and companies with 75 or more employees will now adhere to  
2 a federally mandated job-protected paid maternity leave, providing a  
3 minimum 70% of their female employees base salary for 12 weeks.

4 **SECTION 2.** ‘Paid Maternity Leave’ is defined as a 3 month abstinence from work  
5 granted to female employees before and after the birth of their child with  
6 70% of the employees base salary being paid throughout this leave.

7 **SECTION 3.** The maternity leave will be paid by being added on top of the company's  
8 biweekly payroll and a direct deposit into the employees bank account.

9 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Labor (DOL) shall oversee the enforcement of this  
10 policy in the following ways:

- A. Employers who fail to provide paid maternity to their employees shall be fined 8% of their yearly gross revenue per violation.
- B. A Tax Credit model will be followed, in which company leadership pays employees, and the government will reimburse the employees when reported on their federal taxes.

16 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

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

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# PRELIM E: The Flood Prevention Infrastructure Expansion Act

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** The federal government shall allocate an additional \$5 billion annually for  
3 the next ten years to expand infrastructure for flood-prevention in areas  
4 prone to flooding across the United States.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Flood-prevention infrastructure shall be defined as physical and natural  
6 systems designed to reduce the impacts of flooding. This includes  
7 “Green-gray” infrastructure, which is a mix of natural coastal buffers such  
8 as seagrasses with conventional flood-mitigation approaches such as  
9 seawalls and concrete dams. “High-risk regions” shall be defined as areas  
10 identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as having the  
11 highest flood vulnerability based on historical data and projected climate  
12 risks.
- 13 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well as the U.S.  
14 Army Corps of Engineers shall oversee the implementation and  
15 enforcement of this legislation.
  - 16 A. FEMA shall administer funding through the Hazard Mitigation  
17 Assistance program.
  - 18 B. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shall be responsible for the design,  
19 construction and oversight of infrastructure projects.
- 20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027.
- 21 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# PRELIM F: A Bill to Ban Red 40 Openly to Improve American Health

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1    **SECTION 1.**    The United States Federal Government will enact an official ban on all Red
- 2                    40 products.
- 3    **SECTION 2.**    Red 40 products shall be defined as any commercial and consumable food,
- 4                    drinks, and/or drugs containing the synthetic petroleum food dye Allura
- 5                    Red AC (FD&C Red No. 40).
- 6    **SECTION 3.**    The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be responsible for overseeing
- 7                    the implementation and management of this legislation.
  - 8                    A. Any company that is found in violation of this bill will be subject to a
  - 9                    fine of \$5,000 per infraction.
- 10   **SECTION 4.**    Products containing Red 40 may remain on the market if manufacturers
- 11                    demonstrate that no economically viable alternative coloring agent is
- 12                    available.
  - 13                    A. Manufacturers must reapply for exemption every three years.
  - 14                    B. Determinations under this subsection shall be made at the
  - 15                    discretion of the FDA.
- 16   **SECTION 5.**    This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with
- 17                    this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ridge High School*

# PRELIM G: A Bill to Revitalize Sudan's Economy

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will fund the Sudanese Armed Forces, an opposition  
3 militant regiment to the Rapid Support Force.

4 **SECTION 2.** In order to bring stability to Sudan, two actions may be taken.

5           A.        If Sudan leaves the Belt and Road initiative, the US will allocate  
6                    \$500 million in military aid and \$500 million in humanitarian aid  
7                    annually until this conflict ends

8           B.        If Sudan chooses to prioritize US mining contracts, the US will  
9                    subsidize Sudanese mining of rare earth minerals.

10 **SECTION 3.** The DOS shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

11           Funds shall be constituted of \$1 billion from the Department of War's funding.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately after passage.

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

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ridge High School*

# PRELIM H: A Bill to Invest in Hypersonic Missiles

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The Department of Defense shall initiate a comprehensive program to invest into the construction, research, and deployment of hypersonic weapons.

**SECTION 2.** Hypersonic weapons shall be defined as any missile that travels at or above Mach-5 (five times the speed of sound).

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall receive \$10 billion per year over the next 5 fiscal years in order to research, test, and eventually deploy hypersonic missiles.

- A. 60% will be allocated for research and development.
- B. 20% will be allocated for testing, evaluation, and deployment.
- C. 20% will be allocated to defend against foreign hypersonics using surveillance systems.

The Department of Defense will be required to provide Congress with annual reports detailing allocation of funds, expenditures, and planning.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Strath Haven HS.*

## PRELIM I:

# A Bill to Ban Generative AI for Individuals Under the Age of 18

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** Individuals under 18 within the United States are prohibited from creating, using, or accessing generative artificial intelligence (AI) platforms except for the following limited circumstances:

1. Educational purposes explicitly verified by a school or an accredited educational institution; and
2. Verified health-related needs as determined by a licensed healthcare provider.

Generative AI platforms shall implement robust age-verification systems to prevent users under the age of 18 from creating accounts or accessing their services.

**SECTION 2.** Generative AI includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Large Language Models (LLMs) such as chatbots capable of producing human-like conversation or written material;
- B. Image, video, and audio generation platforms that create synthetic or manipulated media;
- C. Code-generation or data-generation tools that autonomously produce original outputs.

This definition does not apply to narrow AI systems used solely for functions such as search engines, calculators, or recommendation algorithms.

**SECTION 3.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shall oversee the implementation of this legislation, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) shall assist in enforcement. Platforms found in violation of this act will face penalties, including fines of up to \$10,000 per violation, and additional penalties as determined by the FTC.

**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 Strath Haven HS.*

Finals

# FINALS A

## A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act to Enhance Maritime Readiness

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Cabotage Provision of the Jones Act shall hereby be repealed to allow  
3 foreign competition in the U.S. maritime industry for the purpose of  
4 lowering shipping costs for the benefit of American manufacturers,  
5 consumers, and businesses.

6 **SECTION 2.** The Cabotage Provision of the Jones Act shall be defined as the part of  
7 Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, requiring vessels carrying cargo  
8 between US ports to be owned, built, and crewed by U.S. citizens.

9 **SECTION 3.** Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Homeland  
10 Security (DHS) shall oversee the enforcement and implementation of this  
11 legislation.

12 A. The DHS shall establish clear guidelines and implementation  
13 timelines for foreign vessels wishing to enter U.S. ports with  
14 specific consideration for security protocols and operational  
15 safety.

16 B. State and local governments who refuse to comply with the  
17 standards regarding the entry of foreign vessels into U.S. ports  
18 will be fined \$90,000 for each transgression.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2027.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Texas Forensics Association*

# FINALS B

## A Bill to Rebuild Rural Hospitals to Ensure Equal Access to Healthcare

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** The federal government shall allocate \$30 billion over five fiscal years to  
3 direct grants to reopen, expand, or modernize hospitals and healthcare  
4 clinics in rural and medically underserved areas of the United States.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Rural shall be defined as any county or census tract with a population  
6 of 50,000 or fewer residents, as determined by the most recent U.S.  
7 Census. Medically underserved area refers to any region designated by  
8 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as lacking sufficient  
9 primary care, hospital, or emergency medical facilities.
- 10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in coordination  
11 with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), shall oversee  
12 the implementation of this program.
  - 13 A. HHS will create a competitive grant application system for eligible  
14 hospitals and healthcare providers.
  - 15 B. CMS will monitor compliance and publish annual reports on access  
16 and quality improvements in funded regions.
  - 17 C. No less than 20% of total funding shall be reserved for emergency and  
18 maternity care units in regions experiencing hospital closures.
- 19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026.
- 20 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Texas Forensics Association*

## **A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Enfranchise the Incarcerated**

## ARTICLE —

6 **SECTION 1.** The right of those who are incarcerated to vote shall not be infringed at any point leading  
7 up to, during, or after their sentence, regardless of the details or scope of their crime or  
8 punishment.

9 **SECTION 2.** It is the affirmative duty of states and territories to ensure that the incarcerated face no  
10 undue barriers impeding them in the free exercise of this right.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.