

2026 Illinois Debate Community

Preliminary Sessions
Legislation

101

A Bill to Create Access to Rest for Employees (CARE)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1.

- A. The United States shall enforce national paid leave for any employed US citizen.
- B. A 5% mandatory payroll tax of employer and employee wages shall be collected for all US companies.
- C. Employers who fail to comply shall face fines up to \$10,000 per violation.

SECTION 2.

- A. Paid leave is up to 12 weeks long, where employees will get paid 60% of their original weekly wages each week. Job protection and existing job benefits will be guaranteed during this period.
- B. Criteria for paid leave is if employees need to:
 - a. Provide care for a seriously ill family member.
 - b. Bond with a new child.
 - c. Support a family member in the US Armed Forces deploying to a foreign country.

SECTION 3.

- A. The Department of Labor shall oversee enforcement across all states with yearly auditing, and all individual claims for paid leave shall be handled by State Departments of Labor.
- B. The IRS and the U.S. Department of Treasury will coordinate tax and fine collection enforcement, where all taxes and fines shall be used to fund State Departments of Labor.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2027.

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

Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Economics by Andy He of Adlai E. Stevenson High School.

102

A Bill to Create Affordable and Reliable Early-Childhood Services (CARES)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A. The United States shall place a 10% excise tax on alcoholic beverages.
B. The funds from the excise tax shall be used to implement a nationwide Universal Childcare Program through the creation of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities.

SECTION 2. A. Universal Childcare shall be defined as low-cost childcare services provided from birth through age 6, capped at 7% of annual income.
B. Childcare services shall be defined as programs or facilities that provide supervision, care, and early education for children including but not limited to daycare centers, preschool programs, and in-home childcare providers.

SECTION 3. A. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall be responsible for overseeing the planning and creation of the Universal Childcare Program specifically through The Administration for Children and Families (ACF).
B. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) shall be responsible for enforcing the tax placed in section 1A.

SECTION 4. This bill shall go into effect on January 1, 2027.

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

Introduced to the committee on Economics by Tanisha Lalwani.

William Fremd High School



103

A Bill to End Usurious Lending

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1.** **A.** The annual percentage rate applied to the use of a credit card may not exceed 10%.
- B.** Fees and finance charges may not be used to evade this 10% maximum.
- Section 2.** The annual percentage rate (APR) is the yearly cost of borrowing money, expressed as a percentage. Credit cards are defined by 15 U.S. Code § 1602 as “any card, plate, coupon book or other credit device existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit.”
- Section 3.** **A.** The Federal Trade Commission and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will enforce this legislation.
- B.** Violations of Section 1 will result in a complete forfeiture of interest obligations on the credit card bill.
- Section 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027.
- Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for to the Economics Committee for Congressional Debate by
Nathaniel Ashenfelter
Schaumburg High School



201

A Resolution to End U.S. Involvement in Yemen and Restore Freedom of the Seas

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The conflict in Yemen and Saudi-led operations have destabilized the Red
2 Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb strait, and international trade; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** The Saudi-led coalition has conducted thousands of air raids in Yemen, with
4 many targeting civilian areas such as schools, hospitals, and marketplaces;
5 and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** U.S supplied weapons, logistical support, and intelligence sharing have
7 enabled these campaigns, making the United States complicit in civilian
8 deaths and the continuation of these conflicts; now, therefore, be it
- 9 **RESOLVED,** That the United States congress calls for the immediate end of all military
10 assistance and arms sales to Saudi Arabia used to perpetuate civil war and
11 humanitarian disaster in Yemen; and, be it
- 12 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** Any future military assistance to Saudi Arabia shall be contingent
13 on Saudi Arabia upholding ceasefire agreements; and, be it
- 14 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the United States shall advocate for the complete and
15 unconditional freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb strait,
16 and surrounding maritime routes, allowing passage to all vessels without
17 enforcement, restriction, or military interference of any kind

*Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Foreign Affairs by Shaunak Sahasrabudhe of Adlai E.
Stevenson High School*



202

A Resolution to Protect Taiwan

WHEREAS, The current threat of regional instability in the South China Sea endangers the sovereignty of Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Recent escalations show the need for U.S. military presence to ensure regional defense; and

WHEREAS, The absence of an military base like the Ching Chaun Kang Air Base limits the ability to respond effectively to threats; and

WHEREAS, A coordinated effort between the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of State, and Taiwan are essential to create a successful defense plan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled proposes the U.S, in agreement with the Taiwanese government, begins construction of a military base in Taiwan.

Introduced to the committee on Foreign Affairs by Thanishi Gopu.

William Fremd High School



203

A Bill to Recognize Somaliland

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1.** The United States formally recognizes the Republic of Somaliland as an independent, sovereign nation.
- Section 2.** Formal recognition includes the establishment of military, economic, and diplomatic relations with Somaliland, including the opening of an embassy in its capital.
- Section 3.** This legislation will be implemented by the Department of State.
- Section 4.** This legislation will go into effect immediately upon passage.
- Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced to the Foreign Affairs Committee for Congressional Debate by

Alice Yakubova

Schaumburg High School



301

A Bill to Prohibit Predictive Policing to Procure a More Just Society

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Predictive Policing Models are hereby banned from use in the police force unless a human operator has complete oversight over the conclusions that the models are coming to and decisions they inform.

SECTION 2. A. "Predictive Policing Models" shall be defined as specialized artificial intelligence and data analytics models that use historic data and analytics pertaining to prior crimes to identify high-risk areas (place-based) or individuals (person-based) that have a high likelihood of being involved in a crime.

B. "Human Operator has Complete Oversight" shall be defined as any trained law-enforcement professional who independently reviews, verifies, and, if necessary, overrides conclusions made by the predictive policing artificial intelligence, being held responsible for all decisions made using the technology.

SECTION 3. The Department of Justice and Homeland Security will be granted \$500 million to oversee the enforcement of this legislation by conducting bi-annual audits. Police stations that are detected to have practices in violation with this policy will be subject to a fine no greater than \$500,000.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect January 1st, 2026.

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

Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Civil Policy by Colby Nixon of Adlai E. Stevenson High School.



302

A Bill to Make College Affordable

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All Public Colleges shall establish a maximum annual cost of attendance at \$25,000 per student.

SECTION 2. A. Public Colleges shall be defined as a postsecondary institution that is owned and funded by a local or state government and offers associate or bachelor's degrees

B. Annual Cost of Attendance shall include annual tuition, mandatory fees, room and board.

SECTION 3. The Department of Education (DOE) shall oversee the enforcement of this Act.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on FY 2027.

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

Respectfully introduced to the Committee on Civil Policy by

Amrutha Chakka

William Fremd High School



303

A Bill to Stop Threats Using Non-Lethal Force [STUN]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** A. Upon completion of a personal safety course, individuals 16 years of age and older will be permitted to carry stun guns and pepper spray within authorized locations in the state of Illinois.
- B. The state of Illinois shall provide a free personal safety course for minors aged 16 through 18.
- C. Individuals no longer need to acquire a FOID card, obtain the consent of a parent or guardian, or have a background check in order to legally carry stun guns and pepper spray.
- SECTION 2.** A. Stun guns and pepper spray shall be defined as any stun gun, taser, or pepper spray.
- B. A personal safety course shall be defined as a state organized education course taken to learn how to properly and safely use stun guns and pepper spray.
- C. FOID, or the Firearm Owners Identification Card is a state issued card allowing for the legal possession of firearms. d) Public locations shall be defined as places such as schools, college campuses, parks, hospitals and any area that is open to the general public.
- SECTION 3.** The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.
- A. \$50 million shall be allocated from Illinois state police for the funding of the personal safety courses for individuals 16-18 years old.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation goes into effect on January 1st, 2026
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced to the Committee on Public Welfare by

Nicole Shea

Schaumburg High School

