



# Congressional Debate Legislation

January 2026 Online Speech Festival

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## **Preliminary Rounds**

1. A Bill to Limit the Size of Sugary Drinks
2. A Bill to Require Mandatory Data Portability Between Social Media Platforms
3. A Bill to Reinstate the Fairness Doctrine
4. A Resolution to Reject the Alleged Link between Vaccines and Autism
5. A Bill to Extend the FMLA
6. A Bill to Include The Teaching of AI and Its Responsible Use in Schools

## **Final Round**

7. A Bill to Ban Sports Betting
8. A Resolution to End Federal Subsidies for Commercial Space Tourism
9. A Resolution to Encourage the Establishment of ICE-Free Zones

*This New Jersey Speech & Debate League (NJSDL) legislation packet includes significant portions of legislation from the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA), the National Online Forensics League (NOF), and the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative. The NJSDL would like to acknowledge and thank the staff of these organizations, and members of the speech and debate community who contributed to the original legislation packets.*

## **A Bill to Limit the Size of Sugary Drinks**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
2. **SECTION 1** Restaurants and movie theaters may not sell sugary drinks larger than
3.               20 ounces in a single cup.
4. **SECTION 2** “Sugary drinks” include sodas, sweetened teas, lemonades, and sports
5.               drinks with added sugar.
6. **SECTION 3** The Food and Drug Administration will enforce this law. Businesses that
7.               violate the size limit will be fined \$300 per violation.
8. **SECTION 4** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026.
9. **SECTION 5** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by National Online Forensics League

## **A Bill to Require Mandatory Data Portability Between Social Media Platforms**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
2. **SECTION 1** All major social media platforms operating in the United States shall
3.               be required to allow users to transfer their personal data, content,
- 4,               and social connections to competing platforms upon request.
5. **SECTION 2** “Major social media platforms” are defined as online services with more
6.               than 50 million active users in the United States.
7. **SECTION 3** The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this legislation and may
8.               levy fines of up to \$500,000 per violation for noncompliance.
9. **SECTION 4** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2027.
10. **SECTION 5** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by National Online Forensics League

## **A Bill to Reinstate the Fairness Doctrine**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

- 2 **SECTION 1.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is hereby ordered to
3.               reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. That is, all holders of broadcast licenses
4.               are henceforth required to regularly devote airtime to controversial issues
5.               and to ensure that contrasting viewpoints on these 5 issues are given
6.               reasonably fair and equal representation.
7. **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the FCC, which shall specifically be
8.               tasked with setting and enforcing standards of fair broadcasting.
9. **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect thirty (30) days following passage.
10. **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

## **A Resolution to Reject the Alleged Link between Vaccines and Autism**

1 **WHEREAS** There is no reliable scientific evidence pointing to a causal link between

2. vaccines and autism; and

3 **WHEREAS** The medical journal Lancet has long since retracted Andrew Wakefield's

4. fraudulent 1998 study that originated the specious claim that vaccines cause

5. autism; and

6. **WHEREAS** In recent months these nonexistent links have nevertheless received

7. significant credibility boosts from influential political leaders, in particular

8. several high-profile members of the current presidential administration; and

9. **WHEREAS** These pseudoscientific misconceptions can cause grave injury when taken

10. seriously, not merely for those individuals who choose not to vaccinate

11. themselves and/or their children but for others who rely on herd immunity for

12. their health and wellbeing; now, therefore be it

13. **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that any and all alleged links between

14. vaccines and autism 13 are roundly rejected; and be it

15. **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress encourages all individuals to follow the advice of

16. medical experts, especially where vaccines are concerned; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress condemns those in power who seek to cast doubt

18. on established medical science and warns such leaders that official

19. repercussions, up to and including impeachment and removal from office, may

20. ensue if these mistruths continue to be recklessly platformed at the expense

21. of our constituents.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

## **A Bill to Extend the FMLA**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2. **SECTION 1** The Family and Medical Leave Act shall be expanded to provide eligible

3. employees with more than 12 weeks of protected unpaid leave exclusively

4. for medical purposes involving serious health conditions.

5. **SECTION 2** A. "Eligible employee" shall mean an individual who meets the employment

6. requirements currently established under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

7. B. "Medical leave" means leave due to a serious health condition that renders

8. the employee unable to perform the essential functions of their job.

9. C. Extended medical leave beyond 12 weeks shall require a written professional

10. medical opinion certifying that additional recovery time is medically necessary.

11. D. A professional medical opinion shall be provided by a licensed physician,

12. licensed clinical psychologist, or other licensed medical provider authorized

13. under federal labor regulations.

14. E. The medical opinion must include a diagnosis, an explanation of medical

15. necessity, and an estimated duration of required leave, subject to periodic

16. reevaluation.

17. **SECTION 3** A. The United States Department of Labor shall oversee enforcement of this

18. legislation through employer compliance monitoring and medical certification

19. review procedures.

20. B. Employers covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act shall be required

- 21. to provide extended protected medical leave upon receipt of valid medical
- 22. documentation.
- 23. C. Employers may request updated medical certification at reasonable intervals
- 24. as determined by Department of Labor guidelines.
- 25. D. Employers who fail to comply with this legislation may be subject to penalties
- 26. under existing labor enforcement mechanisms.
- 27. **SECTION 4** This legislation shall take effect January 1, 2030, and will continue indefinitely.
- 28. **SECTION 5** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative

## **A Bill to Include the Teaching of AI and Its Responsible Use in Schools**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1** AI and its ethical use shall be taught in schools and used in educational

3.                   programs.

4. **SECTION 2** “AI” is defined as artificial intelligence.

5. **SECTION 3** Currently, many students across America do not know how to ethically

6.                   use AI, and some have never used it. This bill will ensure that students

7.                   from 1st-12th grade are taught how to ethically use AI, how to use it for

8.                   studying and study materials, tutoring, and more. It will be used across

9.                   classes, and there will be dedicated time where students can appropriately

10.                  learn and use this technology.

11. **SECTION 4** This program will be overseen by the Department of Education. They will

12.                  use education professionals to develop and share resources and programs.

13.                  No record of student activity or information will be collected by these programs.

14. **SECTION 5** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026.

15. **SECTION 6** All laws in conflict with this 16 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative

## **A Bill to Ban Sports Betting**

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2. **SECTION 1.** All sports betting is hereby prohibited anywhere within the United States

3.                   and its territories. This includes online betting on any devices located

4.                   Domestically.

5. **SECTION 2.** Sports betting shall include any monetary wager with a payout based on

6.                   any element of a sporting event. This most commonly refers to an event's final

7.                   score or overall outcome, but other far more minute elements may be bet on as

8.                   well and would equally be prohibited under this legislation.

9. **SECTION 3.** Any establishment or website that is found to have permitted sports betting on

10.                  its premises/webpace shall be fined \$10,000 per infraction. Should any

11.                  individual establishment or website accrue more than ten (10) violations in a

12.                  period of twelve (12) 11 months or fewer, it shall be stripped of any and all

13.                  operational licensing for a period of no 12 less than three (3) years. Individuals

14.                  engaging in sports betting shall not be punished.

15. **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

16.                  with the support of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) for enforcement

17.                  Purposes.

18. **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

## **A Resolution to End Federal Subsidies for Commercial Space Tourism**

1. **WHEREAS** Private companies now conduct commercial space tourism flights primarily for
2.                   wealthy individuals; and
3. **WHEREAS**, Federal subsidies and tax incentives indirectly support these activities; and
4. **WHEREAS**, Public funds used for space tourism could instead be directed toward scientific
5.                   research or climate monitoring; and
6. **WHEREAS**, Supporters argue that private space tourism accelerates innovation and reduces
7.                   long-term launch costs; now, therefore, be it
8. **RESOLVED**, That the Congress here assembled call for the elimination of all federal
9.                   subsidies and tax incentives supporting commercial space tourism.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Online Forensics League

## **A Resolution to End Federal Subsidies for Commercial Space Tourism**

1. **WHEREAS** Raids carried out by the United States Immigration and Customs
2.               Enforcement (ICE) have become increasingly inhumane and invasive; and
3. **WHEREAS** Some cities, notably Chicago, have set inspirational examples for the rest of
4.               the nation by establishing ICE-Free Zones to protect residents and citizens
5.               from such excesses; and
6. **WHEREAS** This sort of resistance is crucial in the fight to uphold our nation's most dearly
7.               treasured values; now, therefore be it
8. **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that cities and other jurisdictions throughout
9.               the United States and its territories are strongly encouraged to establish
10.              ICE-Free Zones, banning ICE from conducting raids in areas where they
11.              would be particularly disruptive and upsetting, including but not limited to
12.              schools, parks, and libraries; and be it
13. **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress additionally encourages these policies to offer their
14.              protections to any private businesses that desire to opt in.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association