

The 56th
NEW YORK CITY INVITATIONAL
DEBATE & SPEECH TOURNAMENT

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION
PRELIMINARY SESSION



2026

A Bill to Abolish Plea Bargaining

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The practice of plea bargaining in criminal cases is hereby abolished.

3 **SECTION 2.** Plea bargaining shall be defined as an arrangement between a prosecutor
4 and a defendant whereby the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge
5 in exchange for a more lenient sentence.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice will oversee the implementation of this bill.

7 **SECTION 4.** This Bill will go into effect on June 1, 2028.

8 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation shall hereby be declared null and
9 void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Cary Academy

The SET (Southeast Transit) Act of 2026

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. In order to strengthen American accessibility, the United States shall construct and maintain a high-speed rail system connecting major metropolitan areas in the Southeastern United States. This project shall be developed in collaboration with Amtrak.

SECTION 2. A. Southeastern United States shall be defined as the states comprising the Southeastern region of the United States as designated by the United States Census Bureau.

B. High-Speed Rail System shall be defined as a network of tracks for passenger trains that operate at speeds of at least 155 miles per hour (250 kilometers per hour).

C. Major Metropolitan Areas shall include, but not be limited to, the following cities: Atlanta, Georgia; Charlotte, North Carolina; Raleigh–Durham, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; Norfolk, Virginia; Washington, District of Columbia; Charleston, South Carolina; Jacksonville, Florida; Tampa, Florida; Miami, Florida;

SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation (DOT) shall plan and propose the high-speed rail project, including estimated costs of production.

A. Funding for the railway shall be reallocated over an eight-year period from the Department of Defense.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on September 30th of 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Durham Academy

A Bill to Sanction Brazil to Combat Human Rights Violations

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States federal government shall impose targeted economic
2 sanctions upon the government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** Sanctions are defined as the freezing of U.S.-based assets, prohibition of
4 financial transactions, and revocation of visas for designated individuals,
5 pursuant to the authorities of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights
6 Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note).
- 7 **SECTION 3.** The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) shall be responsible for the
8 implementation and oversight of this legislation.
- 9 A. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) shall provide a biannual
10 report to Congress evaluating the effectiveness of these sanctions and
11 recommending adjustments.
- 12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on December 1st, 2027. All laws in conflict
13 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Durham Academy.

A BILL TO BAN SUPERPACs (Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees) IN THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, in the United States, a SuperPAC is officially defined as an “independent expenditure-only political committee”.

Whereas, the outcome of *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission* (2010) deemed that corporations, unions and other organizations were permitted by the Constitution to spend unlimited monies on political advocacy.

Whereas, SuperPACs are lobbyists that persuade our politicians to pass legislation on behalf of the interests of corporations and foreign nations, undermining democratic deliberation.

Whereas, in the 2024 election, SuperPACs raised 4.4 billion dollars and spent 2.73 billion dollars to influence voter decision-making.

Whereas, despite being legally barred from coordinating with candidates, [OpenSecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org) has found that 94% of SuperPAC spending is explicitly partisan.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. Statements of Organization filed with the Federal Election Commission are hereby considered null and void. Further formation or independent expenditure-only political committees is prohibited.

Section 2. The Federal Election Commission shall oversee the enforcement of this bill. Individuals or organizations found to violate this bill by spending in excess of amounts determined by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 shall be subject to a fine of not less than one million dollars.

Section 3. No additional funding or revenue shall be necessary to enforce this bill.

Section 4. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation shall hereby be declared null and void.

Submitted for Congressional Debate by Channel View School for Research

A Bill to Reapportion the House of Representatives

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Beginning with the 2030 decennial census, seats in the House of
3 Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to
4 Wyoming rule.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. Population shall be defined as the apportionment population of each state
6 as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

7 B. The “Wyoming Rule” shall be defined as follows: Each state shall be
8 apportioned a number of representatives equal to its population divided by
9 the population of the least-populated state. The resulting quotients shall be
10 rounded to the nearest whole number. The total membership of the House of
11 Representatives shall be the sum of the representatives apportioned to each
12 state under this rule.

13 C. For illustrative purposes, applying this formula to the 2020 Census
14 apportionment population would have resulted in a House of Representatives
15 consisting of 573 members, compared with the current 435 members.

16 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Census Bureau along with the Clerk of the House shall oversee the
17 the implementation of this legislation.

18 A. The House of Representatives shall be reapportioned every 10 years after
19 this bill's implementation, after each Census.

20 B. Each state shall be responsible for conducting any necessary congressional
21 redistricting through its existing state legislative process or independent
22 redistricting commission, as applicable.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1st, 2031. All laws in conflict with
24 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Elliot Baim, Brooklyn Technical High School

A Bill to Protect Physical Media

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States government shall hereby ban the destruction of Physical Sources of Information by Data Acquisition Vendors for the purpose of training artificial intelligence.

SECTION 2. A. Data Acquisition Vendors shall be defined as any company that designs, manufactures, and sells the hardware, software, or integrated systems used to collect, measure, and analyze physical sources for the purpose of training artificial intelligence.

B. Physical Sources of Information shall be defined as any non-digital publication such as but not limited to books, texts, journals, guides, and newspapers.

SECTION 3. A. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), in collaboration with each respective State Attorney General, shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this bill.

B. An initial budget of 30 million dollars shall be allocated to the Federal Trade Commission to develop a Property Custody Ledger where data acquisition vendors must record the identity and location of each physical source of information that is digitized.

C. Each respective state's State Attorney General's Office shall receive an initial payment of 30 million dollars to conduct random, in-person audits of data acquisition vendors to ensure the accuracy of the property custody ledger.

D. Any data acquisition vendors found in violation of this bill shall be subject to fines not exceeding 1 million dollars.

E. Each State shall have the ability to request more funding at the end of each fiscal year.

SECTION 4. The provisions of this bill shall take effect October 1, 2027

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Kimaya Naik,
Robinson High School*

A Bill to Ban License Plate Readers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Federal law enforcement agencies shall be prohibited from utilizing
- 2 ALPRs. Any local, county, or state police department which utilizes
- 3 ALPRs shall immediately lose eligibility for federal law enforcement
- 4 funding or grants until such technology is decommissioned, at which
- 5 point eligibility for such funding shall be reinstated.
- 6 **SECTION 2.** Automated license plate readers (ALPRs) are defined as computer-
- 7 controlled camera systems that automatically capture, identify, record,
- 8 or analyze vehicle license plates or vehicle-location data.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security
- 10 shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this legislation.
- 11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect beginning on January 1st 2027. All laws in
- 12 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Leo Sussman, Brooklyn Technical High School.

A BILL TO EXPAND SECTORAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The National Labor Relations Act shall be amended to explicitly permit
3 broad-based, sectoral collective bargaining agreements between employers
4 and workers across an entire industry or occupation. Federal antitrust law
5 shall be amended to establish a safe harbor for employers, employees, and
6 labor organizations that cooperate in negotiating and implementing
7 sectoral collective bargaining agreements authorized under this Act.
8 Nothing in this Act shall require an employer or worker to participate in
9 sectoral collective bargaining. Participation shall remain voluntary.

10 **SECTION 2.** A sectoral collective bargaining agreement may establish common
11 standards for wages, benefits, working conditions, scheduling, training,
12 and other terms of employment across participating employers within a
13 defined industry or occupation. Such agreements may, where explicitly
14 negotiated by participating employers and workers, supersede or depart
15 from otherwise applicable federal employment requirements, provided that
16 the agreement does not eliminate federal protections against
17 discrimination, forced labor, or child labor.

18 **SECTION 3.** The National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor shall
19 jointly issue regulations necessary to implement this Act within 180 days
20 of enactment. The Department of Labor shall establish procedures for
21 certifying sectoral collective bargaining agreements and determining
22 whether such agreements meet the requirements of this Act.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Strath Haven

A BILL TO COMBAT CHINESE INFLUENCE IN THE CONGO

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall establish a strategic minerals partnership with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to expand U.S. access to critical minerals in exchange for humanitarian, economic, and security assistance.

A. The DRC shall provide US companies with preferential access to designated copper, cobalt, lithium, and germanium mining projects.

B. The United States shall provide up to \$5 billion annually for five years towards healthcare, infrastructure, and investment.

C. At least 30% of funding shall support healthcare, education, clean water, and economic development in mining communities.

D. The United States shall provide intelligence, training, and equipment to protect participating mining infrastructure from armed groups and illegal trafficking.

SECTION 2. The DRC shall retain ownership of its natural resources and territory, and all participating projects shall comply with internationally recognized labor and environmental standards.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing US expenditures, mineral access, participating companies, and compliance with this Act.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Strath Haven

A Bill to Allow Voting by Phone in All Federal Elections

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Mobile voting (voting by phone) shall hereby be permitted and available in all federal elections for all registered voters.

SECTION 2. The voting technology being utilized is End-to-End Verifiability (E2E-V). This provides cryptography evidence, including audits of vote casting. The voters can also check themselves if their vote is tabulated correctly.

A. In collaboration with experts employed by the organization leading this legislation, state and federal election officials will implement and oversee the system

B. This option will be available for every registered voter, especially voters who face barriers to traditional voting options, including voters with disabilities, military and overseas voters, voters on tribal lands, hospitalized voters, and voters experiencing natural disasters or other emergencies.

SECTION 3. The Federal Elections Commission will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

A. Tusk Philanthropies, in cooperation with its partners, including the National Cybersecurity Center and the National Federation of the Blind, will oversee the implementation and funding of mobile voting and monetary compensation for federal election officials.

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 Izzy Levin, The Packer Collegiate Institute.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. Increase the tax break for companies based in America and operate in America by hiring US citizens from 6000 USD to 50000 USD if at least 70 percent of their workforce are American citizens

Section 2. Abolish tax incentives for hiring minorities to offset losses from higher tax breaks from said companies

Section 3. Punish companies that open up factories outside of the USA by raising taxes on their imports to America to 10 percent, thus lowering their sales in America and incentivising them to open up jobs here

Section 4. Punish companies that specifically open up factories in China by raising their import tax to 30 percent thus making them very cautious to opening up in China

Respectfully Submitted,
Pelham Memorial High School

The 56th
NEW YORK CITY
INVITATIONAL DEBATE & SPEECH
TOURNAMENT

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION
SEMI-FINALS



2026

A Bill to Eliminate Small Refinery Exemptions

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Refineries will no longer be eligible for a small refinery exemption (SRE).

3 Any refinery operating within the United States is hereby required to
4 meet full blending obligations in compliance with the Renewable Fuel
5 Standard (RFS).

6 **SECTION 2.** All refiners will be required to meet the Renewable Volume Obligation
7 (RVO), which is determined by the Environmental Protection Agency
8 annually. Refiners who do not meet this obligation will not be permitted
9 to operate.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency along with the Department of
11 Energy will be responsible for the oversight of this legislation.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2027. All laws in conflict
13 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Bronx High School of Science.

A Bill to Prohibit Surveillance-Based Personalized Pricing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1.

A. A covered business may not offer, display, or charge a consumer a price or mandatory fee for a good or service sold in or affecting interstate commerce that differs from the price offered to similarly situated consumers when that difference is determined, in whole or in part, using the consumer's personal data or inferred characteristics.

B. A covered business may not knowingly contract with, purchase from, or use a third-party pricing service to engage in conduct prohibited by this Act.

SECTION 2.

A. "Surveillance pricing" means using a consumer's personal data or inferred characteristics to determine or alter a consumer-specific price, fee, or discount, including through an estimate of that consumer's willingness, ability, or urgency to pay.

B. "Personal data" means information linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable consumer, including precise geolocation, browsing or search history, purchase history, device identifiers, demographic or financial information, biometric information, information acquired from a data broker, and inferences derived from such information.

C. "Dynamic pricing" means changing a price according to non-personal market or transaction conditions, including supply, demand, inventory, time, season, geographic market, delivery distance, congestion, input costs, or product availability, provided that the same pricing rule is applied to consumers facing substantially similar market or transaction conditions and personal data is not used to estimate an individual consumer's willingness, ability, or urgency to pay.

D. "Covered business" means any person or entity engaged in commerce that offers consumer goods or services in or affecting interstate commerce.

SECTION 3.

A. Nothing in this Act shall prohibit dynamic pricing as defined in Section 2(C).

B. Nothing in this Act shall prohibit publicly disclosed promotions, coupons, or bona fide loyalty, membership, employee, student, senior, veteran, or similar discount programs, provided that eligibility is based on disclosed criteria and not on an undisclosed estimate of an individual consumer's willingness or urgency to pay.

C. Nothing in this Act shall prohibit prices that vary because of actual differences in the cost of providing a good or service, including shipping distance, local taxes, regional operating costs, or other transaction-specific costs.

D. A business may use personal data for advertising or product recommendations so long as such data is not used to determine a prohibited consumer-specific price.

SECTION 4.

A. This Act shall not apply to the pricing or underwriting of credit, insurance, securities, or other financial products to the extent that such pricing is governed by other federal law.

B. This Act shall not apply to taxes, government-imposed fees, or prices established directly by a federal, state, or local government.

SECTION 5.

A. The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this Act as an unfair or deceptive act or practice under Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

B. This Act does not create a private right of action.

SECTION 6.

Nothing in this Act shall preempt or limit any state law that provides consumers with equal or greater protection against surveillance pricing.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2028.

A Bill to Increase Access to FDA-Approved GLP-1 Medications

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States will establish a \$100 per month out-of-
2 pocket price cap for any FDA-approved GLP-1 medications.

3 **SECTION 2.** “Out-of-pocket price cap” is defined as a legal prohibition on
4 insurance companies and pharmacies from charging a consumer more than
5 \$100 per month for GLP-1 medications.

6 **SECTION 3.** The US Department of Commerce (DOC) in conjunction with
7 the Department of Justice (DOJ) are responsible for enforcing this
8 legislation with fines on insurance companies and pharmacies who violate
9 this legislation.

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Bronx High School of Science.

A Bill to Ban Artificial Superintelligence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States will ban any person or entity from
2 developing or deploying artificial superintelligent systems. AI advanced
3 development will also be paused until an AI regulatory authority and a
4 review process to ensure the safe deployment and development of AI are
5 established.

6 **SECTION 2.** “Artificial superintelligent systems” are defined as artificial
7 intelligence systems with intellect that surpass human intelligence.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) in conjunction with the
9 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) will be responsible
10 for investigating violations of and enforcing this legislation using fines and
11 other tools within their authority.

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Bronx High School of Science.

**56th NEW YORK CITY
INVITATIONAL DEBATE & SPEECH
TOURNAMENT**

2026

CONGRESSIONAL FINAL SESSION

Memo(s) # 1 & 2





NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Congress

SUBJECT: Elevated Threat Reporting Against Western Hydroelectric and Water Infrastructure.

The U.S. intelligence community has detected a sustained increase in threat-related communications referencing hydroelectric generation and water storage facilities in the Colorado River basin. The reporting is fragmentary and sourcing remains limited, though volume over the past six weeks exceeds established baseline by a significant margin. Several communications reference the Nevada–Arizona border region specifically.

Separately, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports a marked rise in illegal entries along the northern border, concentrated in the Swanton and Spokane sectors. A portion of those apprehended are nationals of countries designated as being of special interest. CBP assesses that an undetermined number of entries through remote terrain went undetected.

The intelligence community has not established a link between these two streams of reporting.

The Bureau of Reclamation has elevated its security posture at Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam as a precautionary measure. No facility has been closed to the public.

Further updates will follow as the situation develops.



NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Congress

SUBJECT: Subject Arrested Near Hoover Dam; Vehicle Located Through Commercial License Plate Reader Network.

Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested a foreign national on September 27 at a short-term rental property in Boulder City, Nevada, approximately eight miles from Hoover Dam. The subject entered the United States from Canada through the Swanton sector on or about August 14 and was not processed at a port of entry.

The subject's vehicle was located through a commercial automated license plate reader network operated under contract with municipal police departments in southern Nevada. The vehicle had been recorded at 31 camera sites across four states over an 11-day period, establishing a pattern of movement consistent with pre-operational surveillance.

Items recovered from the residence include detailed photography of the Nevada intake towers, the spillway access road and the vehicle screening checkpoint on U.S. Route 93; annotated shift rotations for the Hoover Dam Police; and quantities of oxidizer and fuel oil consistent with assembly of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

The Bureau of Reclamation has suspended public tours at Hoover Dam. The subject is in federal custody and has declined to cooperate with investigators.