

2026 Athens UIL Invitational

Congressional Debate Legislation

This is a hybrid docket of legislation from Regions 7,10, & 12

Docket

Item	Legislation	Authoring School
P1	A Bill to Grant Workers the Right to Disconnect Outside of Contracted Hours to Promote a Healthy Work-Life Balance	China Spring (12)
P2	A Bill to Require Data Centers to Fund Local Environmental and Land Services	Brownsboro (7)
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P4	A Bill to Cap Prescription Drug Prices to Ensure Affordable Access for American Patients	Mabank (10)
P5	A Bill to Invest in Direct Air Capture Technology	Lindale (7)
P6	A Bill to Strengthen the Long-Term Solvency of Social Security	Corsicana (12)
P7	A Bill to Restrict the Distribution of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists to Vital Diabetic Care	Palestine (7)
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F12	A Bill to Guarantee a Federal Right to Safe Drinking Water and to Require Prompt Public Notifications of Water Contamination	Mabank (10)
F13	A Bill to Restore Previous Federal School Lunch Requirements	China Spring (12)

Chambers may set the agenda of their docket. Legislation does not belong to the chamber until it has first been introduced by the author or sponsor. School authorship is designated.

P1-P7 will be debated during preliminary debates. F8-F13 will be debated during finals debates.



A Bill to Grant Workers the Right to Disconnect Outside of Contracted Hours to Promote a Healthy Work-Life Balance

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Private and public employers shall be prohibited from retaliating and/or reprimanding employees who refuse to monitor, read, or respond to contact or attempted contact outside of their contracted working hours unless such refusal is unreasonable.
- SECTION 2.** Private and public employers are defined as any workplace authority which provides payment to employees. Contracted working hours are defined as the clearly defined hours or expected labor obligations listed in an employee's contract and/or job description. Unreasonable is defined as exemptions based on seniority, reason for the contact, and/or the level of disruption caused by the refusal.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this bill.
- a. Employers found to be in violation of this law shall be issued a fine of no less than \$1,000.00 but not to exceed \$50,000.00 depending on the severity of the infringement.
- SECTION 4.** This law shall go into effect on August 1, 2027.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by China Spring High School.



A Bill to Require Data Centers to Fund Local Environmental and Land Services

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Any data center constructed or significantly expanded in the United States shall pay an annual environmental impact fine to the county in which it is located.
- SECTION 2.** A “data center” is defined as a facility primarily used to house computer systems, servers, digital storage equipment, and related infrastructure with an electricity capacity of at least ten megawatts.
- SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency shall determine required payments, oversee county use of the revenue, and enforce this legislation.
- A. Fines for noncompliance shall equal \$50,000 per ten megawatts of electricity capacity. A data center that fails to pay shall owe an additional annual penalty equal to 25 percent of the unpaid amount.
 - B. Counties shall use the revenue exclusively for water conservation and system improvements, land restoration and soil protection, air- and water-quality monitoring, wildlife and habitat protection, or other environmental and land-management services.
- SECTION 4.** This policy shall take effect on March 31, 2028.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Brownsboro High School.



A Bill to Grant Puerto Rico Statehood

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby declared to be a State of the United States of America, and as such shall be declared admitted into the Union on equal footing with the other States in all respects.
- SECTION 2.** The “State of Puerto Rico” shall consist of all the islands, together with their appurtenant reefs, seafloor, and territorial waters in the seaward boundary, presently under the jurisdiction of the territory of Puerto Rico. The “Union” shall be defined as the collection of the individual states as a single united nation under one government, the United States. “Equal footing” shall be defined by Puerto Rico receiving full federal political representation.
- SECTION 3.** Congress shall have power to enforce the admission of new states under Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution.
- A. Puerto Rican residents would become fully subject to U.S. federal income tax laws.
 - B. Federal funding will be allocated for economic adjustments including but not limited to federal grants for education, income security, transportation and health.
 - C. Puerto Rico’s Legislative Assembly shall draft a state constitution, which must be approved by the U.S. Congress
- SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect January 1, 2028.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Trinidad.



A Bill to Cap Prescription Drug Prices to Ensure Affordable Access for American Patients

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** No manufacturer shall charge, for any prescription pharmaceutical sold within the United States, a price exceeding one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the median price charged for that same drug across other G7 nations.
- SECTION 2.** For purposes of this legislation:
- A. “Prescription pharmaceutical” means any drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration that requires a physician’s prescription for lawful distribution.
 - B. “G7 nations” means Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.
 - C. “Median reference price” means the price determined annually by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), based on published wholesale prices in each G7 nation.
- SECTION 3.** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) shall oversee enforcement of this legislation.
- A. Any manufacturer found in violation of Section 1 shall be subject to an excise tax equal to three hundred percent (300%) of the amount by which the price exceeds the cap, per unit sold.
 - B. Any manufacturer found in violation three (3) or more times within a twenty-four (24) month period shall render the drug in question ineligible for reimbursement under Medicare or Medicaid until compliance is restored.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage for any newly approved drug, and twelve (12) months following passage for all drugs already on the market.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Mabank High School



A Bill to Invest in Direct Air Capture Technology

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The United States shall establish a federally funded Direct Air Capture Research Program to accelerate the deployment of direct air capture technology.
- SECTION 2.** “Direct air capture” is defined by the Department of Energy (DOE) as a form of carbon dioxide removal that takes CO₂ from ambient or still air.
- SECTION 3.** The DOE, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.
- A. The DOE shall allocate \$40 billion in competitive grants for the development of Direct Air Capture Technology.
- B. The EPA shall establish guidelines to ensure environmental stewardship.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect in the 2028 fiscal year.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Lindale High School.



A Bill to Strengthen the Long-Term Solvency of Social Security

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The maximum amount of annual earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax shall be increased to four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000).
- SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill, “taxable maximum” shall refer to the maximum amount of annual earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax. “Social Security payroll tax” shall refer to the tax imposed on wages to fund the Social Security program.
- SECTION 3.** The Social Security Administration (SSA) shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this bill.
- A. Earnings between the existing taxable maximum and \$400,000 shall be subject to the existing Social Security payroll tax rate, with 6.2 percent paid by the employee and 6.2 percent paid by the employer.
- B. Earnings between the existing taxable maximum and \$400,000 shall be included in the calculation of an individual’s Social Security retirement benefit at fifty percent (50%) of their actual value.
- SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect January 1, 2028.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Corsicana High School.



A Bill to Restrict the Distribution of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists to Vital Diabetic Care

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The prescription, distribution, and administration of all Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists are hereby restricted exclusively to patients with a documented diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.
- SECTION 2.** “GLP-1 receptor agonists” are prescription medications that mimic the natural gut hormone glucagon-like peptide-1 which shall include semaglutide, tirzepatide, liraglutide, dulaglutide, and any future medical equivalents. “Documented diagnosis” is defined as a verified diagnostic code (ICD-10) for Type 2 Diabetes backed by lab results showing elevated HbA1c levels.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall oversee enforcement. Medical practitioners found prescribing GLP-1 medications for non-diabetic indications shall face immediate suspension of their DEA license. Pharmacies dispensing these drugs without verified Type 2 Diabetes diagnostic codes shall be fined \$250,000 per violation.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect 180 days after passage to allow a safe medical transition period. During this implementation window, medical practitioners must work with existing non-diabetic patients to safely taper prescriptions or transition to alternative therapies. No new non-diabetic prescriptions shall be initiated after the date of passage.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Palestine High School.

FINALS



A Resolution to Limit the Use of Plea Bargains Within Criminal Cases to Minimize Coercive Plea Bargaining

- WHEREAS,** Prosecutors can overbearingly pressure, overcharge, or hold defendants in jail to practically force a guilty plea; and
- WHEREAS,** Roughly 95% of criminal cases end in plea deals rather than going to trial, meaning the vast majority of defendants must make the decision to plead guilty without receiving a full trial; and
- WHEREAS,** studies estimate that approximately 2–8% of defendants who plead guilty may be innocent, meaning that innocent people can be pressured into accepting plea deals simply to avoid the risk of a harsher sentence at trial; and
- WHEREAS,** This creates a coercive system in which defendants may prioritize avoiding severe punishment over exercising their constitutional right to a fair trial, increasing the risk of wrongful convictions; and
- WHEREAS,** Limiting the use of plea bargains would reduce the ability of prosecutors to use unfair, severe charges or sentences as leverage and would encourage more cases to be resolved through fair and transparent judicial proceedings; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled recommend that state legislatures limit plea bargaining in criminal cases by prohibiting prosecutors from offering substantially harsher charges or sentences to pressure defendants into accepting a guilty plea; and be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED,** that courts require prosecutors to disclose the legal basis for any plea offer and ensure that defendants have meaningful access to legal counsel before accepting a plea agreement.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by White Oak High School.



A Bill to Ban All Flock Cameras in America to Secure American's Privacy

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States government shall ban all flock cameras that operate as automated license plate readers used by local, state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

SECTION 2. "Flock Cameras" are automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems that capture and catalog vehicle data from passenger or commercial vehicles. Bans will be applicable to any flock camera produced by the Flock Safety company and/or any company producing cameras operationally synonymous to Flock Safety's cameras.

SECTION 3. The Department of Justice and Department of Transportation shall be responsible for the enforcement of the legislation.

A. The Department of Transportation, starting January 1st of 2027, will mandate all cities and states applying for transportation formula grants who do not ban and take down all flock cameras will be ineligible for funds until they do so.

B. The Department of Justice will impose 10,000-dollar daily fines for any law enforcement agency that uses flock cameras.

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 UIL Congressional Debate by Melissa High School.



A Bill to Establish Presumed Anatomical Consent to Advance Medical Research

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The human remains of all individuals under 40 years of age at the time of death, excluding those subject to active criminal or forensic investigations, shall be deemed anatomical donors for medical and scientific research, unless an opt-out declaration has been filed.
- SECTION 2.** “Anatomical Donation” shall be defined as the provision of human remains for scientific study, medical education, or transplantation.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall oversee enforcement and implementation.
- A. HHS shall establish an accessible national registry for individuals or legal next-of-kin to formally opt out of anatomical donation.
 - B. Facilities or practitioners willfully concealing or diverting eligible remains without verified opt-out documentation shall face civil penalties of up to \$50,000 per infraction
- SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect August 1, 2027.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Center ISD.



A Bill to Prohibit Congressional Stock Trading

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Members of Congress, their spouses, and their dependents shall be prohibited from purchasing, selling, or owning individual stocks during the Member's time in office. EFTs, mutual funds, and United States Treasury securities shall not be prohibited. All individual stocks held prior to the Member's assumption of office shall be fully divested within 90 days of taking office.
- SECTION 2.** "Individual stocks" shall be defined as securities representing equity ownership in a single publicly traded corporation. "Trading" shall be defined as the purchasing or selling of individual stocks. "Dependents" shall be defined as any child or qualifying relative claimed on the Member's federal tax return.
- SECTION 3.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), in coordination with the House and Senate Ethics Committees, shall oversee the enforcement of this bill.
- A. Any violation of Section 1 shall result in a civil fine equal to twenty percent (20%) of the value of the prohibited transaction or holding, in addition to immediate divestment of all individual stocks owned by the violator.
 - B. The Securities and Exchange Commission shall investigate alleged violations and shall refer substantiated violations involving Members of Congress to the appropriate House or Senate Ethics Committee for further disciplinary action.
- SECTION 4.** This policy shall take effect on January 1, 2028.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Lufkin High School.



A Bill to Guarantee a Federal Right to Safe Drinking Water and to Require Prompt Public Notifications of Water Contamination

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Every citizen of the United States possesses the right to water that meets federal safety standards and the right to prompt notification of any contamination affecting that water.

SECTION 2. For purposes of this legislation:

A. "Public water system" is any system serving at least 15 service connections or 25 individuals, as currently defined under the Safe Drinking Act.

B. "Contamination event" is any instance in which testing reveals a contaminant level exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency's Maximum Contaminant Level.

C. "Prompt notification" is public disclosure, in plain language, within seventy-two (72) hours of a confirmed contamination event.

SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall oversee enforcement of this legislation, in coordination with state environmental agencies.

A. Any public water system found in violation of Section 1 shall be subject to civil fines not to exceed \$50,000 per day of violation.

B. Affected residents shall retain the right to bring civil action against any public water system that willfully conceals or fails to disclose a

contamination event within the timeframe required by Section 2(C).

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on October 1st of the fiscal year following its passage.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Mabank High School.



A Bill to Restore Previous Federal School Lunch Requirements

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall restore the National School Lunch Program meal requirements to the standards in effect prior to the implementation of the 2012 Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.
- SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation, “previous school lunch requirements” shall refer to the National School Lunch Program meal patterns in effect before the 2012 USDA nutrition standards implementation. Under these requirements, schools shall not be federally required to meet the increased fruit, vegetable, and whole-grain requirements established by the 2012 rule.
- SECTION 3.** Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program shall retain the ability to offer students a variety of foods, provided that meals continue to meet the federal requirements established under the restored meal pattern.
- A. The USDA shall be responsible for implementing and monitoring the restored meal requirements.
- B. Schools found to be in noncompliance with the adjusted standards shall risk the loss of grant funding awards from the USDA.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on August 1, 2027.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by China Spring High School.