

November/December Docket - 2026

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A Bill to Expand Access To Paid Family and Medical Leave

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Department of Labor shall establish a competitive grant program to provide funding to states that create or expand paid family medical leave programs for eligible workers.

SECTION 2. To qualify for federal funding under this Act, a state program must: **1)** Provide workers with at least six weeks of partially paid leave in a 12-month period, **2)** Allow leave to be used for the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child and caring for a family member or a worker's own serious health condition, and **3)** Allow participating employers to administer the benefit directly or through a state-approved paid leave program.

SECTION 3. For the purposes of this Act:

A. **"Partially paid leave"** shall refer to approved family or medical leave during which an eligible employee receives wage replacement equal to or greater than 50% of the employee's average weekly wages. Wage replacement cannot exceed the employee's average weekly wages.

B. **"Average weekly wages"** shall refer to the employee's average weekly earnings during the 12 months immediately preceding the start of the paid leave period, excluding overtime pay, bonuses, and other non-regular compensation.

SECTION 4. The Department of Labor shall award grants of up to $50 million per state each year for three years. Grant funds may be used to establish or administer paid-leave programs, educate employers and workers about program requirements, and improve systems for processing leave claims.

SECTION 5. The Department of Labor shall submit a report to Congress by January 1, 2031, evaluating participation, program costs, and the number of workers receiving benefits.

SECTION 6. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028.

SECTION 7. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Resolution to Strengthen International Cooperation Against Illegal Fishing

WHEREAS, Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing accounts for an estimated 11 to 26 million tonnes of fish annually, representing roughly 20% of the global wild-caught fish supply; and

WHEREAS, The global economy loses between $10 billion and $23.5 billion every year to illicit harvesting; and

WHEREAS, Developing nations suffer the heaviest blows; in regions like West Africa, illegal catches are estimated to be 40% higher than reported figures; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 128,000 fishers are trapped in forced labor and modern slavery abroad deep-sea fishing vessels; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Congress here assembled recognizes illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing as a significant international environmental and economic issue and recognizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing it; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress calls upon the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations to strengthen cooperation in combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing through improved information sharing, monitoring, and enforcement.

A Bill to Require Country of Origin Labeling on Meat

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All beef and pork offered for retail sale in the United States shall be subject to mandatory country-of-origin labeling requirements as established in this Act.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation:

A. **"Beef"** shall refer to meat derived from cattle, including veal.

B. **"Pork"** shall refer to meat derived from swine.

C. **"Retailer"** shall refer to a business that sells beef or pork directly to consumers, including but not limited to grocery stores, supermarkets, and warehouse clubs.

D. **"Country of origin"** shall refer to the country or countries in which the animal was born, raised, and slaughtered.

SECTION 3. Retail Labeling

A. Retailers shall provide country-of-origin information for beef and pork in a clear manner at the point of purchase.

B. Country-of-origin information may appear directly on the product, on its packaging, or on a sign or label clearly displayed with the product.

C. The information shall be presented in a manner that allows consumers to readily identify the origin of the meat.

SECTION 4. The Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture shall have responsibility for administering and enforcing this Act. A person or business that knowingly provides false country-of-origin information or willingly chooses not to abide by the mandates of this Act may be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $1000 per violation.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect two years after passage.

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

A Bill to Expand Food Safety Testing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. An additional $500 million will be appropriated annually for the sole purpose of supporting the expansion and improvement of food safety testing conducted by federal food safety programs.

SECTION 2. Funds appropriated under this Act shall be used for the improvement and expansion of food safety testing abilities, including:

A. Purchasing and upgrading laboratory equipment and technology;
B. Increasing the capacity and frequency of food safety testing;
C. The hiring and training of laboratory and collections personnel; and
D. Improving systems for collecting, analyzing, and sharing food safety testing data.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of this Act:

A. **“Food safety testing”** shall refer to laboratory testing of domestic and international food products, ingredients, or food production environments for harmful pathogens, contaminants, or other substances which pose a risk to human health.
B. **“Food safety program”** shall refer to any federal program responsible for inspecting, monitoring, or testing food products for safety.

SECTION 4. The Department of Health and Human Services, along with the Department of Agriculture, are responsible for the administration and implementation of this Act within their respective areas of authority.

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

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

A Bill to Incentivize Recycling

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. States which establish and maintain a qualifying beverage container deposit and redemption system shall be eligible to receive additional federal recycling funds under this Act.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of this legislation:

A. **“Eligible beverage container”** shall refer to a bottle, can, or other container designed to hold a beverage for sale to consumers. Containers must be made of glass, metal, or plastic and cannot contain dairy, unprocessed cider, or other products which would pose a significant sanitation concern.

B. **“Deposit and redemption system”** shall refer to a system in which consumers pay a refundable deposit when purchasing a beverage container and receive the deposit upon returning the container for recycling or reuse.

SECTION 3. To qualify for additional federal funding, a state must:

A. Require a refundable deposit on eligible beverage containers;

B. Provide consumers with a method to redeem the deposit by returning eligible containers; and

C. Use returned containers for recycling and/or reuse.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

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

A Bill to Establish Free School Meals

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All students enrolled in federally funded K-12 schools shall be eligible to receive school meals at no charge during the regular school year.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation:

A. **“Federally funded school”** shall mean any public school (K-12) which receives federal funding.

B. **“School meals”** shall refer to breakfast and lunch meals that meet nutritional requirements under national, state, and local law.

C. **“Eligible student”** shall refer to any student enrolled in a federally funded school.

D. **“Regular school year”** shall refer to the period designated by a federally funded school as its annual instructional calendar, including instructional periods for schools that operate on a year-round calendar.

SECTION 3. Funding

A. Federal funds shall be provided to federally funded schools to cover the cost of school meals served to eligible students during the regular school year.

B. Federal reimbursement shall be based on the applicable reimbursement rates established for free meals under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

C. $6 billion shall be appropriated annually to carry out this Act.

SECTION 4. Schools shall not charge eligible students for meals covered under this Act.

SECTION 5. The Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with state agencies responsible for administering federal school meal programs, shall be jointly responsible for implementing this Act within their respective areas of authority.

SECTION 6. This legislation shall take effect on August 1st after the passage of this legislation.

SECTION 7. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Ban Stock Trading in Congress

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Members of Congress, their spouses, and their dependents shall be prohibited from purchasing, selling, or owning covered investments while the Member is serving in Congress.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this Act:

A. **“Member of Congress”** shall refer to any elected member of the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate.

B. **“Covered investment”** shall refer to an individual stock, bond, commodity, option, future, or other financial instrument whose value is substantially tied to a specific company or individual asset.

SECTION 3. Members of Congress, their spouses, and their dependents may continue to own or purchase: Diversified investments; United States Treasury securities; Federally regulated retirement accounts; and Other investments exempt by regulations established under this Act.

SECTION 4. Any individual who becomes subject to this Act shall have 180 days after their election to sell or otherwise divest covered investments held prior to becoming subject to this Act.

SECTION 5. Covered individuals who knowingly violate this Act shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to $50,000 per violation or twice the value of any financial gain obtained through the prohibited transaction, whichever is greater.

SECTION 6. The House Committee on Ethics and the Senate Select Committee on Ethics shall be responsible for administering and enforcing this Act.

SECTION 7. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028.

SECTION 8. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Provide Financial Incentives for States Which Ban Child Marriage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. States which prohibit marriage involving any person under the age of 18 shall be eligible for additional federal funding under this Act.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this Act:

A. **“Child marriage”** shall be defined as a marriage in which at least one person is under 18 years of age.

B. **“Qualifying state”** shall refer to any state in which a person under 18 years of age may not legally marry, without exceptions based on parental consent, judicial approval, pregnancy, emancipation, or other circumstances.

SECTION 3. A qualifying state shall receive up to $10 million annually in additional federal funding for five years following certification of its qualifying law.

SECTION 4. Funds provided under this Act may be used for:

A. Child protection and abuse prevention programs;

B. Education and outreach programs concerning child marriage or abuse;

C. Legal services for minors seeking protection from forced or coerced marriage or abuse; and

D. Services for individuals effected by child marriage or abuse.

SECTION 5. The Department of Health and Human Services shall be responsible for determining whether a state qualifies for funding under this Act and administering the funds within its existing authority.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2028. A state that becomes a qualifying state after the effective date of this Act may become eligible for funding beginning in the fiscal year following certification by the Department of Health and Human Services.

SECTION 7. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Require the Marking of All AI Political Material

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Any political material created or altered using artificial intelligence and distributed to the public in connection with a federal election shall contain a clear and conspicuous disclosure stating that artificial intelligence was used in its creation or alteration.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of this legislation:

- **A. “Artificial intelligence”** shall refer to computer systems that use machine learning, pattern recognition, and deep learning to autonomously generate, modify, enhance, or streamline digital audio, video, images, and text.
- **B. “Political material”** shall refer to an advertisement, image, audio recording, video, publication, or any other communication which advocates for or against the election of a clearly identified candidate for federal office.

SECTION 3. The disclosure required under Section 1 shall:

- A. Be clearly visible or audible to the recipient.
- B. State, “This content was created or altered using artificial intelligence.”
- C. Appear within the political material itself and not solely in accompanying descriptions, captions, or links.

SECTION 4. The Federal Election Commission shall be responsible for administering and enforcing this Act within its existing authority.

SECTION 5. A person or entity which knowingly distributes political material in violation of this Act shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to $10,000 per violation.

SECTION 6. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028.

SECTION 7. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Resolution to Encourage Cellphone Restrictions in Schools

WHEREAS, Roughly 95% of U.S. teens aged 14-17 have or have access to a smartphone; and

WHEREAS, Students average over an hour of personal phone use daily during school hours; and

WHEREAS, About 53% of school leaders report negative academic impacts, 72% report mental health drawbacks, and 73% note shortened attention spans due to phones; and

WHEREAS, The largest nationally representative study on strict cellphone bans found that personal phone use in class dropped significantly from 61% to 13%; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Congress here assembled calls upon state and local education authorities to prohibit student cellphone use during the regular school day in all K–12 schools, with reasonable exceptions for medical needs, emergencies, disabilities, and approved educational purposes.