

Tournament of Kindness

Congressional Debate Legislation Packet

Middle School & Novice

November 14–15, 2026

Online Tournament

Hosted by Smiles and Hearts Foundation

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A Bill to Encourage Four-Day School Weeks While Protecting Instructional Time

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education shall establish competitive grants for public
3 school districts that adopt a four-day instructional week while providing at least
4 the same annual instructional hours required before adopting the new schedule.

5 **SECTION 2.** Grant funds may be used for teacher recruitment and retention, student
6 transportation, academic support on the fifth weekday, and optional child-care or
7 enrichment programs.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall administer the program and require
9 participating districts to report attendance, staffing, academic performance, and
10 family access to fifth-day services for five years.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
12 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Require Pay Ranges in Job Postings

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Employers with 15 or more employees shall include a good-faith minimum
3 and maximum salary or hourly wage range in every public job posting for work
4 performed in the United States.

5 **SECTION 2.** A good-faith range is the compensation range the employer reasonably
6 expects to offer for the position at the time the posting is published. Employers
7 may revise a range when business conditions materially change.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor shall enforce this legislation. Employers that
9 knowingly violate it may be fined up to \$1,000 for a first violation and up to
10 \$5,000 for each later violation.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
12 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a National Beverage Container Deposit

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A refundable 10-cent deposit shall be charged on each sealed beverage
3 container of one gallon or less sold in the United States, excluding containers for
4 infant formula, medical nutrition products, and dairy milk.

5 **SECTION 2.** Consumers may return eligible containers to approved redemption centers
6 or participating retailers for the full deposit. Beverage producers shall finance
7 collection and recycling costs not covered by unclaimed deposits.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency shall administer the program, certify
9 redemption systems, and may fine producers or retailers up to \$10,000 per day
10 for knowing noncompliance.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
12 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Support Cellphone-Free Public School Days

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education shall provide grants to public school districts
3 that prohibit student possession or use of personal smartphones during
4 instructional hours, except for emergencies, documented medical needs, or
5 disability accommodations.

6 **SECTION 2.** Participating districts must provide a secure method for storing devices
7 and a reliable process through which parents or guardians may reach students
8 during the school day.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall administer the grants and may
10 withhold future grant funds from districts that fail to follow an approved policy or
11 required reporting.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
13 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Guarantee the Right to Repair Consumer Electronics

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Manufacturers of consumer electronic devices sold in the United States
3 shall make replacement parts, diagnostic tools, repair software, and repair
4 manuals available to owners and independent repair businesses on fair and
5 reasonable terms.

6 **SECTION 2.** Manufacturers may protect trade secrets and may restrict access to tools
7 or information when disclosure would create a substantial cybersecurity or
8 personal-safety risk.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this legislation as an unfair
10 or deceptive act or practice and may impose civil penalties authorized under the
11 Federal Trade Commission Act.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
13 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Provide Universal School Meals

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools
3 participating in the National School Lunch Program shall be eligible to receive
4 one breakfast and one lunch each school day at no charge, regardless of
5 household income.

6 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Agriculture shall reimburse participating schools at
7 rates sufficient to cover the reasonable cost of meals that meet federal nutrition
8 standards.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Agriculture shall administer the program and may audit
10 participating schools, recover improper payments, and suspend reimbursement
11 for repeated violations of nutrition or accounting requirements.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
13 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Raise the Federal Minimum Wage to Fifteen Dollars

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal minimum wage shall increase to \$11.00 per hour on January
3 1, 2028, \$13.00 per hour on January 1, 2029, and \$15.00 per hour on January 1,
4 2030.

5 **SECTION 2.** Beginning January 1, 2031, the minimum wage shall be adjusted annually
6 by the Department of Labor to reflect the percentage change in the Consumer
7 Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor shall enforce this legislation through the
9 remedies and penalties available under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
11 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

12 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a Federal Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A federal excise tax of one cent per fluid ounce shall be imposed on
3 sugar-sweetened beverages sold by manufacturers or importers in the United
4 States.

5 **SECTION 2.** Sugar-sweetened beverages are nonalcoholic drinks containing added
6 caloric sweeteners. One hundred percent fruit or vegetable juice, unsweetened
7 milk, infant formula, and medical nutrition products are exempt.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service shall collect the tax. Fifty percent of net
9 revenue shall support nutrition and diabetes-prevention programs administered
10 by the Department of Health and Human Services.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
12 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Provide Tuition-Free Community College

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education shall offer grants to states that provide up to
3 two years of tuition-free community college to eligible students pursuing a
4 degree, certificate, or recognized workforce credential.

5 **SECTION 2.** Participating states shall contribute at least 25% of program costs and
6 may require students to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Federal grants
7 shall cover the remaining eligible tuition and fee costs.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall administer the program, audit state
9 spending, and reduce or recover grants used for ineligible expenses.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
11 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

12 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Require Large Grocery Retailers to Divert Edible Food from Waste

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Grocery retailers with 10 or more U.S. locations shall make reasonable
3 efforts to donate safe, edible food that would otherwise be discarded to qualified
4 nonprofit food-recovery organizations before disposing of that food.

5 **SECTION 2.** Food that cannot be safely donated may be composted, processed for
6 animal feed where lawful, or otherwise diverted from landfill disposal. Unsafe or
7 recalled food is exempt.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Department
9 of Agriculture, shall enforce this legislation and may impose civil penalties up to
10 \$5,000 for repeated knowing violations.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
12 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Support Later Start Times for Secondary Schools

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education shall provide grants to public school districts
3 that begin regular middle and high school instruction no earlier than 8:30 a.m.

4 **SECTION 2.** Grant funds may be used for transportation changes, before-school
5 supervision, scheduling adjustments, and evaluation of attendance, academic
6 performance, student sleep, and extracurricular participation.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall administer the program and may
8 withhold future funds from districts that do not maintain the required start time or
9 submit annual reports.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
11 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

12 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Require Financial Literacy Instruction in Federally Funded High Schools

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Beginning with the graduating class of 2030, states receiving federal
3 secondary-education formula funds shall require public high school students to
4 complete at least one semester of financial literacy instruction before graduation.

5 **SECTION 2.** Instruction shall include budgeting, credit, interest, taxes, banking,
6 insurance, student loans, consumer fraud, and long-term saving and investing.
7 States may integrate the requirement into an existing course.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall certify state compliance and may
9 withhold up to 5% of covered federal administrative funds from a state that fails
10 to implement the requirement.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
12 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Require Media Literacy Instruction in Federally Funded High Schools

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Beginning with the graduating class of 2030, states receiving federal
3 secondary-education formula funds shall require public high school students to
4 receive instruction in media and information literacy.

5 **SECTION 2.** Instruction shall address source evaluation, distinguishing news from
6 opinion, recognizing manipulated or AI-generated media, verifying online claims,
7 understanding algorithms, and responsible sharing of information.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall certify state compliance. States shall
9 control curriculum content and may integrate instruction into English, social
10 studies, technology, or other courses.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
12 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Expand School-Based Mental Health Staffing

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education shall provide grants to public school districts
3 to hire or retain school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and other
4 licensed mental health professionals.

5 **SECTION 2.** Priority shall be given to districts with high student-to-provider ratios,
6 persistent vacancies, or limited access to community mental health services.
7 Funds may also support supervised training placements.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall administer the grants and require
9 annual reporting on staffing, student access, vacancies, and use of grant funds.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this
11 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

12 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a National Fee on Single-Use Carryout Bags

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Retailers shall charge customers at least 10 cents for each single-use
3 carryout bag provided at the point of sale.

4 **SECTION 2.** Bags used for unpackaged food, prescriptions, food-safety purposes, or
5 customers participating in SNAP or WIC are exempt. Retailers may retain 4 cents
6 per bag to cover compliance costs.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service shall collect the remaining 6 cents per bag.
8 Net revenue shall support litter reduction and recycling programs administered by
9 the Environmental Protection Agency.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
11 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

12 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Limit Federal Use of Facial Recognition Technology

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Federal law enforcement agencies shall not use facial recognition
3 technology to identify or continuously track a person unless authorized by a
4 judicial warrant, a court order, or an emergency involving an imminent threat of
5 death or serious bodily harm.

6 **SECTION 2.** Facial recognition means automated analysis of facial features to identify
7 or verify a person. Use solely to unlock government-issued devices or verify
8 access to secure federal facilities is exempt.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice shall enforce this legislation, publish annual
10 use statistics, and exclude evidence obtained through a knowing violation unless
11 another lawful source independently produced the evidence.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
13 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Prohibit Plea Bargaining in Federal Felony Cases

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Federal prosecutors shall not offer, request, or accept a plea agreement
3 that reduces criminal charges or recommends a specific sentence in exchange
4 for a defendant waiving the right to trial in a federal felony case.

5 **SECTION 2.** A defendant may plead guilty without an agreement and may receive
6 credit for acceptance of responsibility as otherwise permitted by law. Agreements
7 concerning witness cooperation remain prohibited if conditioned on charge
8 reduction.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice and federal courts shall enforce this legislation.
10 A plea entered in violation of this Act may be withdrawn before sentencing.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
12 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish Ranked-Choice Voting for Federal General Elections

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Beginning in 2030, elections for the U.S. House of Representatives and
3 U.S. Senate shall use ranked-choice voting whenever three or more candidates
4 appear on the general-election ballot.

5 **SECTION 2.** Voters may rank candidates in order of preference. If no candidate
6 receives a majority of active ballots, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be
7 eliminated and ballots transferred to the next ranked continuing candidate until
8 one candidate has a majority.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Election Assistance Commission shall issue uniform standards,
10 provide implementation grants, and require accessible voter education. States
11 shall administer elections consistent with those standards.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2029. All laws in conflict with
13 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Abolish the Federal Death Penalty

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The death penalty shall no longer be an authorized punishment for any
3 federal criminal offense. The maximum punishment for an offense otherwise
4 eligible for death shall be life imprisonment or another sentence authorized by
5 law.

6 **SECTION 2.** Any federal sentence of death that has not been carried out by the
7 effective date shall be converted by operation of law to life imprisonment without
8 possibility of release, unless the underlying statute permits a lesser sentence.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Prisons shall
10 implement this legislation and discontinue federal execution procedures.

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

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a Federal Wealth Tax

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** An annual federal tax shall be imposed on the net wealth of U.S.

3 taxpayers at 2% on wealth above \$50 million and 3% on wealth above \$1 billion.

4 **SECTION 2.** Net wealth means the fair market value of a taxpayer's worldwide assets

5 minus legally enforceable debts. The Internal Revenue Service shall issue

6 valuation rules for privately held businesses, trusts, real estate, and other

7 nonpublic assets.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service shall administer and enforce the tax,

9 including information-reporting requirements and civil penalties up to 40% of

10 unpaid tax for intentional evasion.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with

12 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a National Paid Family and Medical Leave Program

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall provide eligible workers up to 12 weeks of paid

3 family and medical leave in a 12-month period for a new child, the worker's

4 serious health condition, or care of a spouse, child, or parent with a serious

5 health condition. Benefits shall equal 67% of average weekly wages, capped at

6 \$1,200 per week.

7 **SECTION 2.** An eligible worker is a person who earned at least \$5,000 in covered

8 wages during the previous 12 months. 'Serious health condition' shall have the

9 meaning used in the Family and Medical Leave Act.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Social Security Administration shall administer benefits. The program

11 shall be funded by a 0.4% payroll contribution divided equally between

12 employers and employees. The Department of Labor shall enforce job-

13 restoration and anti-retaliation protections for eligible workers employed by the

14 same employer for at least 90 days.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this

16 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

17 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a Universal Basic Income

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Every U.S. citizen age 18 or older shall receive a monthly federal payment
3 of \$1,000, regardless of employment status or household income.

4 **SECTION 2.** Payments shall be treated as taxable income but shall not be counted as
5 income when determining eligibility for Medicaid, SNAP, housing assistance, or
6 other federal means-tested benefits.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service shall
8 administer payments and prevent duplicate or fraudulent claims. The program
9 shall be funded through general federal revenues.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
11 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

12 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a Carbon Fee and Dividend Program

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A federal fee of \$25 per metric ton of carbon-dioxide-equivalent emissions
3 shall be imposed on coal, petroleum, and natural gas when first produced in or
4 imported into the United States. The fee shall increase by \$10 per ton each year.

5 **SECTION 2.** All net revenue, after administrative costs, shall be returned in equal
6 quarterly dividends to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, with one-half
7 shares for persons under age 18.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of the Treasury shall collect the fee, and the
9 Environmental Protection Agency shall determine covered emissions and
10 equivalent rates for taxable fuels.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with
12 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Bill to Establish a National Service Requirement

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents shall complete 12 months of
3 approved national service between ages 18 and 25 in military service,
4 AmeriCorps, conservation, disaster response, public health, education, or
5 another federally approved civilian program.

6 **SECTION 2.** Exemptions or modified service shall be available for severe disability, full-
7 time caregiving, or other extraordinary hardship. Participants shall receive living
8 support and an education award upon successful completion.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Corporation for National and Community Service shall administer
10 civilian placements in coordination with the Department of Defense and shall
11 establish compliance and exemption procedures.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2029. All laws in conflict with this
13 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish Congressional Term Limits

1 **RESOLVED**, By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is
2 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall
3 be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by
4 the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the
5 date of its submission by the Congress:

6 **ARTICLE --**

7 **SECTION 1:** No person shall be elected to the House of Representatives more
8 than six times or to the Senate more than twice. Service for more than
9 one-half of an unexpired term shall count as one election. Terms
10 beginning before ratification of this article shall not count toward these
11 limits.

12 **SECTION 2:** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by
13 appropriate legislation.

14 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tournament of Kindness.*