Viking Middle School Invitational

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A Resolution to Support an International Treaty on Autonomous Weapons

WHEREAS Autonomous weapons can select and attack targets without further human intervention; and

WHEREAS Such systems may reduce risks to soldiers but raise concerns about civilian harm, accountability, and accidental escalation; and

WHEREAS International rules must balance humanitarian protection, national security, and the difficulty of verifying compliance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED By the Congress here assembled that the United States should pursue a binding international treaty regulating autonomous weapons; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That the treaty should prohibit systems that cannot be reliably limited to lawful targets and require human authorization for attacks against people; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That narrowly defined systems intercepting incoming missiles or other unmanned threats may remain permitted under human supervision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That the United States should seek reciprocal testing standards, incident reporting, and verification before accepting treaty obligations, while consulting allies; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That this resolution expresses the sense of Congress, creates no binding restriction or appropriation, and leaves treaty ratification to constitutional procedures.

A Bill to Condition New School Grants on Smartphone Policies

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. California shall offer voluntary grants to public school agencies serving grades six through eight. Participating campuses must follow Section 3 for three years; existing funding remains protected.

SECTION 2. Smartphones are personally owned internet capable phones. The school day includes classes, lunch, and passing periods. Conditions apply to every student at participating campuses.

SECTION 3. Smartphones shall be off and stored out of student access throughout the school day. Exceptions cover emergencies, documented medical needs, and disability plans; routine classroom use is prohibited. Schools must provide emergency release procedures and a family contact telephone.

A. Schools shall consult families, students, and staff. Grants fund storage, training, and evaluation. Recipients must supply 20 percent of project costs locally. Discipline excludes content searches and suspension solely for phone violations.

B. This bill appropriates $75 million from California’s General Fund for 2027–2030. The California Department of Education shall award grants by enrollment and need. Recipients have 90 days to correct violations before further payments are withheld.

SECTION 4. Effective July 1, 2027; policies begin in 2027–2028. Awards end June 2030; participation conditions continue for three years after each award. Existing disability and emergency protections remain.

A Bill to Invest in Water Security Infrastructure

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. California shall fund water recycling, groundwater recharge, and drinking water leak repairs through competitive grants to public agencies, federally recognized Tribes, and nonprofit water systems. New dams and ocean desalination are ineligible.

SECTION 2. Recycling treats wastewater for permitted reuse; recharge directs legally available water into aquifers. Disadvantaged communities have median household income below 80 percent of the statewide median.

SECTION 3. The Department of Water Resources shall rank projects by water gains per dollar, drought resilience, readiness, and energy use. At least 40 percent of grant dollars must benefit disadvantaged communities. Grants cover up to 50 percent of costs, or 100 percent for projects primarily benefiting those communities.

A. Applicants must publish costs, water gains, and operations funding. Environmental review, water rights, tribal consultation, and drinking water standards remain required. Grants create no water rights.

B. This bill appropriates $400 million annually from California’s General Fund for 2027–2028 through 2031–2032. Up to 5 percent funds administration. Annual reports are required; misuse may trigger recovery after notice and a hearing.

SECTION 4. Effective July 1, 2027. Awards end June 2032; construction ends June 2037, with one possible two year extension. Uncommitted funds revert to the General Fund.

A Bill to Limit Algorithmic Price Discrimination

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Covered sellers shall not use personal data to vary prices or discount eligibility. All customers purchasing under the same public transaction terms must receive the same price, including access to promotions.

SECTION 2. Covered sellers sell consumer goods or services across state lines and earn over $10 million annually in U.S. revenue. Personal data include purchase histories, browsing activity, inferred income, location, and device identifiers.

SECTION 3. Prices may reflect time, inventory, aggregate demand, quantity, and delivery costs. Public student, senior, and low income discounts remain permitted. Purchase history based loyalty discounts and individualized coupons are prohibited. Regulated utilities and insurance are excluded.

A. Sellers shall explain price factors and retain pricing records for two years. The Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general may seek injunctions, refunds, and penalties up to $25,000 daily for knowing violations. Duplicate recovery is barred.

B. This Act appropriates $30 million annually from Treasury general funds for enforcement in fiscal years 2028–2030. Sellers pay their own compliance costs. The Commission shall evaluate prices, discounts, and competition after two years.

SECTION 4. Rulemaking begins January 2027; compliance begins January 2028. Stronger state protections remain. This Act creates no private right to sue.

A Bill to Strengthen Youth Online Privacy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This Act covers commercial online services offering accounts to U.S. users. Minors are users under 18. Personal data identify people or devices; targeted advertising uses their activity or inferred interests.

SECTION 2. Services shall collect only minors' data needed for requested features, security, or law. Selling minors' data and targeted advertising are prohibited, even with consent. Contextual ads based only on currently viewed content remain permitted.

SECTION 3. Services shall verify each account holder's age band using an independent provider. Providers may confirm only whether a user is under 18; services must offer an option without government identification or facial scans.

A. Verification records must be deleted within 30 days except an age band token. Users may correct mistaken results. Services must provide tools to access and delete data; existing parental rights and disability access remain protected.

B. The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this Act, with penalties up to $50,000 daily for knowing violations. Services bear verification costs. This Act appropriates $40 million annually from Treasury general funds for fiscal years 2028–2030; no private right to sue is created.

SECTION 4. Rulemaking begins January 2027; compliance begins January 2028. Existing protections for children under 13 and stronger state laws remain. Private messages need not be disclosed to parents.

Research Links

Two starting points per item. Click a source title to open it.

Resolution 01 International Treaty on Autonomous Weapons

ICRC Position on Autonomous Weapon Systems
Proposed prohibitions and restrictions, with humanitarian reasoning.

ICRC and SIPRI Limits on Autonomy in Weapon Systems
Practical elements of human control and operational limits.

Bill 02 School Smartphone Grants

California Phone Free School Act Announcement
Background on California's existing smartphone policy requirements.

NCSL Cellphone Laws in Schools
Compare restrictions, exceptions, and funding approaches.

Bill 03 Water Security Infrastructure

USGS Artificial Groundwater Recharge
How recharge and aquifer storage work, with research examples.

California Water Recycling Funding Program
Existing grants and loans for recycled water projects.

Bill 04 Algorithmic Price Discrimination

FTC Surveillance Pricing Initial Findings
How consumer data may influence individualized prices.

FTC Surveillance Pricing Research Summaries PDF
Emerging findings and limits of the evidence.

Bill 05 Youth Online Privacy

FTC COPPA Frequently Asked Questions
Existing federal privacy duties for children's data.

FTC Children's Privacy Rule Update
Changes addressing consent, advertising, and children's data.