

## UH Tournament

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# TFA Spring 2016 Item 1. A Bill to Limit the Usage of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall ensure the security and safety of its constituents  
3 by limiting the usage of unmanned aerial vehicles. This limitation will ban  
4 the usage of unmanned aerial vehicles both recreationally and  
5 commercially.

6 **SECTION 2.** Recreational and commercial usage shall be defined as any Unmanned  
7 Aerial Vehicle usage independent of the United States Department of  
8 Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice,  
9 Department of State, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

10 **SECTION 3.** This bill shall be enforced by the Federal Aviation Administration and the  
11 United States Department of Defense.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented by December of 2016.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lamar High School (Houston).*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 2. A Resolution to Protect American Interests in the Arctic**

- 1   **WHEREAS,**    The Arctic is of vital importance to United States economic and security  
2                    concerns; and
- 3   **WHEREAS,**    Russia has progressively increased its aggression in the Arctic by  
4                    announcing the reopening of Cold War era naval bases and has  
5                    repeatedly launched inflammatory expeditions; and
- 6   **WHEREAS,**    American calls for negotiations have been ignored and all diplomatic  
7                    options have been exhausted; and
- 8   **WHEREAS,**    The United States military is severely underprepared for the protection of  
9                    the Arctic; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,**   That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation  
11                   for \$20 billion be allocated to the development of new Arctic military  
12                   assets, as a precautionary measure; and, be it
- 13 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That \$5 billion should be allocated to Coast Guard for the  
14                   purchase of new icebreakers and \$5 billion will be given to the  
15                   Department of Defense for the purchase of new cold tolerant equipment,  
16                   weapons, and vehicles.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano West Senior High School*

# TFA Spring 2016 Item 3. A Bill to Fund Vocational High Schools

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education will appropriate 5 billion dollars per year in  
3 Federal funds in order to fund vocational high schools.

4 **SECTION 2.** Vocational high schools will be defined as an alternative for students to  
5 attend in order to learn a trade and receive a high school diploma. For  
6 schools to qualify for funding they must offer a classwork schedule that  
7 spends 20% of the time during school teaching a trade. A trade can be  
8 defined as any work that requires a license to complete in order to  
9 produce revenue.

10 **SECTION 3.** That the Department of Education assist the planning and opening of  
11 vocational high schools.

12 A. The Department of Education is also responsible for the recruitment  
13 of teachers and industry sponsors to work in these high schools.

14 B. In addition to trade specialists, The Department of Education will also  
15 be in charge of planning out a curriculum in order to meet basic  
16 education credits.

17 C. The Department will also be in charge of creating and reviewing  
18 applications for student applicants.

19 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented immediately after passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Parish Episcopal School (TX).*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 4. A Bill to Regulate Uber, Lyft and Similar Transportation Services**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Uber, Lyft and similar transportation services will be required to meet the  
3 same standards as bus, taxi and livery drivers.

4 **SECTION 2.** Regulations will include:

5 **A.** Screening of drivers (criminal record and driving record).

6 **B.** Sex offender checks.

7 **C.** Fingerprinting.

8 **SECTION 3.** Uber, Lyft and similar transportation services will be required to disclose  
9 the formulas for their surge pricing policies to promote standardized  
10 rates.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation goes into effect April 1, 2016.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellaire High School.*

# TFA Spring 2016 Item 5. The Immigrant Innovation Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Immigration and Nationality Act shall be amended to

3 A. Increase the annual cap on H-1B nonimmigrant visas to between  
4 115,000 and 195,000 visas.

5 B. Exempt foreign nationals with advanced STEM degrees from U.S.  
6 universities from numerical limits of employment-based green cards.

7 C. Grant students with F-1 visas with dual intent, allowing them to file  
8 for green card petitions.

9 **SECTION 2.** A. An H-1B visa is a nonimmigrant visa that allows U.S. employers to  
10 temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.

11 B. An advanced STEM degree is a degree (master's or higher) in a field in  
12 science, technology, engineering or math from a school qualified under  
13 the Higher Education Act of 1965.

14 C. An F-1 visa is a non-immigrant student visa that allows foreigners to  
15 pursue education (academic studies and/or language training programs)  
16 in the United States.

17 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland  
18 Security, shall ensure that all immigrant visas authorized by Congress to  
19 be issued under this legislation are issued to qualified applicants.

20 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this legislation shall take effect beginning with *FY* 2017.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano Senior High School*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 6. A Bill to Ban the Export of Hazardous Wastes**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The export of US hazardous wastes to other countries for disposal and/or  
3 recycling will be banned.

4 **SECTION 2.** For the purpose of this legislation, hazardous waste will be defined as

5 A. All materials designated as hazardous by the US Environmental  
6 Protection Agency;

7 B. Electronic wastes (e-waste);

8 C. Infectious waste, municipal garbage, and incinerator ash;

9 D. Storage vessels, including ships and barges, contaminated with  
10 wastes.

11 **SECTION 3.** The US Tax Code will be revised to allow for tax incentives for companies  
12 developing new waste recycling technologies and/or disposal facilities:

13 D. Companies may receive tax incentives of up to \$1 million per year for  
14 developing or importing new recycling or disposal technologies or  
15 expanding safe disposal capabilities;

16 E. Incentives may be renewed for a period of up to five years.

17 **SECTION 4.** This law will take effect January 1, 2018.

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

*Introduced by James E. Taylor High School*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 7. A Resolution to Formally Recognize Palestine as an Independent State to Advance the Israeli- Palestinian Peace Process**

- 1   **WHEREAS,**    The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been perpetuated for over six decades;  
2                    and
- 3   **WHEREAS,**    This conflict has displaced roughly 300,000 people in both Israel and  
4                    Palestine; and
- 5   **WHEREAS,**    The international community is pushing for a two-state solution to  
6                    resolve the conflict; and
- 7   **WHEREAS,**    The United Nations has already recognized Palestine as a state; and
- 8   **WHEREAS,**    The United States has continually refrained from recognizing Palestinian  
9                    statehood; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,**    Recognizing said statehood could reduce violence and instability in the  
11                    region; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,**    It is in the United States' best interests to push for a solution to the  
13                    Israeli-Palestinian conflict; now, therefore, be it
- 14 **RESOLVED,**    That the Congress here assembled recognize Palestine as an independent  
15                    state to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jasper High School.*



## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 8. A Bill to Implement the Common Core Standards to Nationalize Educational Expectations**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All States will fully implement the Common Core State Standards for K-12  
3 public schools.

4 **SECTION 2.** “Full implementation” is to be defined as aligning State curricula  
5 with the Common Core Standards without modifications.

6 **SECTION 3.** This bill will be overseen and enforced by the U.S. Department of  
7 Education.

8 A. States with only partial or modified compliance with the Common  
9 Core Standards will be in violation of this policy.

10 B. States who do not comply will receive a deduction of 50% on  
11 public education funding from the federal government.

12 **SECTION 4.** This law will take effect at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Harker Heights High School.*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 9. A Resolution to Reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act to Promote Financial Stability**

- 1    **WHEREAS,**    With the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act, banks are not regulated and can  
2                    now make loans using the money of the general public; and
- 3    **WHEREAS,**    The 1999 repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act set the stage for the  
4                    environment of financial irresponsibility preceding the 2008 financial  
5                    crisis; and
- 6    **WHEREAS,**    Post crisis measures must be taken to ensure the US economy is not  
7                    susceptible to another one; and
- 8    **WHEREAS,**    Another US financial crisis would exacerbate already-rampant income  
9                    inequality and would tear down significant global progress towards  
10                   economic development; now, therefore, be it
- 11   **RESOLVED,**   That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation  
12                   to ratify the Glass-Steagall Act.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Anderson High School*

# **TFA Spring 2016 Item 10. A Bill to Remove Military Commanders from Decisions over the Prosecution of Sexual Assault Cases**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will remove Military Commanders from decisions over  
3 the prosecution of sexual assault cases in the military and instate the  
4 Military Justice Improvement Act.

5 **SECTION 2.** Sexual assault shall be defined as any type of sexual contact or behavior  
6 that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense and The Sexual Assault Prevention and  
8 Response Office (SAPRO) will enforce this legislation.

9 A. The Military Justice Improvement Act will be instated upon passing.

10 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect 6 months after passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by James Bowie High School.*

# **TFA Spring 2016 Item 11. A Bill to Assist Undocumented Immigrants to the United States Who Have Lived in the US for More Than 10 Years**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will provide an  
3 advocate to assist undocumented immigrants who have lived in the  
4 United States for 10 or more years in completing citizenship  
5 requirements.

6 **SECTION 2.** “Undocumented Immigrant” refers to a citizen of a country other than  
7 the United States currently residing in the United States but without legal  
8 citizenship status.

9 **SECTION 3.** This bill will be enforced by the United States Department of Homeland  
10 Security.

11 A. Undocumented immigrants found guilty of violent crimes and/or  
12 felony crimes will not be eligible for this service.

13 B. An undocumented immigrant may refuse this service and return to  
14 their country of origin.

15 **SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect August 1, 2016.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dimmitt High School.*

## TFA Spring 2016 Item 12. A Bill to Require Background Checks on All Firearm Purchases

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All firearms dealers in the United States must conduct mandatory  
3 background checks on everyone wishing to purchase a firearm.

4 **SECTION 2.** A firearm is defined as a rifle, shotgun, or handgun. A firearms dealer is  
5 anyone who has been licensed by state or federal agencies to sell  
6 firearms in any context.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives will oversee  
8 enforcement.

9 A. A three-day waiting period must precede a firearm purchase.

10 B. A national database including criminal and mental health records will  
11 be compiled and will be considered in background checks.

12 C. Prospective gun purchasers must also complete a firearms training  
13 course prior to attempting to purchase a firearm.

14 **SECTION 4.** This bill will be implemented no later than January 1, 2017.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Clark High School.*

# TFA Spring Item 13. A Bill to Expand The Family And Medical Leave Act to Include Public Sector Employers with 50 Or Less Employees

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** It being that the Family and Medical Leave Act is only enforced on  
3 employers with 50 or more employees, and all public and private  
4 elementary and secondary schools, and companies with 50 or more  
5 employees. Immediate action is required for a change to happen so every  
6 employee can be covered and supported by this legislation.

7 **SECTION 2.** Leave protected under the Family and Medical leave act is classified as a  
8 serious health condition of the employee or of a member of the  
9 employee's immediate family; the birth or adoption of a child or the  
10 placement of a foster child in the home; or "any qualifying exigency"  
11 (which generally means an urgent or emergency situation) associated  
12 with the employee's spouse, child, or parent being on active military  
13 duty, or having been notified of an impending order to active duty, in  
14 support of a contingency operation

15 **SECTION 3.** The government agency overseeing this bill will be the U.S. Department  
16 of Labor

17 **SECTION 4.** Implementation of this bill will be January 1, 2017.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Grapevine High School.*

# **TFA Spring 2016 Item 14. A Bill to Amend the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act to Include Fantasy Football**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 shall hereby be  
3 amended to include fantasy sports, such as fantasy football, in its online  
4 gambling regulation.

5 **SECTION 2.** Enforcement of the amended Act shall continue through the US Attorney  
6 General.

7 **SECTION 3.** Effective immediately upon passage.

8 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Granbury High School.*

# **TFA Spring 2016 Item 15. A Bill to Require Expedious Processing of Rape Kits**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All states receiving federal funds for state or local law enforcement  
3 agencies must adopt policies to ensure that rape kits are submitted to an  
4 accredited public or private crime lab for testing within 10 days of being  
5 booked into evidence. These labs must process and test rape kits within  
6 30 days of receipt.

7 **SECTION 2.** Any rape kits sitting waiting in backlog at the time of the passage of this  
8 bill must be submitted to an accredited public or private crime lab within  
9 10 months from the passage of this bill.

10 **SECTION 3.** Backlog is defined as any rape kit that has not been submitted to an  
11 accredited public or private crime lab within 30 days of being booked into  
12 evidence.

13 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Justice under the Attorney General shall oversee  
14 implementation of this bill.

- 15 A. The Department of Justice will provide states with block grants total  
16 \$400 million to test help clear the backlog.
- 17 B. Funding will be provided through a 0.1 percent tax on alcohol sales.
- 18 C. Failure of a states to comply with this legislation will result in a loss of  
19 all federal funds for police departments in violation.
- 20 D. Failure of public and private crime labs to comply with this legislation  
21 will result in a fine of \$5,000 per violation.

22 **SECTION 5.** This bill shall go into effect 10 months after passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tascosa High School*



# TFA Spring 2016 Item 16. The Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Any candidate running for national or state office will hereby be required  
3 to disclose all donations received and expenditures. Candidates will no  
4 longer be allowed to accept donations from foreign entities. In addition,  
5 organizations that air political ads will need to disclose the sponsor of the  
6 ad.

7 **SECTION 2.** Political candidates refer to any candidate running for national or state  
8 office. Foreign entities include but are not limited to: corporations not  
9 based in the US, foreign citizens, and foreign governments.

10 **SECTION 3.** The FEC and FCC will be in charge of implementation by doing the  
11 following:

12 A. The FEC will audit political candidates and fine them as they deem fit  
13 if they received donations from foreign entities, or if they failed to  
14 disclose their finances.

15 B. The FCC will monitor political ads aired on television and radio to  
16 ensure that organizations that air said ads are fully disclosing their  
17 sponsors. If they do not, the FCC will fine them as they deem fit.

18 **SECTION 4.** This bill will be enacted upon passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Westlake High School*

# TFA Spring 2016 Item 17. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution Repeal the Second Amendment

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

## 6 **ARTICLE --**

7 **SECTION 1:** The second article of amendment to the Constitution of  
8 the United States is hereby repealed.

9 **SECTION 2:** The Federal government is hereby empowered to regulate  
10 the sale and distribution of firearms in the United States.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Parish Episcopal (TX).*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 18. A Resolution to Invest in the Ballistic Missile Defense System to Defend the United States**

1 **WHEREAS,** In a militarizing world, rapid production of ballistic and nuclear missiles in  
2 foreign lands poses a great threat to the American people and interests;  
3 and

4 **WHEREAS,** With increasing technology, North Korea and Russia maintain the ability  
5 to launch nuclear warheads that pose an inherent risk to national  
6 security; and

7 **WHEREAS,** A small fraction of missiles launched onto the U.S. mainland has the  
8 potential to wipe out the electric grids, financial networks, and kill and  
9 injure countless Americans; and

10 **WHEREAS,** The United States currently lacks defense against long-range ballistic  
11 missiles; now, therefore, be it

12 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled allocate \$500 million annually to the  
13 Missile Defense Agency to develop and test several new technologies  
14 designed to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles to curb future threats  
15 over the course of five years.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alief Kerr High School.*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 19. A Resolution to Promote the Development of Liquid Biopsies to Detect Cancer**

- 1   **WHEREAS,**    Cancer is one of the leading killers of American citizens; and
- 2   **WHEREAS,**    An estimated 589,430 Americans will die from some sort of cancer in the
- 3                    year 2015; and
- 4   **WHEREAS,**    Early detection is a key strategy for increasing cancer survival rate,
- 5                    sometimes by as much as 80%; and
- 6   **WHEREAS,**    Liquid Biopsies can detect cancer early in up to 90% of patients; now,
- 7                    therefore, be it
- 8   **RESOLVED,**   That the Congress here assembled shall financially incentivize the
- 9                    research and development of Liquid Biopsy technology; and, be it
- 10 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That Congress shall create tax incentives as well as grants to
- 11                   private laboratories and research groups effectively developing the
- 12                   technology.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Clear Creek High School.*

# **TFA Spring 2016 Item 20. A Bill to Require Psychiatric Evaluations for all Persons aiming to Purchase Firearms to Substantially Reduce the Number of Psychologically-Related Shootings**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All persons aiming to purchase a firearm go through a psychological  
3 evaluation

4 **SECTION 2.** A firearm is a weapon that uses gun powder to propel a projectile, either  
5 long or short distances.

6 Psychiatric Evaluations are evaluations of a persons mental status which,  
7 in accordance with the APA, lasts no longer than 3 hours.

8 **SECTION 3.** The ATF will lead enforcement of this legislation under the following  
9 mandates:

10 A. That all psychiatric evaluations be performed by a psychiatrist  
11 sanctioned in practice by the APA with a separate second medical  
12 opinion taking place.

13 B. All persons currently in possession of a firearm will be required to  
14 receive a psychiatric evaluation within 2 years of the implementation  
15 of this legislation.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be implemented in the following fiscal year and upon  
17 the passage of this legislation the ATF will begin compiling psychiatrists  
18 that follow the mandates above.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Chapin High School*

## TFA Spring 2016 Item 21. A Bill to Increase Funding to the Kurdish Peshmerga to Aid in Combating ISIS

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will supply \$400 million in ammunition and small arms  
3 to the Kurdish Peshmerga military camps, with \$200 million being  
4 delivered in the first month, and \$25 million increments every two  
5 months afterwards.

6 **SECTION 2.** Ammunition will correspond with the small arms given, with small arms  
7 being defined as class 4 automatic rifles.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense will oversee the enforcement of the bill in  
9 conjunction United States Military.

10 A. If the United States Secretary of Defense determines the aid to be  
11 detrimental to American interests, then it will be nullified  
12 immediately.

13 B. Should the Kurdish Peshmerga be eliminated during this timeframe,  
14 the aid will be redirected to the Free Syrian Army.

15 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect on July 4, 2016.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Anderson High School.*

# TFA Spring 2016 Item 22. A Bill to Abolish the United States Postal Service

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.** Title 39 U.S. Code, Sections 101, et seq. be amended so as to  
2                   abolish the United States Postal Service.

3                   **SECTION 2.** Abolishment of the USPS would include cessation of all  
4                   current services and liquidation of all real property and other assets, as  
5                   well as the elimination of current regulations regarding the rates that can  
6                   be charged for postage by private service providers.

7                   **SECTION 3.** The abolishment of the USPS will be directed by the  
8                   Postmaster General of the United States, with direct oversight by the  
9                   Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the  
10                  Census. The action will include:

- 11                  A. Sale of all current assets held by the USPS by public auction;  
12                  B. Provision of retraining and other placement services to current USPS  
13                  employees.  
14                  C. Revision of existing regulations establishing minimum postage rates for  
15                  private entities.

16                  **SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect immediately upon enactment, with  
17                  implementation to be completed over a 5 year period.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lamar High School.*

## TFA Spring 2016 Item 23. A Resolution to Invest Domestically in Clean Energy Infrastructure

- 1 **WHEREAS,** the United States' reliance on fossil fuels and non-renewable energy  
2 sources has contributed greatly to global climate change; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** continuing to rely primarily on non-renewable sources will exacerbate  
4 the effects of climate change across our nation and the globe, damaging  
5 property and infrastructure; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** the United States will continue to experience rising sea level issues,  
7 worsening droughts, more frequent wildfires, and more catastrophic  
8 storms; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** investing in clean energy alternatives can mitigate these issues in  
10 addition to creating a net 1.7 million jobs; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** this investment will expedite US efforts to transition away from fossil fuel  
12 dependency; now, therefore, be it
- 13 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled recommend that \$100 billion over a  
14 period of 10 years be invested into building, maintaining, and improving  
15 clean energy infrastructure.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano Senior High School*



# TFA Spring 2016 Item 24. A Bill to Cut Farming Subsidies for Corporate Growers

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall be cutting all agricultural  
3 subsidies to corporate growers.

4 **SECTION 2.** An agricultural subsidy shall be defined as a sum of money that is used to  
5 the lower prices of agricultural goods in order to ensure that prices  
6 remain competitive.

7 Corporate growers shall be defined as companies who own or influence  
8 farms and farming practices for their own gain.

9 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will oversee the  
10 enforcement of the bill along with the specific enforcement mechanism.

11 A. The USDA will also be in charge of labeling the distinction between  
12 corporate and non-corporate growers.

13 **SECTION 4.** This law will be phased in by the year 2020.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lake Travis High School.*

# TFA Spring 2016 Item 25. A Bill to Combat Poverty in the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government will enforce the following:

3 **A.** Replace the existing tax code for consumers with a negative income  
4 tax (NIT) of 50% with an income threshold of 4.0 times the federal  
5 poverty line as calculated by the Department of Health and Human  
6 Services.

7 **B.** Raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to 80% of the federal  
8 minimum wage, with the rest supplemented by tips.

9 **SECTION 2.** Negative Income Tax shall be defined as a taxation system in which  
10 consumers that earn below an income threshold of 4.0 times the federal  
11 poverty line shall receive a federal tax refund equivalent to 50% of the  
12 difference between their annual income and the threshold. Those who  
13 earn above the specified income threshold shall be taxed for the amount  
14 equivalent to 50% of the difference between their annual income and the  
15 threshold.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the U.S. Department of Labor will  
17 be oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

18 **A.** The IRS will focus upon the phasing out of the current consumer  
19 taxation system and the implementation of the NIT.

20 **B.** The U.S. Department of Labor will focus upon the implementation  
21 and enforcement of the revised minimum wage.

22 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be enacted on July 1, 2016.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jasper High School.*

# TFA Spring 2016 Item 26. A Bill to End the Allocation of Federal Funds to NASA to Incentivize Private Sector Space Exploration

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall withdraw the current National Aeronautics and  
3 Space Administration (NASA) budget of \$18.01 billion and distribute half  
4 of the budget to private sector space companies with revenue sharing  
5 grant funding in order to incentivize space exploration.

6 **SECTION 2.** Revenue sharing grant is defined as a federal grant that requires no  
7 matching funds and provides flexibility in its implementation.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Congressional Budget Office will oversee the implementation of this  
9 bill.

10 **SECTION 4.** This law will take effect at the beginning of the Fiscal Year of 2016.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Harker Heights High School*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 27. A Resolution to Increase Mental Health Services to U.S. Military Personnel**

- 1    **WHEREAS,**    The US military reports steadily rising cases of PTSD in personnel  
2                    experiencing long-term and/or multiple deployments; and
- 3    **WHEREAS,**    U.S. military members face barriers to receiving mental health treatment,  
4                    including, but not limited to, lack of immediate access to mental health  
5                    services, limited numbers of available mental health professionals and  
6                    possible stigmatization; and
- 7    **WHEREAS,**    The Department of Veterans Affairs says that “as many as 22 veterans  
8                    take their lives every day” and that veterans account for approximately  
9                    20% of suicides in the US; and
- 10   **WHEREAS,**    The VA estimates that 17 of 22 soldiers who take their lives, daily, are not  
11                    connected to services provided by the VA; and
- 12   **WHEREAS,**    Incidents of violent offenses involving veterans with diagnosed PTSD are  
13                    14 times higher than the general civilian population; and
- 14   **WHEREAS,**    Veterans diagnosed with PTSD are more likely to commit domestic  
15                    violence, with post 9/11 military personnel and veterans accounting for  
16                    21% of reported domestic violence incidents nationwide; therefore, be it
- 17   **RESOLVED,**    By the Congress here assembled that the United States Federal  
18                    Government should increase available mental health services to  
19                    deployed, active and veteran military personnel throughout all branches  
20                    of the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Introduced by Byron Nelson High School*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 28. A Resolution to Enforce Current Laws Regarding Ransom Payment for Hostages**

- 1   **WHEREAS,**    ISIS has taken hostages for the purpose of receiving ransom payments;  
2                    and  
3   **WHEREAS,**    Ransom payments strengthen terrorist groups and give the ability to  
4                    expand and commit more acts of terror; and  
5   **WHEREAS,**    Current law prohibits ransom payment for hostages; and  
6   **WHEREAS,**    President Obama is choosing to not prosecute the families of hostages  
7                    that engage in ransom payment in return for their loved ones; now,  
8                    therefore, be it  
9   **RESOLVED,**   That the Congress here assembled that President Obama reverse his  
10                   previous policy and will now fully enforce existing law prohibiting the  
11                   payment of ransom for hostages.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellaire High School.*

## TFA Spring 2016 Item 29. A Resolution to Transfer Jurisdiction of Sexual Assault Cases in the Military to Civilian Courts

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Sexual misconduct has been an on-going problem in the US military for  
2 more than 25 years; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** An annual report by the US Department of Defense estimated that more  
4 than 20,000 American service members were sexually assaulted in 2014;  
5 and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Less than 12 percent of these assaults were formally reported out of fear  
7 of retaliation, which may include poor performance reviews, discharge  
8 from the armed forces, hazing, shunning, physical assault, and death  
9 threats; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** Only about 5 percent of sexual assault cases in the military actually lead  
11 to convictions; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** The Military Code of Justice gives commanders near total autonomy on  
13 the prosecution and sentencing of these cases; and
- 14 **WHEREAS,** These commanders have a vested interest in preventing the investigation  
15 and prosecution as their own evaluations may be negatively affected by  
16 the number of cases prosecuted on their bases; and
- 17 **WHEREAS,** With nearly two-thirds of reported sexual assault cases involving a  
18 superior officer, commanders are reluctant to allow the prosecution of  
19 their friends and colleagues; now, therefore, be it
- 20 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation  
21 that all investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases originating  
22 in the military or involving military personnel be shifted to the jurisdiction  
23 of the closest local civilian courts; and, be it
- 24 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the US armed forces should establish and enforce harsh  
25 penalties for personnel who engage in retaliatory measures against  
26 victims who report crimes against them in the military.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by James E. Taylor High School.*

*We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and has permission to be presented.*

## **TFA Spring 2016 Item 30. A Bill to Combat Gun Violence and Increase Research**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** Language that prohibits the use of funds by government agencies to investigate gun violence are hereby repealed.

- A. The Dickey Amendment to the 1996 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Bill are hereby repealed in order to allow the Center for Disease Control to conduct proper research.
- B. The Tiahrt Amendments to the 2010 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Bill are hereby repealed in order to restore proper regulatory authority to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.
- C. Section 218 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, which limits the National Institute of Health's research capabilities, are hereby repealed.
- D. Section 2716 Part C of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, entitled "Protection of Second Amendment Gun Rights", is hereby repealed in order to properly catalogue instances of gun violence.

**SECTION 2.** Senate Bill 1945, the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015, will be brought to the floor for an up or down vote.

**SECTION 3.** The aforementioned government agencies, as well as those enumerated by the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015, shall enforce the provisions of this bill.

**SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect at the beginning of FY 2018.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano West Senior High School*