M & M Tournament

Congress Legislation 2026

1……Establish Federal Minimum Teacher Salary (bill- PDC)

2……Establish a National Lyme Disease Program (bill- Pgh NSDA)

3……Provide Aid to Gaza (resolution- Holy Ghost)

4……Single Pater Healthcare (bill- Pennsbury)

5……Expand School-Based Mental Health Services (bill- Pgh NSDA)

6……Expand International Financing for Climate Adaptation (bill- Pgh NSDA)

7……Strengthen Global Pandemic Preparedness (resolution- Pgh NSDA)

8……Establish a Pollinator Habitat Conservation Program (bill- Pgh NSDA)

#1

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A FEDERAL MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED

SECTION 1. Teacher shortages have reached crisis levels in nearly every state and real teacher pay has declined roughly 5% over the past decade while inflation eroded purchasing power. Nearly half of public school teachers hold second jobs to make ends meet. A well-compensated teaching profession is essential to national competitiveness, thus establishing a baseline professional salary is necessary for the common good.

SECTION 2. No public elementary or secondary school teacher employed full-time by a local education agency may be paid an annual base salary of less than $80,000.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Education shall administer grants covering the difference between $80,000 and each teacher's pre-bill base salary for any local education agency whose average per-student funding falls below the national median, with a 50% federal match for agencies at or above the median. Funds shall be appropriated for not less than ten (10) fiscal years to guarantee sustainability.

SECTION 4. Federal funds under shall supplement, not supplant, existing state and local salary appropriations, and shall not reduce funding for non-salary education programs by more than 2% annually in any participating district.

SECTION 5. "Full-time" means at least 1,000 hours of instructional or professional service per school year, including certified classroom teachers, special educators, and librarians employed under contract.

SECTION 6. The Department of Education shall publish an annual compliance report and may withhold future grant funds from agencies failing to comply.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this bill is held invalid, all remaining provisions remain in force.

SECTION 8. This bill takes effect on the first day of the fiscal year following its passage.

Respectfully submitted by Pittsburgh District Committee

#2

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL LYME DISEASE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED

SECTION 1. Whereas Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne illness in the United States, with an estimated 476,000 cases diagnosed annually; whereas tick habitats are expanding northward due to changing climate conditions, exposing new populations; whereas Lyme disease is frequently misdiagnosed, leading to chronic complications including Lyme arthritis and neurological impairment; and whereas early detection dramatically improves outcomes.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Geological Survey, shall establish tick surveillance stations in all fifty states, publishing public risk maps updated quarterly.

SECTION 3. The Secretary shall prioritize Food and Drug Administration review of Lyme disease vaccine candidates and shall commit not less than $200 million annually toward late-stage clinical trials.

SECTION 4. The CDC shall conduct a national public awareness campaign on tick bite prevention, proper tick removal, and early symptoms, targeted especially at schools, parks departments, and outdoor workforce sectors.

SECTION 5. The Secretary shall fund continuing medical education on Lyme disease diagnosis and treatment for primary care providers in high-incidence states, with priority to regions experiencing newly expanding tick ranges.

SECTION 6. There will $500 million appropriated annually for five (5) fiscal years to carry out this act.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this bill is held invalid, all remaining provisions remain in force.

SECTION 8. This bill takes effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted by Pittsburgh District Committee

#3

A Bill to Fund Humanitarian Aid to Provide Direct Relief to the Citizens of Gaza

WHEREAS, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza has left civilians without adequate access to food, clean water, shelter, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, international organizations have consistently documented the urgent need for increased humanitarian assistance to protect innocent lives; and

WHEREAS, instability in the region threatens broader international peace and security if left unaddressed; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a moral obligation and a longstanding history of providing humanitarian relief in times of crisis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Congress here assembled, that the United States federal government should allocate $1.5 billion in humanitarian aid to be administered through reputable international organizations and non-governmental agencies, including but not limited to Doctors Without Borders, UNICEF, and UNRWA, to provide direct relief to civilians in Gaza; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that such aid shall be directed exclusively toward humanitarian purposes, including but not limited to food, medical supplies, clean water, and shelter, and shall not be used to support military or militant operations.

Respectfully Submitted by Holy Ghost Prep

#4

A Bill for a Healthier America

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A single-payer healthcare system will be adopted to grant equitable access to thorough medical coverage for all citizens.

SECTION 2. A "single-payer healthcare system" shall be defined as a system in which the government finances healthcare for all residents, ensuring everyone gets necessary care and providing universal coverage.

SECTION 3. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

A. The Department of Health and Human Services shall be responsible for making sure universal coverage and medical services are granted equally to every resident.

B. The Internal Revenue Service shall be responsible for overseeing the funding of this legislation. A Healthcare Tax on citizens will be enacted as a percentage of annual income. The range of such can be from 1% to 15%. In addition, companies with more than $1,000,000,000 in yearly revenue shall now be taxed at a 20% corporate tax.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pennsbury High School.

#5

A BILL TO PROVIDE FEDERAL GRANTS TO EXPAND SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

BE IT ENACTED by the Congress here assembled that:

SECTION 1. The United States Department of Education shall establish the School-Based Mental Health Access Grant Program to expand access to licensed mental health services in public elementary and secondary schools.

SECTION 2. In 2023, the Surgeon General declared an "epidemic of loneliness, isolation, and lack of connection" among American youth, contributing to rising rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that suicide is the second leading cause of death among Americans aged 10–24. Approximately 70% of public schools report increased demand for mental health services since 2020, yet the American School Counselor Association recommends a counselor-to-student ratio of 1:250, and the national average remains 1:385. Approximately 20% of adolescents experience a mental health disorder annually, and schools are the most common point of first access to mental health care for adolescents.

SECTION 3. The grant program shall: 1) Authorize $10 billion in grants over five fiscal years to public school districts for hiring and retaining licensed school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers; 2) Prioritize districts in which the ratio of mental health professionals to students exceeds the nationally recommended ratio; 3) Permit funds to be used for evidence-based early intervention programs, mental health screening and referral systems, and crisis response staffing; 4) Require grant recipients to report annually on staffing ratios, service utilization, and student outcomes.

SECTION 4. Nothing in this bill shall require states or school districts to adopt the program; participation shall be voluntary.

SECTION 5. The Department of Education shall publish regulations implementing this bill within 90 days of passage.

SECTION 6. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

SECTION 7. This bill shall take effect on the first day of the fiscal year following passage.

Respectfully submitted by Pittsburgh District Committee

#6

A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND INTERNATIONAL FINANCING FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

WHEREAS, the United Nations Environment Programme estimates the annual climate adaptation funding gap for developing nations exceeds $194 billion, while current international adaptation finance flows remain far below that need;

WHEREAS, the nations least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions disproportionately bear the costs of sea-level rise, drought, extreme heat, and intensified storms;

WHEREAS, climate-driven displacement is projected to affect tens of millions of people by 2050, straining regional stability and international humanitarian systems;

WHEREAS, the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage established emains undercapitalized relative to projected need;

Resolved by the Congress here assembled, That the United States should substantially increase its financial contribution to international climate adaptation mechanisms, including the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and the Green Climate Fund, and should lead multilateral efforts to establish predictable, annually assessed contributions from high-emission developed nations.

Respectfully submitted by the Pittsburgh District Committee

#7

A RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE AND DATA-SHARING FRAMEWORK

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that delayed detection and restricted sharing of pathogen data allow localized outbreaks to become global crises;

Whereas, the World Health Organization's Pandemic Agreement negotiations have been hampered by disputes over pathogen access, benefit-sharing, and national sovereignty;

Whereas, no binding international framework currently requires timely notification and genetic sequencing data sharing for novel pathogens;

Whereas, global investment in pandemic preparedness is estimated by the G20 to fall tens of billions of dollars short of need annually;

Resolved by the Congress here assembled, That the United States should support the establishment of a binding international framework requiring participating nations to rapidly report and share genetic sequencing data on novel pathogens of pandemic potential, and should expand funding for the WHO's global outbreak surveillance infrastructure.

Respectfully submitted by Pittsburgh District Committee

#8

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A FEDERAL POLLINATOR HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

BE IT ENACTED by the Congress here assembled that:

SECTION 1. The United States Department of Agriculture shall establish the National Pollinator Recovery Grant Program to restore pollinator habitat on agricultural lands and reduce threats to managed and wild pollinator populations.

SECTION 2. Pollinators, including honeybees, native bees, butterflies, and other insects, are essential to the reproduction of approximately 75% of flowering plants and roughly one-third of crop production in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that colony collapse disorder and related stressors have caused annual managed honeybee colony losses frequently exceeding 40%, well above sustainable levels. More than half of native bee species in North America for which sufficient data exist are documented to be in decline, with several species listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Loss of habitat, pesticide exposure, disease, and climate change are the leading documented drivers of pollinator decline.

SECTION 3. The grant program shall: 1) Authorize $1.5 billion in grants over five fiscal years to farmers, ranchers, and landowners who convert qualifying portions of agricultural land into pollinator habitat, including native flowering buffer strips, hedgerows, and cover cropping; 2) Provide technical assistance through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for habitat design and native seed selection; 3) Fund research through land-grant universities into integrated pest management practices that reduce reliance on pesticides harmful to pollinators; 4) Prioritize grants in regions with documented pollinator population declines and high agricultural dependence on pollination services.

SECTION 4. Participation shall be voluntary, and no grant recipient shall be required to discontinue agricultural production; habitat conversion shall occur only on enrolled acreage.

SECTION 5. Nothing in this bill shall amend, restrict, or supersede existing pesticide registration and labeling requirements under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

SECTION 6. The Department of Agriculture shall publish regulations implementing this bill within 90 days of passage and shall report annually to Congress on acreage enrolled, pollinator population trends in program counties, and cost-effectiveness.

SECTION 7. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

SECTION 8. This bill shall take effect on the first day of the fiscal year following passage.

Respectfully submitted by Pittsburgh District Committee