



TFA Spring 2020 Legislative Docket

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Spring 2020 Item 1: A Bill to Implement a Firearm Owner Certification System to Decrease Gun Violence

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government will institute a federal permitting
3 system requiring firearm purchasers nationwide to meet guidelines
4 established by law enforcement and healthcare professionals in order to
5 be certified as being fit to purchase and/or possess firearms.

6 **SECTION 2.** Permits are assurances issued by a government authority allowing a
7 licensee to buy, own, possess, or carry a firearm. Permits are specific to
8 firearm types and subtypes established by US criminal justice code §921.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Firearm Owner Certification System would be overseen by the
10 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

11 A. Guidelines for certification would be established by the Federal
12 Bureau of Investigation (FBI) with cooperation from the Substance
13 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and
14 National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

15 B. State agencies will create and administer a firearm safety test to
16 certify applicants' knowledge of safe handling procedures.

17 **SECTION 4.** This bill will be implemented by January 1, 2021

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jack C. Hays High School



Spring 2020 Item 2: A Resolution to Ratify CIFTA to Decrease Arms Trafficking

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Illegal transactions concerning weapons, such as guns and ammunition,
2 continue to occur across borders in Northern and Southern American
3 countries; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** Millions continue to be persecuted and killed by violence that is
5 facilitated by the illicit transfer of weapons transnationally; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The constant instances of conflict have continued to destabilize Latin
7 American countries; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** The Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in
9 Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)
10 requires parties to criminalize the illegal manufacture, import, or export
11 of high-powered weapons; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** CIFTA encourages cooperation and intelligence sharing on policy
13 initiatives to hinder the illegal trafficking of weapons; and
- 14 **WHEREAS,** Countries across Latin America who have been signatories and ratified
15 this treaty have seen decreases in their rates of gun-related crime and
16 violence; therefore, be it
- 17 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to
18 ratify CIFTA.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano West Senior High School



Spring 2020 Item 3: A Resolution to Recognize Kurdistan as a Sovereign Nation

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The Kurdish are an independent ethnic group that make up the majority of the
2 residents of Kurdistan, a region within Western Asia divided between Syria, Iraq,
3 Iran and Turkey; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The Kurds have been suppressed by the regimes their ancestral lands fall under,
5 and have suffered human rights abuses and been denied education due to
6 ethnic conflict and discrimination; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Have shown interest in forming an independent democratic government in a
8 region of autocratic regimes to escape suppression by regional governments;
9 and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** The Kurdish Peshmerga has been instrumental in combating ISIS and other
11 terror organizations and the spread of the Syrian autocracy; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** The United States has informally dealt with Kurds as a separate nation, and has
13 used their independent militias to further our agenda in the Middle East; now,
14 therefore, be it,
- 15 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States of America recognize
16 Kurdistan as a sovereign nation and support the development of a stable
17 democratic government of Kurdistan through developmental and diplomatic
18 aid.



Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano Senior High School



Spring 2020 Item 4: A Resolution to Increase Funding for LIHEAP

- 1 **WHEREAS,** 1/3 of all households in the United States struggle to pay their energy
2 bills; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Energy poverty quickly leads to complete financial poverty due to unpaid
4 utility bills; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Fifteen percent of families who have their electricity cut off never have it
6 restored; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** The risk of energy poverty is increasing as the price of residential power
8 has risen eighteen percent since 2006; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Over six million households receive funding from LIHEAP to assist with
10 energy bills, saving low income families upwards of \$371 yearly; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** Elimination of LIHEAP funding would reduce energy-secure households in
12 the US by seventeen percent; and
- 13 **WHEREAS,** Of the fifteen million homes eligible for energy assistance through
14 LIHEAP, only five and a half million were helped; now, therefore, be it
- 15 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the Low-Income Home Energy
16 Assistance Program be provided an additional billion dollars in funding to
17 improve energy access for low-income families.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Byron Nelson High School



Spring 2020 Item 5: A Resolution to Protect Alaskan National Parks and Forests

1 **WHEREAS,** President Trump and his administration are trying to remove protections
2 against oil drilling and logging in Alaskan National Parks, Wildlife Refuges,
3 and Forests; and;

4 **WHEREAS,** the National Parks and Wildlife Refuges harbor and protect threatened
5 animal species, like polar bears, sea otters, seals, and caribou; and

6 **WHEREAS,** the Tongass National Forest is the largest remaining temperate rainforest
7 in the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS,** oil drilling and logging will not only displace and harm the threatened
9 animal species but also destroy a biodiverse forest unlike any other left
10 on the planet; now, therefore, be it

11 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the executive removal of
12 protections for oil drilling and logging in Alaskan National Parks, Wildlife
13 Refuges, and Forests should be blocked by the legislative branch; and, be
14 it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That similar protections are extended across National Parks,
16 Wildlife Refuges, and Forests to avoid threats of oil drilling, logging, and
17 other detrimental activities in the future.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dripping Springs High School.



Spring 2020 Item 6: A Resolution to Ban Plastic Water Bottles to Decrease Ocean Pollution

- 1 **WHEREAS,** 70% of plastic water bottles bought in the U.S. are not recycled and a
2 majority are ending up in the oceans; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Plastic water bottles are the third most commonly collected trash in the
4 ocean; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** It is estimated by 2050 that there will be more plastic water waste in the
6 ocean than fish; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** The majority of plastic water bottles are made with polyethylene
8 terephthalate (PET) which is derived from crude oil and natural gas; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** American consumption of bottled water has increased 65% from 8.3
10 billion gallons in 2006 to 13.7 billion gallons in 2017; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** A nationwide ban would lead to an estimated 68 billion fewer plastic water
12 bottles being purchased, used and discarded; and
- 13 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States shall ban the sale
14 of disposable plastic water bottles.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Clark High School



Spring 2020 Item 7: A Bill to Lower the Voting Age to Sixteen to Increase Voter Turnout

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States should lower the national voting age to sixteen in order
3 to increase voter turnout for younger voters.

4 **SECTION 2.** Though voter turnout for people ages 18 to 29 increased from 20 percent
5 in 2014 to 36 percent in 2018, voter turnout for younger voters remained
6 significantly less than the voter turnout of people ages 50 and older, who
7 saw a turnout of 53.4 percent. Studies show that allowing people to vote
8 at a younger age rather than delaying their ability to vote would have a
9 positive impact on their voting habits overall.

10 **SECTION 3.** The bill is to be enacted by Congress with the help of the Federal
11 Elections Commission in order to ensure that all minors who are eligible
12 to vote are aware of the resources available to them.

13 A. Resource awareness would include informing minors of
14 transportation options to and from polls and what information is
15 needed in order to properly register to vote.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect in June of the year 2020

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Texas City High School



Spring 2020 Item 8: The Sahel Counterterrorism Action Reform (S.C.A.R.) Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** U.S. counter-terrorism operations in the Sahel region of Africa shall be
3 restructured to prioritize regional development over military operations.

4 **SECTION 2.** Such reprioritization shall include the following reforms:

5 C. An additional \$500 million of developmental aid shall be distributed
6 annually to the Sahel to fund regional healthcare infrastructure,
7 education access, and refugee assistance programs.

8 D. Armed drone and troop deployments shall be significantly scaled back
9 over the course of five years, with the remaining military presence
10 focusing on surveillance, intelligence-gathering, and military training.

11 **SECTION 3.** USAID and the Department of Defense (DoD) shall be tasked with
12 implementing this legislation.

13 A. USAID shall work with regional NGOs and U.N. agencies to distribute
14 the aid under Section 2A.

15 B. The DoD shall submit an annual report to Congress for review
16 detailing the state of ongoing military operations under Section 2B.

17 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect in FY 2021.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Clements High School



Spring 2020 Item 9: A Resolution to Increase Alternative-to-Incarceration Programs for Nonviolent Offenders

- 1 **WHEREAS,** US courts incarcerate citizens at a rate 5 to 10 times higher than other
2 western democracies; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** The US prison population has risen more than 700% since 1970; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** Mass incarceration in the US has led to prison overcrowding and the
5 development of a privatized prison industrial complex; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Incarceration can impose tremendous impacts on individuals after
7 release that include obstacles to finding employment, securing loans, and
8 obtaining housing; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Nonviolent offenders make up more than 90 of the federal prison
10 population and roughly half of the state prison population; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The poor and people of color are disproportionately affected by mass
12 incarceration in the United States; now, therefore, be it
- 13 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that all criminal courts in the United
14 States should adopt alternative-to-incarceration programs as a first
15 option for nonviolent offenders; and
- 16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines should be
17 abolished.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by James E. Taylor High School



Spring 2020 Item 10: A Resolution to Require Firsthand Knowledge for Claims made under the Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act (ICWPA)

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act currently
2 allows whistleblowers to submit a Disclosure of Urgent Concern without
3 firsthand knowledge of the events being reported; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The ICWPA requires the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG)
5 to make a credibility determination within 14 days of receiving a
6 Disclosure of Urgent Concern even when made by a person who does not
7 possess firsthand knowledge; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Lacking a credibility determination by the ICIG the Disclosure of Urgent
9 Concern is referred to the Director of National Intelligence; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** If the DNI and ICIG cannot resolve the difference of credibility then the
11 DNI is required to immediately notify and submit a report to the
12 Congressional intelligence committees; and
- 13 **WHEREAS,** This creates a situation where Congressional intelligence committees are
14 convening a hearing to discuss issues based on second hand or hearsay
15 knowledge; therefore, be it
- 16 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that Intelligence Community
17 Whistleblower Protection Act now require any whistleblower to possess
18 firsthand knowledge before submitting a Disclosure of Urgent Concern
19 form.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellaire High School



Spring 2020 Item 11: A Bill to Combat the Rising Threat of Fentanyl

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** USC § 229(f)(8)(B) is hereby amended to read, “list of toxic chemicals.—

3 Toxic chemicals which have been identified for the application of verification
4 measures under Article VI of the Convention are listed in schedules contained in
5 the Annex on Chemicals of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In addition to
6 the Annex on Chemicals of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Department
7 of Justice, and Department of State shall treat fentanyl as a toxic chemical.”

8 **SECTION 2.** Any person who develops, produces, transfers directly or indirectly, or who
9 conspires to develop, produce, transfer directly or indirectly fentanyl shall be
10 subject to prosecution under USC § 229(a).

11 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the President by January 1 of
12 each year listing any nations that substantially fail to limit the production of
13 fentanyl, and fail to limit the distribution of fentanyl to the United States.

14 A. Any nation listed by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of this Act shall
15 be ineligible for foreign aid.

16 B. Any nation listed by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of this Act for
17 three consecutive years shall be designated as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.

18 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2021.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tascosa High School



Spring 2020 Item 12: A Resolution to Send Developmental Assistance to Nicaragua

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Nicaragua’s recent social reforms have led to mass anti-government protests
2 since early 2018; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** As a response, the Nicaraguan government used violent measures against the
4 people, resulting in upwards of 325 civilian casualties; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** The current economic status of the country is only deteriorating, with 100,000
6 people losing jobs in the private sector just in the past year alone; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Investment into Nicaragua has decreased amid the escalating violence, with
8 over 1 billion dollars being pulled out in 2018; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** The UN has accused the Ortega administration, the military, and police of
10 human rights violations, including torture and extrajudicial killings; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The Ortega administration has refused to step down before the 2021 elections;
12 and
- 13 **WHEREAS,** The United States has taken no action apart from economic sanctions, which are
14 only worsening the instability; now, therefore, be it
- 15 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that The United States send developmental
16 assistance to Nicaragua through the Economic Support Fund (ESF) in order to
17 help them combat rising poverty levels.
- 18 **FUTHER RESOLVED,** That the United States remove all economic sanctions on the country of
19 Nicaragua.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jasper High School



Spring 2020 Item 13: The Freedom Dividend Act of 2020

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All US Citizens over the age of 18 will be guaranteed Freedom Dividend
3 payments of \$1000 per month. Current welfare and social program
4 beneficiaries will be given the choice between their current benefits and
5 the Freedom Dividend. A Value Tax will be implemented for cost.

6 **SECTION 2.** The Freedom Dividend shall be defined as a government payout of 1000
7 United States Dollars per month to US Citizens over the age of 18. The
8 Value Tax will be defined as a 10% tax on the production of goods and
9 services a company produces.

10 **SECTION 3.** The US Social Security Administration in Conjunction with the IRS will be
11 responsible for the enforcement of this legislation. Go into further details
12 if necessary.

13 A. Congress will provide up to 1 Trillion Dollars per year to make up for
14 any funding not made in the Value Tax. All Value Tax funds collected
15 by the IRS will be given to the social security administration for
16 implementation.

17 **SECTION 4.** Full Implementation for this legislation is due January 1, 2021.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Northland Christian School



Spring 2020 Item 14: A Resolution to Recognize Hong Kong's Government

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Hong Kong's civilians have sought political and economic independence
2 from the People's Republic China for years on end; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** China is encroaching on Hong Kong's economic and legal autonomy as a
4 global business hub; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** China has restricted Hong Kong's political freedom and silenced pro-
6 democracy voices and organizations in the region; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Protests by Hong Kong civilians against Chinese law enforcement have
8 grown increasingly violent on both sides over the years; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Hong Kong has no official political allies aiding them in their policy
10 objectives; now, therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States formally
12 acknowledge the independent government of Hong Kong and extend
13 political support to its civilians.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Saint Mary's Hall.



Spring 2020 Item 15: A Bill to End Liability Protection for Gun Manufacturers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (15 U.S. Code Chapter 105) is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. A qualified civil liability action may be brought against firearm dealers and manufacturers in appropriate Federal and State courts.

A. Civil liability actions must stem from actions taken by the manufacturers and dealers after the enactment of this legislation.

B. All currently pending cases and/or appeals attempting to sue in contradiction of the The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act will continue to be adjudicated using the current framework of the existing law.

SECTION 4. This bill will take effect immediately upon enactment.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Spring Woods High School



Spring 2020 Item 16: A Bill to Sanction China for Human Rights Abuses

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall hereby impose economic sanctions against security
3 companies in China for their human rights abuses of the Uighur Muslims.

4 **SECTION 2.** Economic sanctions shall be defined by commercial and financial penalties
5 inflicted upon a state, group, or individual.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of State, the Department of Commerce, and the Office of Foreign
7 Asset Control shall be in charge of enforcement of this legislation.

8 **A.** Sanctions shall be subject to review if the Department of State determines that
9 China has made significant strides to decrease human rights abuses.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately after passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by A&M Consolidated HS



Spring 2020 Item 17: American Election Security Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The Federal Government shall implement the following reforms in order to combat cyberattacks and modernize voting systems.
- A. Non-Document based ballot voting machines shall be prohibited from usage in elections following implementation of this legislation.
 - B. All Voting Machines utilized in elections within the United States are required to maintain Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails.
 - C. All Voting Machines established more than 10 years prior to the election date are prohibited from utilization.
- SECTION 2.** The following definitions will apply:
- A. "Non-Document based ballot voting machines" are defined as voting machines which fail to grant voters the option of reviewing candidate selections prior to submission of the ballot and fail to contain a paper backup system for possible audits.
 - B. "Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail" is defined as a voting system which allows voter verification of candidate selections prior to ballot submission and contains a paper backup system which can be manually counted in the event of disputed results or recounts.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security and Election Assistance Commission shall work in conjunction with state and local electoral commissions in carrying out this legislation.
- A. The Multi-State Information and Analysis Center will be granted \$5 Billion for the purpose of improving inter-state communications regarding cybersecurity and foreign interference in state voting systems.
 - B. The Department of Homeland Security will be allocated \$25 Billion and granted responsibility of allocating funds to state and local election commissions to assist implementation of this legislation.
 - C. The Election Assistance Commission shall be tasked with the approval of voting machines permitted under this legislation.
- SECTION 4.** This bill will be implemented immediately upon its passage.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Obra D. Tompkins High School



Spring 2020 Item 18: A Resolution to Remove US Troops from Afghanistan

- 1 **WHEREAS,** There are 14,000 US troops within Afghanistan; and
- 2 **WHEREAS,** US troops are being used as propaganda for the Taliban; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Since the end of President Obama's final term to President Donald Trump
- 4 current term, these administrations have promised to remove troops
- 5 from Afghanistan; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The War in Afghanistan has cost taxpayers \$45 billion dollars per year;
- 7 and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** 8% of the half-million who served in Afghanistan and Iraq have been
- 9 diagnosed with PTSD; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that US troops will be removed from
- 11 Afghanistan by January 1, 2021.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano Senior High School



Spring 2020 Item 19: The Immigration Coordination & Efficiency (I.C.E.) Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall reallocate resources from border control to
3 immigration courts for the purpose of increasing court efficiency.

4 **SECTION 2.** Border control is defined as measures adopted by the U.S. to regulate
5 and monitor immigration and traffic along the U.S.-Mexico border.

6 E. \$100 million shall be removed from the annual Customs and Border
7 Protection (CBP) budget.

8 F. The money from Section 2A shall be reallocated into the annual
9 Executive Office for Immigration Review budget to fund the
10 acquisition of new immigration justices and support staff.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of
12 Justice (DoJ) shall be tasked with the implementation of this bill.

13 A. The DHS shall reorganize the remaining CBP budget to reflect on the
14 changes made in Section 2A.

15 B. The DoJ shall oversee the implementation of Section 2B.

16 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect in FY 2021.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Clements High School



Spring 2020 Item 20: A Resolution to Secure the Amazon

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The Amazon rainforest represents one of the greatest natural barriers on
2 earth to the impending global climate crisis caused by climate change;
3 and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The Amazon contains one of the richest areas of biodiversity on the
5 planet; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Further unrestrained deforestation in the Amazon will lead to a dieback
7 in which the forest turns into a Savannah, thereby releasing vast
8 quantities of CO₂ into the atmosphere; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Current slash-and-burn techniques ravage remaining forest areas in the
10 Amazon, put indigenous populations in grave danger, and further
11 contribute to the climate crisis by releasing great quantities of CO₂; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** Brazil is currently unwilling and unable to enforce environmental laws
13 aimed at protecting the Amazon, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro
14 has shown antipathy towards the destruction of the Amazon; and
- 15 **WHEREAS,** The destruction of the Amazon represents a clear national security
16 concern; now, therefore, be it
- 17 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States formally declare
18 the destruction of the Amazon a threat to national security; and, be it
- 19 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That Congress encourage the President to deploy U.S. military
20 forces to secure the Amazon from the ravages of man-made
21 deforestation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Tascosa High School.



Spring 2020 Item 21: A Bill to Declare Puerto Rico as an Autonomous State

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Puerto Rico shall hereby be independent from the United States and will
3 be recognized as an autonomous state. The United States will continue
4 sending disaster relief for Puerto Rico and engage in open trade with the
5 country to spur economic growth. The U.S. will also forgive all debt owed
6 by Puerto Rico.

7 **SECTION 2.** An Autonomous State shall be defined as a country that is sovereign.
8 Disaster relief shall be defined, but not limited to, aid sent for the
9 purpose of repairing infrastructure due to storms within the past five
10 years. Debt shall be defined as money owed specifically to the United
11 States.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Commerce, Department of Treasury, and Department
13 of State shall be tasked with the implementation of this bill.

14 A. The Department of Commerce shall hereby forgive all debt owed to
15 the United States by Puerto Rico and engage in open trade with
16 Puerto Rico.

17 B. The Department of Treasury will provide foreign aid for the country of
18 Puerto Rico.

19 C. The Department of State will oversee the secession of Puerto Rico
20 from the United States.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect in the year 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hebron High School.



Spring 2020 Item 22: A Bill to Transition the Fracking Industry to Enhanced Oil Recovery Technologies

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Over a five year transition period, companies engaged in hydraulic
3 fracking in the United States will transition from fluid-based recovery
4 technologies to enhanced oil recovery technologies.

5 **SECTION 2.** Enhanced oil technologies include the use of CO₂ and/or steam to
6 recover oil and gas from depleted wells.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy will oversee the implementation of this
8 transition in the fracking industry.

9 A. Companies will have five years to end the use of water/chemical
10 injection and transition to enhanced oil recovery technologies.

11 B. All fracking activities will require a state issued permit.

12 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2021, with transition to new
13 technologies to be completed by January 1, 2026.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by James E. Taylor High School



Spring 2020 Item 23: A Resolution to Impose Secondary Sanctions on Entities Trading With North Korea

1 **WHEREAS,** North Korea has been actively developing their nuclear weapons, ballistic
2 missiles, and chemical and biological weapon capabilities; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Current diplomatic efforts by the U.S. and the international community
4 have not resulted in North Korea taking concrete steps towards
5 denuclearization; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Illicit trade between North Korea and international countries have
7 undermined U.S. sanctions efforts; and

8 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. defines secondary sanctions as sanctions placed on a third party
9 country that continues to maintain economic relations with the primary
10 country; and

11 **WHEREAS,** Secondary sanctions imposed in the past have been successful at bringing
12 countries such as Iran to the negotiating table; now, therefore, be it

13 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States should impose
14 secondary sanctions onto any and all entities that conduct trade with
15 North Korea.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano West Senior High School



Spring 2020 Item 24: A Resolution to Increase Rehabilitative Services to Decrease Recidivism

1 **WHEREAS,** the United States has one of the highest recidivism rates in the world
2 with 76.6% of prisoners re-arrested within 5 years; and

3 **WHEREAS,** harsh prison sentences and cruel treatments do not decrease the
4 likelihood a criminal will commit a crime again; and

5 **WHEREAS,** many repeat offenses are attributed to untreated mental health or
6 substance abuse issues suffered by the offender; and

7 **WHEREAS,** prisoner rehabilitation programs have shown success in reducing the
8 recidivism rate of those who complete them; now, therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States Federal
10 Government should increase funding and oversight of federal prisons'
11 rehabilitation programs.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jack C. Hays High School



Spring 2020 Item 25: A Bill to Establish Mental Health Care Programs within Prisons

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All federal prisons are required to establish accessible mental health
3 programs.

4 **SECTION 2.** “Mental health program” shall be defined as a program that utilizes
5 psychotherapeutic and medical treatments in order to remedy the
6 mental health issues of patients. “Accessible” shall be defined as being
7 able to be accessed at least once a week.

8 **SECTION 3.** The IRS shall levy an additional 5% corporate tax on all private prison
9 corporations in the United States in order to finance this legislation. The
10 Bureau of Prisons (BOP) will be responsible for implementation and
11 enforcement.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Stratford High School



Spring 2020 Item 26: A Resolution to Prohibit Undercover Policing

1 **WHEREAS,** Undercover, or plainclothes, policing is a common practice in police
2 precincts in the United States; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Undercover officers are subject to less oversight from the public and the
4 courts than regular police officers; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Due to a lack of oversight, investigations may commit violations of
6 Americans' privacy with no real benefit to public safety; and

7 **WHEREAS,** There is potential for law enforcement to discriminate data collection
8 based on factors such as race, sex, political positions, and personal
9 vendettas; and

10 **WHEREAS,** Law enforcement agents and police officers have even, in some cases,
11 impersonated individuals online without consent; and

12 **WHEREAS,** Attempts to monitor and limit undercover policing operations are difficult
13 because of their secretive nature; now, therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that undercover policing shall be
15 prohibited in the United States and all its territories and jurisdictions.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lawrence E. Elkins High School



Spring 2020 Item 27: The Armament Restriction Management System (ARMS) Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government shall restrict arms sales to specific countries to
3 varying degrees.

4 **SECTION 2.** Arms will be defined as weapons of warfare that can be used for offensive,
5 defensive, and intelligence purposes. This legislation designates specific ranks
6 for countries and classes for arms.

7 A. The Arms Classification System (ACS) will utilize the following criteria:

8 a. Class 1 arms will include handheld weapons such as handguns and rifles;
9 small explosives such as handheld grenades, flares, shoulder mounted
10 rocket launchers and Rocket Propelled Grenades; and body armor.

11 b. Class 2 arms will include tanks, armored transport vehicles, short range
12 ballistic missiles, drones, and radar detection technologies.

13 c. Class 3 arms will include US intelligence access, warships, fighter jets,
14 cyberweapons, cruise missiles, Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles,
15 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, stealth and spy technologies, and
16 naval navigation systems.

17 B. The Country Ranking System (CRS) will be based on a ranking system
18 ranging from 0-3. A country with a rank of 0 cannot conduct arms sales with
19 the US. Rank 1 countries can buy class 1 arms, rank 2 countries can buy class
20 1 and 2 arms, and rank 3 countries can purchase all 3 classes of arms.

21 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense (DoD) will be tasked with the ranking of countries
22 based off countries' current needs and actions. The DoD can propose a change
23 regarding the rank and classification of countries at any time for any reason.

24 A. The DoD will be tasked with maintaining a list of which arms fall under
25 which class.

26 B. Changes made by the DoD will be confirmed by a simple Senate majority.

27 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect in the fiscal year 2021.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jasper High School



Spring 2020 Item 28: A Resolution to Recognize Native American Genocide in the United States

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Genocide is defined by the UN as “acts committed with intent to destroy,
2 in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group”; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** on the international stage, the United States can’t morally criticize other
4 nations for their acts of genocide when it refuses to recognize its own;
5 and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** since its founding the United States has sought to erase Native cultures
7 for its own gain; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Native territories were stolen and their societies destroyed to make way
9 for white settlement; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** Native populations were decimated by the United States, through forced
11 relocation, aggressive assimilation, and outright murder; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** Native Americans still endure widespread marginalization and oppression
13 in our nation; and
- 14 **WHEREAS,** The United States need to take responsibility for its transgressions and
15 heal its relationship with the Native American community; now,
16 therefore, be it
- 17 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that United States recognizes the
18 genocide it committed against Native Americans populations.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Earl Warren High School



Spring 2020 Item 29: A Bill to Restore Aid to the Northern Triangle

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Restore the \$450 million in aid for the Northern Triangle countries of
3 Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador and divert an additional \$50
4 million in aid to the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity (A4P).

5 **SECTION 2** **A.** This aid includes but is not limited to developmental and humanitarian
6 aid that was frozen in April of 2019, foreign assistance programs, funding
7 for non-governmental organization programs, and the reinstatement of
8 joint law enforcement efforts such anti-gang units.

9 **B.** The Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity (A4P) is a development Bank that
10 offers financial and technical support for countries working to reduce
11 poverty and inequality, improve health and education, and advance
12 infrastructure.

13 **SECTION 3.** The State Department will oversee the implementation of this legislation.

14 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Saint Mary's Hall.



Spring 2020 Item 30: A Bill to Institute Human Trafficking Education across the American Workplace

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Human trafficking education and awareness training will be a required
3 curriculum instituted across all American workplaces.

4 **SECTION 2.** Human trafficking education and awareness training will be defined as
5 the video curriculum “Be The One” created by the Office of the Texas
6 Attorney General. American workplaces will be defined as all workplaces
7 in the United States as well as ones physically based in other countries
8 but headquartered in the United States

9 **SECTION 3.** The US Department of Labor will oversee the enforcement of the bill.

10 A. Within 1 year of the implementation of this legislation, companies will
11 need to report to the Department of Labor that the film was shown to all
12 employees, under the penalty of perjury.

13 B. The training is required to take place annually, which shall be
14 documented in an annual report to the Department of Labor.

15 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dripping Springs High School.