

**North Allegheny  
Congress**

**12 January 2013**

**A Resolution to Require Students to Begin Learning a Foreign Language by 1<sup>st</sup> grade**

1 WHEREAS: Children who have studied a foreign language in elementary school achieve higher  
2 scores on standardized tests in reading, language arts, and mathematics than those who have not.

3 WHEREAS: Brain researchers have discovered that a window of opportunity exists for optimal foreign  
4 language acquisition which diminishes after the age of 10.

5 WHEREAS: According to research from the University of Washington. It has already been  
6 established that children who learn a language when they are very young have a much better chance  
7 of not having a "foreign" accent when speaking another language.

8 WHEREAS: When done correctly, foreign language instruction uses themes that support the  
9 elementary curriculum including math, science, social studies and language arts.

10 WHEREAS: Whereas 52.7% of Europeans are fluent in both their native tongue and at least one  
11 other language, only 9.3% of Americans are fluent in both their native tongue and another language.  
12 This statistic does not bode well for the future of America in a global society.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the student congress assembled that all students should begin  
14 learning a foreign language by 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

**A Resolution to Mandate Environmental Education in All Public Schools in the US**

1 Whereas: Children ought to be knowledgeable about the planet and its resources.

2 Whereas: To improve the welfare of the world, the standing of the environment needs to be improved  
3 in the minds of America's youth.

4 Whereas: Similar mandates in health education have continued to bear fruit.

5 Whereas: A more environmentally aware public would reduce unneeded energy consumption among  
6 all Americans.

7 Whereas: Such measures would also reduce CO2 emissions into the atmosphere.

8 Whereas: A more environmentally aware public would also reduce waste, to improve the cleanliness  
9 of our nation and other nations' cities.

10 Whereas: Such conservation would eventually reduce the cost of landfills, by-products of waste,  
11 taking less money out of the taxpayer's pocket.

12 Whereas: Promoting a healthier and cleaner lifestyle within all people in the US will eventually reduce  
13 the obesity rate.

14 Whereas: Cleaner air and water have led to better performance on standardized tests.

15 THEREFORE: Let it be resolved by the student congress here assembled that a resolution to  
16 mandate environmental education in all public schools in the US be brought into effect immediately.

# 3

## **A Resolution to Implement School Uniforms**

1 Whereas: School Uniforms are cheaper than regular clothes. According to USA Today, parents spent  
2 an average of \$185 per child purchasing non-uniform clothing in 1998, compared to an average of  
3 \$104 spent per child to purchase school uniforms.

4 Whereas: School Uniforms provide fewer distractions in the classroom

5 Whereas: School Uniforms look more professional for the school

6 Whereas: School Uniforms prevent bullying

7 Whereas: School Uniforms result in fewer assaults. Since the Long Beach Unified School District in  
8 California implemented a system-wide mandatory uniform policy in 1994, assaults have decreased by  
9 85 percent

10 Whereas: School Uniforms provide a better atmosphere at school

11 Whereas: It is estimated that 23 percent of American elementary schools and half that many middle  
12 and high schools have uniform requirements.

13 Therefore be it resolved that school uniforms should be implemented in all schools nationwide.

**A Resolution to Abolish the Scholastic Aptitude Test**

1 WHEREAS: It is only one factor that colleges use for college applications.

2 WHEREAS: According to the online higher education organization labeled "Inside Higher Education,  
3 the scores of the SATs are culturally biased, seeing as the average score on the reading part of the  
4 SAT was 429 for African American students last year, 99 points behind the average for white  
5 students.

6 WHEREAS: Many colleges that rely on SATs may be less comfortable doing so amid allegations that  
7 it is biased against test-takers of varying ethnicities.

8 WHEREAS: In 2009, the highest average score of all (1702) was posted by students who said their  
9 families earned more than \$200,000 a year. Students who reported family incomes of less than  
10 \$20,000 a year averaged 1321, and this gap remains as wide in the year 2012.

11 WHEREAS: The racial inequality of the SAT is a large cause for it not to be a deciding factor for  
12 colleges.

13 WHEREAS: A weaker measure of success in college compared to the measure of grades. According  
14 to a study done by Harvard social policy professor Christopher Jencks, the SAT was originally  
15 designed to measure aptitude and biological intelligence. It was to be used to identify slow learners  
16 so that teachers could give them special attention.

17 WHEREAS: The College Board has redesigned this to not measure an innate ability, but to be a test  
18 of what students learn inside and outside of school. But psychologist Claude Steele pointed out that  
19 the test has been found to measure only about 18 percent of the things that it takes to do well in  
20 school, and thus is not a very good predictor of how a student will do in college. "The SAT is not  
21 going to get you very far with predicting who's going to do well in college," he told FRONTLINE.

22 WHEREAS: It causes undo stress for students who study for the test so that they can get into a good  
23 college.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here assembled that: the Scholastic  
25 Aptitude Test be abolished.

**A Resolution to Increase the Government's Investment in the Education of US Children**

1 WHEREAS: The United States Department of Education has been requested \$69.8 billion in funding  
2 for education in 2013, a 2.5% increase from the 2012 fund.

3 WHEREAS: The President plans to submit a \$14 billion investment in key reform areas.

4 WHEREAS: Compared to other countries, the USA does not invest enough and is falling behind in its  
5 funding of education.

6 WHEREAS: Although the USA does have a nearly 16 trillion dollar debt, it is necessary to take action  
7 to increase funds in education.

8 WHEREAS: Sweden and other countries have increased their GDP and have also increased their  
9 funds toward education, and the United States could do the same.

10 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Some funds in energy or infrastructure can be lessened and thus  
11 increase the amount towards education.

# 6

## **Resolution to Change Current School Year to an All-Year School System**

1 WHEREAS: Summer vacation is unnecessary in today's urban society.

2 WHEREAS: Most students lose much of the knowledge they learned over the past school year.

3 WHEREAS: School has no control over students during the summer, resulting in bullying during the  
4 summer.

5 WHEREAS: Students have less vacation as opposed to all-year school, in which students can have  
6 more breaks, but still remember more.

7 WHEREAS: The U.S. has fallen behind the world in educational standards.

8 WHEREAS: Lack of advanced educational system results in less skilled members of the future  
9 workforce.

10 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress that the current school year must be  
11 converted to an all year school system.

**A Resolution to Fund Drug & Tobacco Education in Public Schools**

- 1 WHEREAS: Tobacco and Drug usage has become increasingly prevalent in popular culture, and
- 2 WHEREAS: Adolescents are beginning to look up to, and emulate popular figures who use harmful  
3 substances such as Amy Winehouse, and
- 4 WHEREAS: According to the New York Times, tobacco is considered to be a gateway drug to a  
5 future of substance abuse, and
- 6 WHEREAS: According to the Health Affairs, there is an annual death toll of 440,000 people in the US  
7 and 8 million people worldwide due to tobacco-related illnesses, and
- 8 WHEREAS: As reported by the CDC, only 50% of smokers receive advice against substance abuse,  
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS: Such advice will further insure the safety of our citizens,
- 11 Therefore, be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that tobacco and drug education in  
12 public schools should be funded.



**A Resolution to have school holidays on an impartial basis**

- 1 Whereas: Ethnic minorities' holidays are not acknowledged by schools
- 2 Whereas: Holidays such as Christmas are not more important than that of minority holidays, such as
- 3 Diwali
- 4 Whereas: Students should not be forced to attend school on spiritually important holidays
- 5 Therefore, be it resolved that schools must recognize all religious holidays and distribute school
- 6 holidays fairly throughout all religions

**A Resolution to Regulate the Amount of Assigned Homework in Schools**

1 WHEREAS: Students are overworked and do not have time to finish homework with all of their other  
2 activities.

3 WHEREAS: The amount of homework given hinders the amount of sleep students get each night.

4 WHEREAS: Much homework increases the students' stress to unhealthy levels.

5 WHEREAS: The amount of homework inhibits students' from getting a job or enjoying other life  
6 experiences.

7 WHEREAS: Excessive homework limits students' motivation to learn during the school day.

8 WHEREAS: Research shows that homework and high achievement are not conclusive or linked.

9 Therefore, be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that the amount of homework  
10 assigned in schools be regulated.

# 10

## **A Resolution on Lowering the Drinking Age**

- 1 Whereas: European teens can drink upon parents' discretion
- 2 Whereas: Reduce the crime rate and probability of teens ingesting alcohol illegally and
- 3 Whereas: Kids could be required to take an alcohol abuse prevention class before they are able to
- 4 purchase alcohol
- 5 Whereas: Some types of alcohol have benefits, such as red and white wine, and drinking these at an
- 6 earlier age would promote heart health
- 7 Whereas: Alcohol abuse prevention classes would help prevent binge drinking, which is one of the
- 8 largest dangers to teens and college students.
- 9 Therefore, let it be resolved that the legal drinking age in the U.S. should be reduced to 16

**A Resolution to Pass a Gasoline Tax**

1 WHEREAS: The U.S. spends millions of dollars a day for oil, approximately 115,000 thousand  
2 barrels of oil a month from OPEC countries

3 WHEREAS: Major suppliers of U.S. oil include countries like Saudi Arabia which limit freedoms and  
4 prevent the spread of democracy

5 WHEREAS: Oil is the main component of gasoline

6 WHEREAS: The burning of gasoline has been proved to release greenhouse gases that accelerate  
7 the process of global warming

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here assembled that a gasoline tax  
9 should be enacted that goes to the government.

10 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, for purposes of investment in clean green energy sources  
11 for energy independence in the future. 40% of the funds will go to nuclear energy, and 60% of funds  
12 will go to other sources of investment.

## **A Resolution to Increase the Usage of the Death Penalty.**

- 1 Whereas: The United States had more than 7 million adult citizens under correctional supervision as
- 2 of 2009 and
- 3 Whereas: the number of Life Sentences has increased by 83% between 1992 and 2003 and
- 4 Whereas: In 2009 it cost an average of \$47,102 a year to incarcerate an inmate in state prison and
- 5 from 2001 to 2009, the average annual cost increased by about \$19,500.
- 6 Let it be resolved that the United States begin using the death penalty for 50% more violent criminals.

**A Resolution to Abolish the Penny**

1 WHEREAS: The price of raw materials exceeds the face value, so the cost to make a penny is worth  
2 more than the penny itself. It costs the U.S Mint 1.26 cents to make a one cent coin, meaning that  
3 taxpayers are losing .26 of a cent for each one of the 7.4 billion pennies produced each year.

4 WHEREAS: The miniscule penny holds dangers if swallowed by people unlike other coins, the zinc  
5 and copper digested from the lodged pennies may be toxic.

6 WHEREAS: Eliminating the penny will not impose a rounded tax on consumers, it will have a  
7 negligible impact on inflation and on convenience store costs and profits, but it will save time for  
8 customers and clerks, which may be worth about \$730 million per year.

9 WHEREAS: The U.S Mint makes an average of 20.27 million pennies per day to produce its 7.4  
10 billion penny annual output. If the penny is abolished, the U.S Mint would only have to do about half  
11 of the work, also the average American wastes 2.4 hours a year handling pennies.

12 WHEREAS: The penny is a hassle to have on hand and many people throw away pennies or do not  
13 reuse them. They do not like to have change in their pockets, basically it just wastes money. There is  
14 also a limited utility use for pennies, because most vending machines do not accept them.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here assembled that: The penny be  
16 abolished and the circulation of making the penny should be ceased.

**A Bill to Ban Altering Photos of Models**

- 1 WHEREAS: Humans, especially female teenagers, are given a misconception of beauty.
- 2 WHEREAS: People starve and diet to achieve a fake image in which they are never able to achieve  
3 in the pictures they see.
- 4 WHEREAS: Teenagers and adults perceive that being skinny and not healthy is the appropriate way  
5 to live life.
- 6 WHEREAS: Altering photos of models is used to give a fake impression of beauty.
- 7 WHEREAS: Unnatural beauty is not what people should be trying to achieve.
- 8 Therefore, be it resolved that government should make altering photos of models illegal.

**A Resolution to Tax the Fast Food Industry**

1 WHEREAS: 40 percent of American meals are bought and consumed outside of the home.

2 WHEREAS: From 1972 to today, there has been an increase of 107 billion dollars towards  
3 purchasing fast food.

4 WHEREAS: Millions of youths and adults have become addicted to the chemically enhanced junk  
5 food served in fast-food restaurants.

6 WHEREAS: 60 percent of Americans are either overweight or obese.

7 WHEREAS: A tax would provide disincentive for people to eat at fast food restaurants.

8 WHEREAS: A tax on junk food and beverages would help pay for the collateral damages of this  
9 industry.

10 THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that a tax be imposed on the  
11 fast food industry.



**A Resolution to Implement a Tax on Unhealthy Food**

1 WHEREAS: "Junk" food diets contain dangerous amounts of fat, energy, sugar, and salt contents,  
2 and

3 WHEREAS: Combined with lack of exercise, unhealthy foods can lead to obesity, which increases  
4 risk of heart disease, strokes and other cardiovascular problems, and

5 WHEREAS: Consuming the significant amount of sodium that exists in unhealthy foods can lead to  
6 increased risk of high blood pressure, and

7 WHEREAS: As of 2012, 68.8% of American adults are overweight or obese, while 31.8% of children  
8 and adolescents are overweight or obese, and

9 WHEREAS: Junk food snacks and sugared soft drinks wash away protective teeth enamel, leading to  
10 corrosive cavities and tooth decay;

11 WHEREAS: Unhealthy foods are often cheaper than healthy foods, acting as an incentive to buy  
12 them, and

13 WHEREAS: Taxes are a negative incentive and will implement an extra burden on people buying  
14 unhealthy foods while encouraging them to buy healthy, untaxed foods, and

15 WHEREAS: The money raised from these taxes could be used to further encourage healthy lifestyles  
16 and diets.

17 THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that the United States  
18 government should implement a tax on unhealthy foods.

## **A Resolution Banning and Taxing Soft Drinks**

1 Whereas: The Obesity epidemic in the United States has gotten out of control

2 Whereas: 41% of children ages 2-11 drink at least one soda or other sugar-sweetened beverage  
3 every day.

4 Whereas: The average American consumes 22 teaspoons of added sugar a day, vs the  
5 recommended 5-9.

6 Whereas: Almost half of the additional calories growth in our diet since the 1970's comes from soda.

7 Whereas Soda is the number one source of added sugar in the American Diet.

8 Whereas: More than one-third (35.7%) of U.S. adults are obese.

9 Whereas: A penny-per-ounce excise tax could reduce consumption of sugared sodas by more than  
10 10%.

11 Whereas: Obesity raises the risk of numerous diseases, from type 2 diabetes to endometrial cancer,  
12 meaning more sick people and higher medical costs in the future

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here assembled that the United States  
14 should ban all soft drinks more than 16 ounces a cup in restaurants, movie theaters, stadiums and  
15 arenas, and should tax soft drinks sold in other locations at a penny per ounce.

**A Resolution to Ban Genetically Modified Foods**

- 1 WHEREAS: Integrating Genetically Modified crops with non-modified products impedes labeling  
2 attempts
- 3 WHEREAS: There runs the risk of unintentional contamination by genetically modified foods
- 4 WHEREAS: Genetic modification diminishes the nutrient content of a crop
- 5 WHEREAS: Genetic modification runs the risk of creating superweeds
- 6 WHEREAS: Genetic modification has a chance of create crops resistant to antibiotics
- 7 WHEREAS: Genetic modification could introduce allergens or toxins to crops
- 8 WHEREAS: Genetic modification creates trade imbalance by promoting rich countries and denying  
9 the right of poor farmers to sell their goods
- 10 WHEREAS: Frankenfoods are banned in Algeria, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, Japan, 11  
11 Philippines, The European Union, Norway, Austria, Germany United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Greece,  
12 France, Luxembourg, Portugal, Brazil, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji,  
13 Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa,  
14 Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Australia, and New Zealand
- 15 WHEREAS: Genetic modification could have major environmental consequences, including:  
16 unintended transfer 16 of transgenes through cross-pollination, unknown effects on other organisms  
17 (e.g., soil microbes), and loss of flora and fauna biodiversity
- 18 WHEREAS: Foreign exploitation of natural resources such as bio-piracy may occur
- 19 WHEREAS: Morality must be taken into consideration such as the violation of natural organisms'  
20 intrinsic values and tampering with nature by mixing genes among species

## **A Resolution to Ban Genetically Engineered Foods**

1 WHEREAS: Genetically Engineered (GE) food is an expensive technology that the farmers of the  
2 developing nations would not be able to afford easily.

3 WHEREAS: Patenting laws go against the poor around the world and allow biotech companies to  
4 benefit from patenting indigenous knowledge often without consent.

5 WHEREAS: This is a very young and untested technology and may not be the answer just yet.

6 WHEREAS: Crop uniformity, which the biotech firms are promoting, will reduce genetic diversity  
7 making them more vulnerable to disease and pests. This furthers the need for pesticides (often  
8 created by the same companies creating and promoting genetically engineered crops).

9 WHEREAS: Food items that contain GMOs are unlabeled in America.

10 WHEREAS: GMOs require massive amounts of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. These things  
11 are poisons, and should not be eaten or allowed to run off into our water supply.

12 WHEREAS: GM crops and their associated herbicides can harm birds, insects, amphibians, marine  
13 ecosystems, and soil organisms.

14 Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that Genetically Engineered foods  
15 should be banned in the U.S.

**A Resolution to Send Military Troops to Intervene in Syria to Oust the Assad Regime**

1 WHEREAS: The United States military is the greatest military force in the world,

2 WHEREAS: The Civil War in Syria has reached a death toll of more than 33,000 civilians, with no  
3 signs of stopping

4 WHEREAS: Bashar al-Assad has become an oppressive tyrant, and his strikes against his own  
5 people go against everything the United States believes

6 WHEREAS: United Nations efforts to intervene have proved to be fruitless, as multiple attempts to  
7 pass resolutions to help have been vetoed

8 WHEREAS: Intervention techniques have proven to be successful in other countries such as Libya  
9 and Egypt

10 THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the student congress here assembled allow US troops to conduct  
11 military operations on Syrian soil.

**A Resolution for the United States to Withdraw from the United Nations**

1 WHEREAS: America pays 20 percent of the United Nations' regular budget and about a third of its  
2 peacekeeping budget,

3 WHEREAS: American troops serving as globocops for the UN become targets for criminals and  
4 terrorists through intervention

5 WHEREAS: The UN is a war organization, not a peace organization.

6 WHEREAS: Article 42 of the UN Charter claims authority to “take such action by air, sea, or land  
7 forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.”

8 WHEREAS: The UN does not support American ideals.

9 WHEREAS: The UN’s goal is to reduce population selectively by encouraging abortion, sterilization,  
10 and controlled human breeding.

11 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here assembled that the United States  
12 should withdraw from the United Nations.

**A Resolution to Reduce Defense Spending**

1 WHEREAS: 964.8 billion dollars were spent on Defense last year, making up about 25% of the total  
2 expenditures by the United States

3 WHEREAS: The United States spends more on Defense than the next 13 countries combined,

4 WHEREAS: The United States is currently in a fiscal debt crisis, amounting 16.654 trillion dollars,

5 WHEREAS: The US is experiencing an increasing necessity to make budget cuts,

6 WHEREAS: A focus on other areas of spending besides defense would expedite the United States'  
7 economic recovery,

8 WHEREAS: International military operations conducted by the U.S.'s Military are generating  
9 worldwide hostility towards the United States of America,

10 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that the  
11 United States of America reduce Defense spending.