

North Allegheny Bills / Resolutions 9 January 2016

Note: Students are permitted to have computer access at this tournament. Students may save these bills / resolutions to their computers in lieu of printing them.

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE MERIT PAY FOR STUDENTS

1 WHEREAS: The education of the youth in the U. S. is being surpassed by other
2 developed nations; and

3 WHEREAS: According to the Programme for International Student Assessment by the
4 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the U.S. was ranked 35 out
5 of 57 countries in mathematics and 29 out of 57 countries in science; and

6 WHEREAS: In order to compete in today's society our educational system must be
7 ameliorated; and

8 WHEREAS: U.S. spending per pupil has doubled in the past three decades, while
9 student achievement measures such as high-school graduation rates have not
10 demonstrated an appreciable rise; and

11 WHEREAS: In states in which merit pay has been instituted, student grade percentiles
12 have risen 9 to 13 percent as shown in Chicago inner-city public schools;

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

14 ASSEMBLED THAT all public school systems within the United States adopt a merit
15 pay system in order to encourage an improvement in student learning.

A RESOLUTION TO MANDATE SCHOOL UNIFORMS

1 WHEREAS: Students are often bullied over outfit choice, a common uniform should be
2 established to prevent such issues from happening

3 WHEREAS: Students could be placed in danger due to symbols and associations with
4 violence; school uniforms can eliminate these incidents.

5 WHEREAS: Clothing choice divides students into “cliques,” wearing school uniforms will
6 not divide the student population based on clothing choice, and

7 WHEREAS: Students will not be mistreated by peers because of clothing
8 choices/cliques

9 WHEREAS: Financial bias and injustice will occur, a common clothing choice will
10 eliminate the inequality.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

12 ASSEMBLED THAT each district in the US develop a common uniform

A RESOLUTION TO MANDATE MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS FOR STUDENTS

1 WHEREAS: Psychological services are an increasingly vital resource for minors, and

2 WHEREAS: Suicide is the third leading cause of death in minors, and

3 WHEREAS: About 15 million children in America have diagnosable emotional or
4 behavioral health disorders

5 WHEREAS: Almost 25 percent of adolescents who required mental health assistance
6 reported having problems at school,

7 WHEREAS: Almost 50 percent of adolescents in high school with mental health
8 problems drop out of school. This is the highest dropout rate of any disability group,

9 WHEREAS: Without mandatory testing, only 20% of children's psychological disorders
10 are identified and treated in any given year,

11 WHEREAS: Parents and guardians may not know that their child has mental health
12 issues, and

13 WHEREAS: Minors would otherwise have to wait until adulthood, causing irreparable
14 psychological harm, and

15 WHEREAS: Few children receive mental health services, and the majority of children
16 who did seek help (about 80%) receive that care through schools

17 WHEREAS: Early detection and treatment is necessary for a long-term disability,

18 WHEREAS: Early and effective treatment reduces student involvement with crime,

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

20 ASSEMBLED THAT a mental health evaluation be mandated for students entering the
21 ninth grade

A RESOLUTION TO REINVENT STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS

1 WHEREAS: Standardized tests are used to determine student performances,
2 improvement, and progress, standardized testing is the most well know method of
3 assessing student performances in the United States, as well as numerous other
4 countries in the world, according to the East Carolina University.

5 WHEREAS: As stated by Columbia University, standardized testing can only give
6 accurate information of the performance of the student on the exact time they took the
7 test, rather than the student's overall progress.

8 WHEREAS: The United States fell from the 18th place to the 31st in the world in
9 mathematics on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) after the No
10 Child Left Behind policy in 2002.

11 WHEREAS: In 2011, the National Research Council report stated: "Despite using them
12 for several decades, policymakers and educators do not yet know how to use test-
13 based incentives to consistently generate positive effects on achievement and to
14 improve education."

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

16 ASSEMBLED THAT students be tested through a value-added assessment which shall
17 focus on individual student accomplishments and improvements.

A RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

1 WHEREAS: Most students in this nation do not have consistent access to an electronic
2 device

3 WHEREAS: The United States is falling behind other nations in terms of academics

4 WHEREAS: It is financially appropriate for high schools to provide electronics for their
5 students so that these children are prepared for real world situations

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

7 ASSEMBLED THAT all public high school students shall be provided with an electronic
8 device provided by the district for school purposes

A RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT LATER SCHOOL HOURS

1 WHEREAS: A lack of sleep can lead to obesity, depression, and motor-vehicle
2 accidents among teens

3 WHEREAS: Early school start times are preventing many teens from getting the
4 recommended 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep

5 WHEREAS: Researchers have found that later school hours resulted in a boost in
6 attendance, test scores, and grades

7 WHEREAS, As adolescent's sleeping habits due to circadian rhythms of the age group
8 typically result in teenagers sleeping later in the night, school starting times typically
9 become earlier as they advance through middle and high school

10 WHEREAS: Students who are sleep-deprived and have an early start-time are forced
11 to be awake during hours that run contrary to their internal clock

12 WHEREAS: According to Carskadon, a professor of psychiatry and human behavior,
13 "everyone learns better when they're awake"

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

15 ASSEMBLED THAT schools should have a later start time in order to maintain the
16 health of students.

A RESOLUTION TO END AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- 1 WHEREAS: Minorities and women have advantages in college applications
- 2 WHEREAS: Colleges want diverse student bodies
- 3 WHEREAS: A student of a non-white race with the same GPA, activities, service, etc.
- 4 as a white person has more of a chance to get into college
- 5 WHEREAS: Being Black or Latino counts as an admission "Bonus"
- 6 WHEREAS: Differences in race and gender start in initial college admissions after
- 7 seeing SAT score and class rank
- 8 WHEREAS: Students should be judged by GPA, service, ACT/SAT scores, activities,
- 9 etc. and not by their race and / or gender in college admissions
- 10 WHEREAS: Using race and gender to determine whether a student gets into college is
- 11 discriminatory.
- 12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE
- 13 ASSEMBLED THAT race and gender are not taken into account in college admissions

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE EDUCATION IN LOWER INCOME COMMUNITIES

1 WHEREAS: In the United States, there 1.3 million students dropping out of high school
2 in the United States and

3 WHEREAS: In the United States, low-income students fail to graduate at five times the
4 rate of middle-income families and

5 WHEREAS: Students who come from low-income families are 7 times more likely to
6 drop out of school than students who come from families with higher incomes.

7 WHEREAS: For the minimum-wage earner with a family of four, a full-time paycheck
8 falls almost \$9,000 below the poverty line and in many of those families, children need
9 to work to help provide for the family, and

10 WHEREAS: Work hours keep students from being able to focus on their schoolwork

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

12 ASSEMBLED THAT the national minimum wage be increased so that families can
13 better support themselves, and children can focus on their educations, not earning
14 money.

A RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

1 WHEREAS: Gender inequality is a prevalent issue, and

2 WHEREAS: Women are faced with gender inequity in workplaces and

3 elsewhere. Women only make 79% of what men make, and

4 WHEREAS: Establishing equal pay for women will incentivize them to increase their
5 competitiveness in the job market.

6 WHEREAS: Women are segregated into “pink-collar” jobs that affect their wage earning
7 power

8 WHEREAS: A woman will actually lose more money than a man throughout a lifetime
9 because of debt.

10 WHEREAS: in 2012, the World Economic Forum ranked the United States 22nd in
11 terms of gender equality out of 135 countries.

12 WHEREAS: The US needs to take the lead on promoting gender equality, such as laws
13 that allow women to have the same salaries as men and studies on how to get more
14 women into male-dominated careers such as engineering and politics.

15 WHEREAS: Women should be treated with the same respect as men.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

17 ASSEMBLED THAT the US come up and follow through with plans to lower gender
18 inequality and promote the rights of women.

A Bill to Mandate Gender Neutral Restrooms in all Public Places.

- 1 WHEREAS: The current requirement for gender specific restrooms does not
- 2 accommodate transgender individuals; and
- 3 WHEREAS: Many transgender individuals are being harassed and/or bullied for using
- 4 restrooms designated for the gender with which they identify; and
- 5 WHEREAS: It is essential to the health and well-being of all people to be able to live in
- 6 accordance with their internal gender identity in all aspects of life;
- 7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE
- 8 ASSEMBLED THAT the existence of a gender neutral restroom in all public places be
- 9 required effective January 1, 2017.

A RESOLUTION TO MANDATE IMMUNIZATIONS

1 WHEREAS: Immunizations are one of the most successful tactics to prevent disease

2 WHEREAS: Immunizations aid in the prevention of outbreaks of disease in both

3 children and adults

4 WHEREAS: There is no solid medical evidence to back up the claim that

5 immunizations have negative effects on health.

6 WHEREAS: Studies have shown that states that actively enforce immunization laws

7 have lower outbreaks of measles

8 WHEREAS: The constitutionality of school laws enforcing immunizations has been

9 upheld by the Supreme Court

10 WHEREAS: The likelihood of an outbreak of disease is increased substantially without

11 immunizations.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

13 ASSEMBLED THAT all citizens within the borders of the United States have yearly

14 required immunizations.

A RESOLUTION TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA USE NATIONALLY

1 WHEREAS: The medical effectiveness of the active ingredients of marijuana are widely
2 acknowledged

3 WHEREAS: 23 states and Washington D.C have already legalized marijuana for
4 medicinal purposes

5 WHEREAS: A 15% excise tax on marijuana in the state of Colorado has been used for
6 the funding and improvement of public education

7 WHEREAS: After Colorado legislation regarding the legalization of marijuana, the state
8 saw a 2.2% decrease in violent crime

9 WHEREAS: There are no conclusive long term effects marijuana has on the body

10 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

11 ASSEMBLED THAT recreational use of marijuana be legalized and legislated on the
12 national-level

RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

1 WHEREAS: Executions are carried out at a staggering cost to taxpayers.

2 WHEREAS: There is no credible evidence that capital punishment deters crime.

3 WHEREAS: Innocent people have been convicted and executed at a rate of 1 innocent
4 person for every 7 persons executed.

5 WHEREAS: Race plays a role in determining who lives and who dies. The General
6 Accounting Office concluded that in "82 percent of the studies [reviewed], race of the
7 victim was found to influence the likelihood of being charged with the death penalty."

8 WHEREAS: It goes against every single practicing religion in the US,

9 WHEREAS: The death penalty actually costs more than the cost of incarcerating a
10 person for life

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

12 ASSEMBLED THAT the death penalty is morally ambiguous and economically
13 impractical and should be abolished.

RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE PENNY

1 WHEREAS: The penny costs more to manufacturer than it is actually worth. It costs
2 approximately two cents to make a penny.

3 WHEREAS: The production of the penny is toxic to man (Zinc Toxicity)

4 WHEREAS: It is too little and inconvenient and takes up more room than it is worth.

5 (Limited Utility)

6 WHEREAS: Pennies are so worthless now that it doesn't even pay the federal minimum
7 wage to stoop to pick one up off the street unless you can do it in 6.15 seconds or less.

8 WHEREAS: Prices without the penny would not be changed that much. Many prices
9 already end in 9, and cash registers can easily be programmed to round.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

11 ASSEMBLED THAT pennies should be abolished

A RESOLUTION TO BAN FRACKING

1 WHEREAS, Fracking creates water shortages, due to the excessive amount of water
2 used in the process. 250 billion gallons of water have been used in the fracking process
3 since 2005 in the United States.

4 WHEREAS, it destroys aquatic habitats, wildlife, and pollutes the environment.

5 WHEREAS, the process of fracking releases many chemicals that can cause deadly
6 diseases, such as cancer. 40,000 gallons of chemicals are used per fracturing.

7 WHEREAS, fracking contaminates ground water systems which affects drinking water
8 and can lead to cases of sensory, respiratory, and neurological damage.

9 WHEREAS, it pollutes the air that we breathe, increasing asthma and respiratory
10 diseases across the country. An average of 450,000 tons of air pollution occurs in one
11 year because of fracking

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE
13 ASSEMBLED THAT fracking be banned across the United States.

A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE POLICE BRUTALITY

1 WHEREAS: Police Brutality is a serious and prevalent problem in today's society.

2 WHEREAS: It increases racial tension and increases violence in America.

3 WHEREAS: It makes people afraid of the police and not willing to go to them for

4 problems.

5 WHEREAS: 2013 University of Cambridge study found that when police wear body

6 cameras, all parties involved are less likely to use violence. The study indicated a drop

7 in use of force by more than a 50 percent.

8 WHEREAS: When police wear body cameras, they are more aware of inappropriate

9 behavior, and it is less likely to occur

10 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

11 ASSEMBLED THAT the government should mandate that police wear body cameras.

A RESOLUTION TO PAY COLLEGE ATHLETES

- 1 WHEREAS: College athletes work just as hard as professional athletes
- 2 WHEREAS: College athletes have an even bigger burden of studying
- 3 WHEREAS: College athletes often get injuries that make future employment
- 4 impossible
- 5 WHEREAS: The school makes so much money from student athletes.
- 6 WHEREAS: Paying a student athlete will make it easier for athletes to pay off college
- 7 debts
- 8 WHEREAS: Paying student athletes will motivate them to do their best
- 9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE
- 10 ASSEMBLED THAT College athletes across the country be paid.

A BILL TO FIX SOFTWARE PATENTS

- 1 SECTION 1: This act may be cited as "Software Patent Bill"
- 2 SECTION 2: Patents for software products will be affected by this bill.
- 3 SECTION 3: Patents for software will only be accepted if the software has not yet been
- 4 implemented in any previous software and is a novel way of fixing a problem.
- 5 SECTION 4: Patents for software will remain in effect for only 2 years.
- 6 SECTION 5: This bill shall go into effect 55 days after passage.

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE ALL FOOD ORGANIC

1 WHEREAS: Natural fertilizers, which are biodegradable and do not cause
2 environmental pollution, are used in organic foods, and

3 WHEREAS: Organic fruits and vegetables have up to 50% more antioxidants, which
4 scientists believe can cut the risk of cancer and heart disease

5 WHEREAS: Organic fruits and vegetables have more vitamins and minerals such as
6 iron and zinc;

7 WHEREAS: People who eat organic food have improved immune systems, better
8 sleeping habits and are less likely to be overweight as compared with those who eat
9 “conventional” foods;

10 WHEREAS: Organic farmed animals are raised without dangerous chemicals, growth
11 hormones, or antibiotics which have been potentially been proved to increase a
12 human’s resistance to antibiotics.

13 WHEREAS: Eating organic foods decreases the chance of illness in infants and children
14 significantly;

15 WHEREAS: Pesticides damage agricultural land by harming beneficial insect species,
16 such as worms, which naturally restrict pest populations and maintain the health of soil.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

18 ASSEMBLED THAT all food sold in stores should be organic.

A RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE KILL SHELTERS

1 WHEREAS: Kill Shelters are animal shelters that kill animals such as dogs, cats, and
2 birds if they are not adopted or claimed in a limited time period

3 WHEREAS: Kill Shelters should themselves be put down in favor of No-Kill Shelters

4 WHEREAS: 800 dogs and cats are killed in the US every hour because there are not
5 enough homes for all of them, or people simply want to get rid of them

6 WHEREAS: Many people think that dogs and cats are killed only if they are sick or
7 injured. This is not true. Most adoptable dogs and cats are killed before they leave the
8 shelter

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

10 ASSEMBLED THAT kill shelters be banned in the United States

A RESOLUTION TO CRIMINALIZE ANIMAL TESTING

- 1 WHEREAS: Animal testing is substandard.
- 2 WHEREAS: Animal testing is cruel and inhumane.
- 3 WHEREAS: Animals are very different from human beings and therefore make poor test
- 4 subjects.
- 5 WHEREAS: Animal tests may mislead researchers into ignoring potential cures and
- 6 treatments
- 7 WHEREAS: Medical breakthroughs involving animal research may still have been made
- 8 without the use of animals.
- 9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE
- 10 ASSEMBLED THAT animal testing should be criminalized.

A RESOLUTION TO BAN POLYCARBONATE PLASTIC

1 WHEREAS: The Canadian government has already banned polycarbonate plastic baby bottles
2 because of their polymer building block, Bisphenol A (BPA)

3 WHEREAS: BPA leaches out of polycarbonate plastic when the plastic is placed under stress,
4 and

5 WHEREAS: The safety of BPA regarding its effects on young children has been questioned by
6 multiple studies, and

7 WHEREAS: Young children will still be exposed to polycarbonate plastic even if it is taken out
8 of baby bottles and

9 WHEREAS: The 2003-2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey conducted by the
10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found detectable levels of BPA in 93% of
11 2517 urine samples from people six years and older.

12 WHEREAS: The EPA and FDA are investigating BPA for potential toxic effects on young
13 children in its use as the basic polymer building-block in polycarbonate plastic and

14 WHEREAS: The Journal of the American Medical Association finds, for US adults tested, the
15 more BPA in their urine, the higher their rates of heart disease and diabetes

16 WHEREAS: They also found a link between abnormal liver enzymes in people and BPA,
17 suggesting that the chemical alters how the liver functions.

18 WHEREAS: Polycarbonate plastic is not a well-known or well-used plastic, so it will not greatly
19 affect industry if polycarbonate plastic is taken off the market,

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT
21 the use of polycarbonate plastic should be banned in these United States of America

A RESOLUTION TO BAN DISPOSABLE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES

- 1 WHEREAS: Large quantities of water bottles end up in the oceans.
- 2 WHEREAS: Water bottles tend to pollute the environment.
- 3 WHEREAS: 93% of Americans 6 years of age or older test positive for the plastic
- 4 chemical BPA, which studies show to be harmful to the human body.
- 5 WHEREAS: The average American throws away approximately 185 pounds of plastic
- 6 per year.
- 7 WHEREAS: The production of plastic uses around 8% of the world's oil production
- 8 WHEREAS: Plastic accounts for around 10 percent of the total waste we generate.
- 9 WHEREAS: It takes 500-1,000 years for plastic to degrade.
- 10 WHEREAS: 44 percent of all seabird species, 22 percent of cetaceans, all sea turtle
- 11 species and a growing list of fish species have been documented with plastic in or
- 12 around their bodies.
- 13 WHEREAS: Some of these compounds found in plastic have been found to alter
- 14 hormones or have other potential human health effects.
- 15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE
- 16 ASSEMBLED THAT disposable plastic water bottles should be banned.

**A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE USE OF THORIUM
REACTORS**

1 WHEREAS: Clean energy only makes up 12.8% of total energy production in the United
2 States.

3 WHEREAS: Clean energy is a must in the environmental preservation of the United
4 States.

5 WHEREAS: Thorium reactors are cleaner than nuclear reactors.

6 WHEREAS: Uranium reactors produce radioactive waste present for thousands of
7 years.

8 WHEREAS: Thorium reactors produce less toxic waste as a byproduct.

9 WHEREAS: The Copenhagen and Kyoto Protocols call for reduced CO2 emissions.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

11 ASSEMBLED THAT the US use Thorium reactors for clean energy.

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE USAGE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

1 WHEREAS: Nuclear fuel generates around 2.3 million times more energy than fossil
2 fuels, and

3 WHEREAS: Production does not release any harmful pollutants into the air, and

4 WHEREAS: Per Kwh (kilowatt hour), energy produced by nuclear plants costs about $\frac{1}{4}$
5 that of energy produced by fossil fuels.

6 WHEREAS: Nuclear fuel is about as widely available as fossil fuels, but is expected to
7 last much longer.

8 WHEREAS: Very small amounts of U235 and P239 are needed to produce high
9 energies.

10 WHEREAS: Nuclear energy can be produced reliably 24/7, unlike wind or solar, which
11 rely on specific weather conditions for power.

12 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

13 ASSEMBLED THAT the US government increase usage of nuclear energy

A RESOLUTION TO END AND PREVENT U.S. PROVISIONS
OF MILITARY AID IN THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

1 WHEREAS: There are over 2 million refugees who have fled from Syria into regions of
2 Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and into Europe, causing the European Migrant Crisis, which
3 has led to significant economic harms and a mass humanitarian crisis.

4 WHEREAS: More than 10 million people have been displaced from their homes.

5 WHEREAS: The Syrian rebellion is a conglomeration of various sects of rebels,
6 including terrorist affiliations, which results in the threat of American weapons following
7 into the hands of terrorist organizations, like ISIS.

8 WHEREAS: The Syrian government continues to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in
9 its attacks with chemical weapons and mass bombings of rebel groups and civilian
10 populations.

11 WHEREAS: The Iraqi government's troops and Kurdish military have been combating
12 ISIS within the Syrian Civil War and across the Levant region.

13 WHEREAS: The United States is supporting a no-troops-on-ground policy that limits
14 transfer of weapons to appropriate sides that the U.S. supports.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

16 ASSEMBLED THAT despite the importance to continue aid to assist in ending the
17 Syrian civil war and ISIS, thereby ending the humanitarian crisis and violence, military
18 aid cannot be the U.S.'s option for contributing.

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF REFUGEES IN THE
UNITED STATES

- 1 WHEREAS: Nine million refugees have fled from Syria since March 2011.
- 2 WHEREAS: More than 260 thousand refugees have tried to illegally cross into different
- 3 nations.
- 4 WHEREAS: Individuals, regardless of ethnicities, deserve basic rights to safety.
- 5 WHEREAS: United States offers basic securities to those living in its borders.
- 6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE
- 7 ASSEMBLED THAT the United States offers asylum to more Syrian refugees.