

**Congress Docket - States**  
**Lewiston High School**  
**January 23, 2016**

**1) A Bill to Make College More Affordable**

- 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
- 2. Section 1.** The United States government will place a sliding scale tax on all higher
- 3. education institute endowments larger than \$500 million.**
  - A.** Higher education institutes with endowments greater than \$3 billion will be taxed at a rate of 2%.
  - B.** Institutes with endowments higher than \$2 billion will be taxed at a rate of 1.5%.
  - C.** Institutes with endowments greater than \$1 billion will be taxed at a rate of 1%.
  - D.** Institutes with endowments greater than \$500 million will be taxed at a rate of 0.5%.
- 4. Section 2.** To make sure that these universities are still making contributions to society,
- 5. the government will allow them to deduct financial aid spending from their tax bills.**
- 6. Section 3.** The United States mandate that all institutions of public education spend at
- 7. least 5 percent of their assets each year, just as the government does with non-profits.**
- 8. Section 4.** The money from the sliding scale tax will go back to the states in the form of
- 9. block grants to supplement their existing higher education budgets to reduce pressure on**
- 10. increasing tuition or to prevent further cuts to academic programs.**
- 11. Section 5.** The IRS will oversee the enforcement of the bill.
- 12. SECTION 6.** This law will go into effect on January 1, 2017.
- 13. Section 7.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Submitted by Rep Baldacci, BHS, Maine District*

## **2) A Bill to Ban Solitary Confinement**

**1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED**

**2. Section 1:** Solitary confinement shall be banned in all state, federal, and privately owned  
**3. prisons.**

**4. Section 2:** Solitary confinement shall be defined as the practice of isolating a prisoner in  
**5. a closed cell for 20-24 hours a day.**

**6. Section 3:** Disciplinary segregation may not occur for a period of longer than one week  
**7. and may only be used to prevent violence from occurring.**

**8. Section 4:** Administrative segregation and involuntary protective custody shall hereby be  
**9. entirely banned.**

**10. Section 5:** Supermax prisons shall hereby be banned.

**11. Section 6a:** All prisons currently designated as supermax prisons shall be required to

**12. submit a plan to be approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons concerning future**

**13. placement of prisoners by January 1, 2017. These plans shall begin to be implemented by**

**14. January 1, 2018, and must be fully implemented by January 1, 2020.**

**15. Section 6b:** All prisons currently holding prisoners in solitary confinement shall be

**16. required to submit a plan to be approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons concerning the**

**17. placement and treatment of all prisoners concerned no less than six months from the**

**18. passage of this bill. These plans shall begin to be implemented by January 1, 2017, and**

**19. must be fully implemented by January 1, 2018.**

**20. Section 7:** This bill shall be enforced by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

**21. Section 8:** All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Kathleen Dunn, BHS, Maine District*

### **3) A Bill to Reauthorize the Export-Import Bank**

- 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
- 2. SECTION 1.** The United States government will hereby reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.
- 3. SECTION 2.** This law will go into effect immediately.
- 4. SECTION 3.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Submitted by Rep Baldacci, BHS, Maine District*

### **4) A Bill to Repeal the Death Penalty**

- 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
- 2. SECTION 1:** The Death Penalty, hereinafter known as Capital Punishment, shall hereby
- 3. Be abolished.**
- 4. SECTION 2:** “Capital Punishment” shall be defined as the legally authorized killing of
- 5. Someone as punishment for a crime.**
- 6. SECTION 3A:** The Department of Justice shall oversee this legislation.
- 7. SECTION 3B:** The Department of Justice shall also determine the appropriate punishment
- 8. For those currently on Death Row.**
- 9. SECTION 3C:** The Department of Justice shall have one year from the passage of this
- 10. Legislation to relocate those on Death Row currently. All currently scheduled executions**
- 11. Shall Be halted at the passage of this legislation.**
- 12. SECTION 3D:** There shall be no exemptions from this legislation.
- 13. SECTION 4:** This legislation shall go into effect one year from the date of passage.
- 14. SECTION 5:** All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Sophia Lajoie, SHS, Maine District*

## **5) A Bill to Ban the Online Sale of Flamethrowers**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

- 1. SECTION 1:** The XM42 and the X15 models of flamethrowers, as manufactured by the
- Company XMatter, shall be banned from being purchased via online sales.
- 3. SECTION 2:** “Flamethrowers” shall be defined as a weapon that sprays out burning fuel.
- 4. SECTION 2B:** “Online sales” shall be defined as the purchase of goods and services
- Through the internet.
- 6. SECTION 3:** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, as well as the Department of
- Justice shall jointly enforce this legislation.
- 8. SECTION 4:** This legislation shall go into effect one year from the date of passage.
- 9. SECTION 5:** All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Andrew Paradis, SHS, Maine District*

## **6) A Resolution to Provide Awareness for Rape Victims**

- 1. WHEREAS,** Too often rape victims are not given proper justice; and
- 2. WHEREAS,** Rape is often blamed on the victims themselves although it is not their fault; and
- 3. WHEREAS,** Due to this injustice, rape victims are left unable to speak out against their rapist
- For the fear of retaliation and more blame being put on them; and
- 5. WHEREAS,** Prosecution rates for rapists are far too low; now, therefore, be it
- 6. RESOLVED,** By the Student Congress here assembled that the Congress of the United States
- Shall look for ways to pass legislation to reform the criminal justice system in order to change
- Their methods of prosecution so that it can never be said that it is the victim’s fault; and be it
- 9. FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Congress shall look for ways to raise awareness for
- 10.** Rape victims in the hopes that they will be able to speak out against their rapist.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Sophia Lajoie, SHS, Maine District*

## **7) A Resolution to Overturn Citizens United**

1. **WHEREAS**, The Supreme Court decision of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission
2. Established lesser regulations for campaign finance laws; and
3. **WHEREAS**, The ideal that money represents political speech is harmful to American
4. Democracy and represents significant threats to the American people and their voices as
5. Constituents; and
6. **WHEREAS**, Politicians and elected officials should be held accountable to their citizens and
7. Not large corporations; now, therefore, be it
8. **RESOLVED**, By the Student Congress here assembled that the United States looks for ways
9. To overturn the case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission in order to limit the
10. Effects of large-scale donations in an election.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Quinn Stewart, SHS, Maine District*

## **8) A Resolution to Encourage for Lower Rehabilitation Rates in Prisons**

1. **WHEREAS**, The ultimate goal of the criminal justice system should be to properly
2. Rehabilitate individuals so they may have the chance to lead a better life into the future; and
3. **WHEREAS**, The federal prison and criminal justice system has been more focused on
4. Retribution than rehabilitation; and
5. **WHEREAS**, This intense focus on retribution has caused recidivism rates to skyrocket; and
6. **WHEREAS**, When recidivism rates increase, prisoners are losing the opportunity for a better
7. life; now, therefore, be it
8. **RESOLVED**, By the Student Congress here assembled that the United States sponsor and
9. Fund programs meant to install federal education programs in federal and state prisons in
10. Order to grant further opportunities to inmates.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Quinn Stewart, SHS, Maine District*

## **9) A Bill to Levy Taxes on Drinks Containing Artificial Sweeteners**

- 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
- 2. SECTION 1:** The purchase of drinks containing artificial sweeteners in stores, restaurants,
- 3.** And public venues shall hereby be taxed one cent per fluid ounce in addition to any other
- 4.** Taxes imposed by the federal, state, or municipal government.
- 5. SECTION 1B:** The funds generated by this legislation shall go to fund deficits in the
- 6.** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and to fund remaining financial
- 7.** Obligations and/or debts of the United States government.
- 8. SECTION 2:** “Drinks containing artificial sweeteners” shall be defined as beverages
- 9.** Containing unnatural sweeteners. Milk based drinks, drinks containing over seventy percent
- 10.** Fruit juice and alcoholic beverages shall be exempt from this tax.
- 11. SECTION 3:** The Internal Revenue Service, the United States Food and Drug Administration,
- 12.** as well as the United States Department of Agriculture shall oversee this bill.
- 13. SECTION 3B:** SNAP programs shall not be permitted to buy drinks with artificial sweeteners.
- 14. SECTION 4:** This legislation shall take effect 180 days after the date of passage.
- 15. SECTION 5:** All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Quinn Stewart, SHS, Maine District*

## **10) A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Combat Gerrymandering**

- 1. WHEREAS,** The current voting system in the United States has led to the use of
- 2.** Gerrymandering and has weakened the power of third parties; and
- 3. WHEREAS,** Gerrymandering has limited the voice of the American people by having
- 4.** Districts be redrawn in a way that suits the needs of political parties and the lack of third

5. Parties has forced voters to conform to the views of the two most powerful political parties;
6. Now, therefore, be it
7. **RESOLVED**, By the Student Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed
8. As an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents
9. And purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of
10. The several states within seven years of the date of its submission by the Congress.

### ARTICLE

11. **SECTION 1:** The United States shall from now on have mixed-member proportional
12. Representation on the state and national level.
13. **SECTION 2:** The United States Congress shall have the power to enforce this article
14. Through appropriate legislation.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Thomas Vachon, SHS, Maine District*

### **11) The Equal Taxation Act of 2017**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
2. **SECTION 1:** The United States shall hereby have the capital gains tax have the same tax
3. Brackets as the federal income tax.
4. **SECTION 2:** Taxation on the capital gains will take into account inflation and deflation if it
5. Occurs.
6. **SECTION 3:** The Internal Revenue Service shall oversee this legislation.
7. **SECTION 4:** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the 2017 fiscal year.
8. **SECTION 5:** All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Thomas Vachon, SHS, Maine District*

### **12) A Bill to Increase Funding for Research on Graphene**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
2. **SECTION 1:** A sum of \$10 million shall be given to further the research on graphene.
3. **SECTION 2:** “Graphene” shall be defined as a fullerene consisting of bonded carbon atoms
4. In sheet form one atom thick.
5. **SECTION 3:** The United States Department of Commerce shall oversee this bill.
6. **SECTION 4:** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.
7. **SECTION 5:** All laws in conflict with this legislation are declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Thomas Vachon, SHS, Maine District*

### **13) A BILL TO INCENTIVIZE VOTING IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
2. **SECTION 1.** Citizens who vote in federal elections for members of the House of
3. Representatives, Senate, and the President of the United States are entitled to a \$50
4. federal tax credit for that fiscal year.
5. **SECTION 2A.** “Vote” shall be defined as the casting of a ballot by any available means
6. recognized by a given state.
7. **SECTION 2B.** Citizens may cast a ballot for “none of the above” or select a “write-in”
8. candidate and will still be eligible for the aforementioned tax credit.
9. **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Election Commission shall
10. oversee the implementation of this bill.
11. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect immediately upon passage.
12. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced by Senator Danby, BHS, Maine District*

### **14) A BILL TO REPEAL THE WAR POWERS ACT**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**



2. **SECTION 1.** The War Powers Resolution of 1973 is hereby revealed.
3. **SECTION 2.** Moreover, the War Powers Consultation Act of 2014 (S.1939) shall be
4. brought to the floor for an up or down vote with no amendments allowed within the next
5. thirty days.
6. **SECTION 3.** The Departments of State and Defense shall oversee the enforcement of
7. this legislation.
8. **SECTION 4.** This law shall take effect immediately following its passage.
9. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced by Senator Danby, BHS, Maine District*

#### **15) A BILL TO REFORM MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
2. **SECTION 1.** The Community Health Care Act of 1963 is hereby repealed.
3. **SECTION 2.** The United States Federal Government shall increase spending on Mental
4. Health-Care by 8% over the next four years upon passage of this legislation. The
5. difference in the increase of spending will support the cost of development of new Mental
6. Health Centers in the United States.
7. **SECTION 3.** Mental Health-Care costs will be induced in Medicaid benefits.
8. **SECTION 4.** Mental Health-Care diagnosis and treatment provisions will be made by a
9. panel of psychiatrists, psychologists, and doctors appointed by the United States
10. Commission on Mental Health, effective upon passage of this legislation.
11. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced by Senator Danby, BHS, Maine District*

#### **16) A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE AMERICAN AND CHINESE NUCLEAR STOCKPILES**

1. **WHEREAS**, China has been increasing its production of intercontinental ballistic missiles;
2. and **WHEREAS**, The United States has over 4,000 nuclear weapons in its stockpile; and
3. **WHEREAS**, Positive relations between the United States and China must remain a priority;
4. and **WHEREAS**, Both governments serve as important leaders in the international
5. community; now, therefore, be it
6. **RESOLVED**, By the Congress here assembled that the United States enters into
7. negotiations with China to reduce the nuclear stockpiles of both nations.

*Introduced by Senator Danby, BHS, Maine District*

### **17) A Bill to Eliminate the Penny**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
2. **SECTION 1:** The cent or one cent piece shall hereby no longer be minted.
3. **SECTION 2:** Minting shall be defined as the production of pennies or one cent pieces.
4. **SECTION 2B:** “Pennies” shall be defined as a copper and zinc coin with a value of one cent.
5. **SECTION 3A:** All current pennies or one cent pieces shall still remain in existence and shall
6. Still be a valid form of U.S. currency.
7. **SECTION 3B:** The United States Mint and the Department of the Treasury shall oversee this
8. Bill.
9. **SECTION 4:** This bill shall go into effect 30 days after the date of passage.
10. **SECTION 5:** All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Ibrahim Chand, SHS, Maine District*

### **18) A Bill to Amend the Taiwan Act**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

2. **SECTION 1.** The Taiwan Relations Act (Pub. L. 96-8) is amended to include the following
3. language: “All weapons sales to the Republic of China (ROC, Taiwan) shall be immediately
4. halted. No weaponry of an offensive or defensive nature may be provided to the ROC from
5. this point forward.
6. **SECTION 2.** The most recent sales to Taiwan, as identified in the December 16, 2015
7. notification to Congress, shall be rescinded. All payments received from the ROC shall be
8. returned.
9. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense and the Department of State shall be responsible
10. for enforcement of this legislation.
11. **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect immediately upon passage.
12. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Maine District*

## **19) A Bill to Preserve the Security of the American Power Grid**

1. **BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**
2. **SECTION 1.** A sum of two billion dollars will be appropriated towards strengthening the
3. nation’s power grid to minimize the damage from any source of electromagnetic pulse.
4. **SECTION 2A.** “Electromagnetic pulse” will be defined as a short burst of electromagnetic
5. energy that can arise from a variety of sources, such as lightning strikes, nuclear explosions,
6. or solar storms.
7. **SECTION 2B.** “Solar storm” will be defined as an eruption of magnetically charged
8. plasma from the sun’s interior into space.
9. **SECTION 3.** Funding for this legislation will be taken from the U.S. Department of Energy,
10. which will oversee the implementation of this bill.
11. **SECTION 4.** This law shall take effect immediately upon passage.
12. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate Sen. Shedd, Cape Elizabeth High School, Maine District*

## **20) A Bill to End All Oil Subsidies**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

- 1. SECTION 1.** All subsidies currently being given to the oil industry shall hereby
- 2.** Be removed and redistributed to the clean energy industry.
- 3. SECTION 2.** “Oil subsidies” shall be defined as money given by the federal government to
- 4.** the oil industry to support the industry’s operations. “Oil industry” shall be defined as the
- 5.** group of public and private companies responsible for the drilling, production, refining,
- 6.** distribution and sale of oil. “Clean energy industry” shall be defined as the collection of
- 7.** public and private companies that sell, produce, promote and engineer clean energy sources
- 8.** Such as, but not limited to wind, solar, nuclear, and geothermal, and hydropower.
- 9. SECTION 3.** This bill shall be enforced by the United States Department of Energy as well
- 10.** as the United States Department of the Interior.
  - a.** Any governmental agency found to be distributing any subsidies to the oil industry shall be immediately stripped of all funding and will be stripped of all powers currently delegated to them until they stop the distribution of these subsidies.
  - b.** There will be a joint committee created by the aforementioned agencies which will have executive power to decide what companies in the clean energy industry should receive subsidies from the government as well as whether or not specific methods of producing energy should be considered as clean energy.
- 11. SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect by January 1, 2018.
- 12. SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Submitted by Representative Cerabona, KHS, Maine District*

## **21) The Conversion Therapy Act of 2016**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

- 1. Section 1.** All conversion therapy practices are hereby declared illegal.
- 2. Section 2.** Conversion therapy shall be defined as any treatment or program meant to change a
- 3.** person's sexual orientation or gender identity against their will.
- 4. Section 3.** This bill shall be enforced by a joint committee formed between the
- 5.** Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice
  - a.** Any person or institution found to be practicing any form of conversion therapy, reparative therapy, or any other practice meant to change the sexual identity or gender identity of any person against said person's will shall have all licenses to practice medicine or therapy immediately revoked and not returned until a period of at least 10 years has passed.
  - b.** Any person found to be administering this kind of therapy shall be imprisoned for a period of no less than 5 years and shall be fined an amount of at least \$5,000.
  - c.** The aforementioned committee shall be granted full power to change the penalties for this crime if the need for change arises.
- 6. Section 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage.
- 7. Section 5.** All legislation in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null And void.

*Submitted by Representative Cerabona, KHS*