# National Speech & Debate Season Opener: Congressional Debate Legislative Docket – 2017

#### Note – Anyone may sponsor “unclaimed” legislation.

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### A Resolution to Advance Rehabilitation Programs in Prisons

1. **WHEREAS,** The enormous U.S. prison population drains $80 billion annually; and

2. **WHEREAS,** The nation’s current policy of punitive correction has only increased that

3. population and its recidivism rate; and

4. **WHEREAS,** These funds are not being used to improve lagging American education,

5. healthcare, or infrastructure, nor are the prisoners able to contribute to

6. American society; and

7. **WHEREAS**, Evidence has indicated that prisoner rehabilitation programs, such as drug

8. rehab and work programs, reduce recidivism, corrections expenses, and

9. crime rates; now, therefore, be it

10. **RESOLVED,** by this Congress that: the U.S. should increase corrections funding

11. to prisoner rehabilitation in order to create a more effective

12. corrective system.

*Introduced by Senator Chris Beebout,* *Henry Clay High School*

### A Bill to Restore Our Communities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. **SECTION 1**. At least fifty percent of all Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance
2. Grant (JAG) money allocated to vulnerable communities must be spent on
3. education, employment, and restorative justice programming. No more than
4. twenty-five percent of JAG money may be used to support systems of mass
5. incarceration.
6. **SECTION 2**. A. Vulnerable communities are those that possess one or more of the following
7. characteristics: high poverty rates, high incarceration rates, or a majority
8. African-American or Latino population.
9. B. Systems of mass incarceration include militarized equipment, construction of
10. detention centers, and expansion of surveillance efforts.
11. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice shall oversee the implementation of this bill.
12. **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take 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 Alex Bolling, Evanston Township HS*

### A Bill to Lift the Trade Embargo on Cuba

**BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS THAT:**

1. **SECTION 1.** The United States will no longer limit American companies from

2. conducting business in the Republic of Cuba.

3. **SECTION 2.** According to the United States State Department, the trade embargo with

4. the Republic of Cuba mandates that “Except as may be deemed necessary

5. by the President in the interest of the United States, no assistance shall be

6. furnished under this chapter to any government of Cuba,” including

7. monetary loans and all business transactions.

8. **SECTION 3.** The U.S. State Department will oversee the implementation of this bill

9. **SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect on January 1, 2019

10. **SECTION 5.** All other laws that are in conflict with this new policy shall hereby be

11. declared null and void.

*Introduced by Senator Lena Ilagan, Henry Clay High School*

### A Bill to Remove the “Default Proceed” Loophole to Ensure Responsible Gun Sales

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. **SECTION 1**. The “Default Proceed” policy for federal background checks will now be

2. revoked. All background checks must be carried out to their fullest extent

3. before a gun purchase is approved.

4. **SECTION 2**. The “Default Proceed” policy is defined as the federal policy which states

5. that federal agents only have 3 days to investigate for background checks

6. of the National Instant Background Check System.

7. **SECTION 3.** This legislation will be implemented by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

8. Firearms and Explosives.

9. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be implemented immediately upon passage.

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

 *Respectfully submitted,* *Rep. Ranen Miao*, *Millburn High School*

### A Resolution to Create a Joint Committee to Draft a Gubernatorial Constitution

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. **SECTION 1.** The United States Congressional House and Senate create a Joint

2. Committee to create a clearly defined list of rights and duties to ensure the

3. reasonable powers of the state executive branch.

4. **SECTION 2.** This resolution would establish a uniform system to maintain equality and

5. fairness across all states.

6. **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Justice will be tasked with ensuring the

7. ratification of this constitution by the states and then ensure that the states

8. are following the guidelines including within.

9. **SECTION 4.** This bill would go into effect on January 1, 2018.

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

*This bill is introduced for debate by Grant Burbach of Harlingen High School.*

### A Resolution to Strengthen Economic and Diplomatic Relations with Latin America

1. **WHEREAS,** The fiscal deficit of many Latin American nations is at an all-time high,

2. and anti-American sentiment is increasing in the region; and

3. **WHEREAS,** Recent NAFTA renegotiations have made United States economic and

4. diplomatic involvement in the region precarious, resulting in greater

5. political extremism throughout Latin American nations; and

**6. WHEREAS,** By limiting relations with Latin America, the United States is missing

7. lucrative natural resources and trade opportunities; and

8. **WHEREAS,** Without a strong presence in Latin America, the region is vulnerable to

9. political extremists, illicit drug trafficking, poverty, and an increased

10. Chinese presence, all of which threaten the safety and security of the

11. United States; now, therefore, be it

12. **RESOLVED,** The United States strengthen its economic and diplomatic relations with

13. Latin America.

*Submitted for Congressional Debate by Callie Freeman, Gatton Academy*

### A Resolution to Invest in Japanese Nuclear Weapon Development

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1234567891011 | **WHEREAS**, Japan has no offensive nuclear weapons of their own; and**WHEREAS**, North Korea is threatening Japan with nuclear warfare, and Japan solely has a missile defense system in case of attack; and**WHEREAS**, There is question as to whether this defense system is capable of intercepting a North Korean missile, for the system is only effective under limited circumstances and has not yet been tested on an intercontinental ballistic missile; and**WHEREAS**,North Korea has been rapidly advancing their nuclear weapons, posing a threat to Japan; now, therefore, be it**RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation for investing in Japan’s nuclear weapon development; and, be it**FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we continue a closer alliance with Japan under the threat of North Korea. |

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Allie Mikolanis of Gilmour Academy.*

### A Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces against North Korea

* + - 1. WHEREAS, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) continuous
			2. acts of aggression and threats towards the United States and its
			3. citizens; and

4. WHEREAS, such acts render it both necessary and appropriate that the

5. United States exercise its rights to self-defense and to protect

6. United States citizens both at home and abroad; and

7. WHEREAS, such acts render it both necessary and appropriate that the

8. United States exercise its rights to self-defense and to protect

9. United States citizens both at home and abroad; and

10. WHEREAS, in light of the threat to the national security and foreign policy of

11. the United States posed by these grave acts of aggression; and

12. WHEREAS, such acts continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat

13. to the national security and foreign policy of the United States; and

14. WHEREAS, these acts constitute a national emergency created by attack upon

15. the United States, its territories, possessions, and its armed forces.

16. RESOLVED, That the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate

17. force against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

18. FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of State and the President shall continue to

19. encourage international pressure on the DPRK, and encourage our

20. allies to join us in these actions.

*Respectfully submitted by Dominic Abreu, Belen Jesuit Preparatory School*

### A Bill to Mandate Vaccinations for Students within the Public Schooling System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. Article I: The Public Health Service Act will be amended to establish a State

2. requirement for students in public elementary and secondary schools to be

3. vaccinated.

4. Article II: The terms ‘elementary school’ and ‘secondary school’ have the meanings

5. given to such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary

6. Education Act of 1965.

7. Article III: This would be implemented the following 2017-2018 school year.

8. Article IV: Vaccinations will be in accordance with the recommendations of the

9. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. No exemptions will be

10. provided for philosophical and religious exemptions. Students will only

11. receive exemptions if a licensed physician can submit a report:

12. A. certifying that the physician has personally examined the

13. student during the preceding 12 months; and

14. B. certifying that, in the physician’s opinion, the physical

15. condition of the student is such that the student’s health

16. would be endangered by the vaccination involved

17. Article V: State that all other laws in conflict with this new policy shall hereby

18. declared null and void.

 *Respectfully submitted, Jack White, North Oldham High School, Goshen, KY*

### A Resolution to Limit the President’s Use of Executive Orders

1. WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers as well as many modern political scientists agree that the

2. powers of the legislative and executive branches cannot be handled by one

3. person if democracy is to flourish; and

4. WHEREAS, the power of executive orders directly defies the constitutional system of checks

5. and balances; and

6. WHEREAS, executive orders are often a way for the President to circumvent Congress and

7. congressional orders; and

8. WHEREAS, this gives the President an unbalanced power to effect and implement laws as they

9. see fit; now, therefore be it

10. RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the President should limit their use of

11. executive order to times of national crisis.

*Introduced by*

### A Bill to Halt Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The United States shall halt future arms sales to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

2. SECTION 2. Arms sales shall be defined as the trade or sale of weaponry and ammunition,

3. including battle tanks and machine guns.

4. SECTION 3. The State Department and Department of Defense are responsible for the

5. enforcement of this legislation. Failure to comply with this legislation will result

6. in the budget of the responsible department to be decreased by thirty percent for

7. five years.

8. SECTION 4. This bill will go in effect on January 1, 2018.

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

*Introduced by*

### A Bill to Set a Statute of Limitations on Welfare Recipients to Minimize Welfare Fraud

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. A person receiving welfare benefits will have a maximum of 8 years to stabilize

2. their income and/or further their education before benefits are denied.

3. SECTION 2. Welfare will be defined as government programs that provide aid to individuals or

4. groups who cannot support themselves, such as those who are disabled or who

5. have fallen on hard times, not those who refuse to better their situations

6. willingly. These programs encompass food stamps, house subsidies and

7. daycare supplements. It does not include medical programs.

8. SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services will oversee the implementation

9. of this law.

10. A. Welfare recipients are subject to annual reviews and income checks.

11. B. If a recipient of welfare is actively looking for a job and/or is a full time

12. student they will remain qualified to receive benefits for up to 8 years.

13. C. In order to continue to receive benefits past the 8-year limitation one must

14. prove to be disabled or show an immediate hardship due to circumstances beyond

15. their control

16. D. Those currently approved to receive benefits will remain eligible until

17. February 1, 2019.

18. SECTION 4. This law will go into effect February 1, 2018

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

*Introduced by*

### A Bill to Close the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. **SECTION 1.** The United States will formally close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and

2. revoke claims to the territory occupied by the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

3. **SECTION 2.** Each detainee currently held at the detention camp will either be transferred to a

4. non-military prison within the United States and promptly given a trial with due

5. process or released within the United States or to other countries.

6. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice and Department of Defense will enforce this legislation.

7. **SECTION 4.** Prisoners shall be transferred and the territory shall be returned by December 31,

8. 2018.

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

Introduced by

### A Bill to Defund Sanctuary Cities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All federal funding directed towards cities and counties whose law

 enforcement agencies fail to comply with established federal immigration

law shall cease immediately.

* + - 1. SECTION 2. Federal funding shall be defined as any funds allocated directly by Congress,
			2. or given by a federal agency to a city or county. Federal immigration law
			3. will be enforced by the DHS, ICE and USBP.
			4. SECTION 3. The Department of the Homeland Security (DHS) shall work in conjunction
			5. with the Department of the Treasury (DOT) to implement every aspect of
			6. this bill.
			7. A. The DHS and DOT will be responsible for identifying the cities and
			8. counties not in compliance with established federal immigration law.
			9. SECTION 4. This will go into effect immediately after passage.
			10. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced by*

### A Resolution to Increase Research Funding into Genetically Modified Organisms

WHEREAS, Genetically modified organisms are organisms whose genetic

material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques; and

WHEREAS, There has been a great wealth of research into genetically modified

organisms, but there are widely varying conclusions regarding their

safety status; and

WHEREAS, Genetically modified organisms are being included in a great wealth

 of food products in the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, If genetically modified organisms are found to be harmful, their

consumers are being put at health risk; and

WHEREAS, Increased federal funding towards research into genetically modified

organisms will help reach a true conclusion regarding their safety;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the amount of funding going

toward research into genetically modified organisms shall hereby be

increased substantially; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount and allocation of this funding shall be

determined by the Department of Agriculture.

*Introduced by*

### A Resolution to Allow Americans to Purchase Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada

1. WHEREAS, Americans pay more for prescription drugs than any other country; and
2. WHEREAS, No American should have to make the choice between having to fill a
3. prescription and having sufficient money to sustain themselves and their
4. family; and
5. WHEREAS, Canadians often pay less for the same drugs Americans use; and
6. WHEREAS, Canadian prescriptions come with the same dosages and safety standards;
7. And
8. WHEREAS, Canada has long been an ally and friend of the United States both politically
9. and culturally; and
10. WHEREAS, Current laws prevent American consumers from taking advantage of low
11. prices in Canada; and
12. WHEREAS, Current laws prevent competition and a free market in the American
13. Pharmaceutical Industry; now, therefore, be it
14. RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that prescription drugs from Canada
15. should be safely imported to the United States; and be it
16. FURTHER RESOLVED that this Congress work to pass and support laws allowing for
17. American consumers to order prescription drugs from Canada.

*Introduced by*