

THE YEMEN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2017

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall take the following actions to mediate the crisis in Yemen:

- A. Cease all arms sales to Saudi Arabia unless it is verified that they are no longer intervening in the Yemeni civil war and terminate their commercial blockade of United Nations aid.
- B. Push for 5-way peace talks led by the United States and including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Houthi rebels, and the Hadi-led government.
- C. Increase cooperation with the United Nations to deploy \$500 million in humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people.

SECTION 2. Humanitarian aid shall be defined as aid aimed at preserving life and restoring quality of life in Yemen, specifically through developing infrastructure, improving sanitation and education, and providing vaccinations, safe water, food, and medical supplies.

SECTION 3. The Department of Defense and Department of State will jointly oversee the enforcement and implementation of Section 1A. The Department of State shall oversee the implementation of Section 1B. The Department of Defense and USAID shall work in conjunction with the United Nations to implement Section 1C.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Strath Haven High School

A Bill to Reform the Federal Cigarette Laws to Reduce Smoking

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. The United States shall raise the age to chew or smoke tobacco to age 21. The federal tax on smoke and smokeless tobacco shall be increased to \$1.51.

Section 2. Tobacco shall be defined as products such as: cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco. Smokeless tobacco shall be defined as means any snuff or chewing tobacco.

Section 3. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives shall oversee the implementation of this bill.

SECTION 4. This bill shall go into effect in FY19.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Shane McHugh

Holy Ghost Prep

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A RESOLUTION TO MAKE A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

WHEREAS, Almost one thousand civilians are shot and killed by police officers every year, which in addition to the loss of lives means an increase in community tension, fear, and distrust; and

WHEREAS, Mental illness plays a role in at least 20% of these incidents; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are 2.5 times more likely to be shot and killed by a police officer than a white American; and

WHEREAS, Each officer-involved shooting increases the level of distrust between civilians and police officers, which makes it more difficult for police officers to do their jobs; and

WHEREAS, Criminals capitalize in civilian distrust of police officers, and crime rates increase as distrust of police officers increases; and

WHEREAS, A backlog in local investigations and reviews shows that local municipalities need help addressing this issue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Student Congress here assembled make the following recommendation for establishing a national commission for the purpose of investigating the causes and consequences of officer-involved shootings.

Respectfully submitted,

Academy at Palumbo

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A Bill to Pilot a Federally Funded Firearm Buyback Program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. a) The United States Congress shall allocate federal funds for grants which shall be awarded to entities at either a state, local, or private/third-party level that will be used for a five (5) year voluntary gun buyback pilot program. Individuals will receive compensation in the form of a smart gift card for turning in firearms for whatever reason in an effort to decrease the amount of firearms that remain in communities.

b) All aforementioned entities can voluntarily apply to introduce a piece of gun buyback legislation as they see fit. However, a state's power will transcend local entities, whereas local entities will thus transcend third parties in terms of regulation of the programs.

SECTION 2. A private/third party shall be defined as a properly licensed gun dealer who wishes to participate in the discussed program if neither a state nor local government wishes to participate.

SECTION 3. The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall oversee the allocation of grants to eligible entities.

1. An eligible entity is considered a state government, local government or third party who applies for the grant.

SECTION 4. This bill shall be implemented upon passage of this legislation and will remain law for five (5) years where its effectivity will be evaluated and then voted on for an indefinite extension.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void. 21

Respectfully Submitted,

Archbishop Wood High School

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An Act to abolish mandatory minimum sentencing

Whereas mandatory minimum sentencing laws ignore the context of specific crimes, and

Whereas such laws take away the legally granted constitutional powers of judges and juries, and

Whereas such laws have played a major role in America's current mass-incarceration epidemic, and

Whereas such laws often destroy any chance of someone rehabilitating himself and leading a healthy, happy, and productive life, and

Whereas drug use in America is higher today than when the War on Drugs began, thus showing empirically that stronger sentences breed criminal activities rather than preventing them.

Now, therefore be it hereby enacted by this congress that all laws imposing mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes shall be abolished. The power to decide sentences will be returned to the courtroom, specifically to the judge and the jury.

All laws in conflict with this one are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
William Tennent HS

A BILL TO ADVANCE THE HEAD START PROGRAM

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Department of Health and Human Services will be given
3 aid in order to fund Preschool programs through grants. The grants shall then
4 be sent to these specific areas, and distributed to the preschools. This
5 legislation will extend the powers of The Office of Head Start in order to
6 provide better aid for those who need it.

7 **SECTION 2.** Aid will be defined as help through government grants.

8 Powers will be defined as abilities that the federal organization currently has.

9 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will
10 oversee the enforcement of this bill.

11 A. One Billion dollars in aid for the fiscal year of 2018 and \$500 million
12 dollars for every year that follows will be granted to the HHS.

13 B. The Department of HHS will act under the current system enacted and
14 carried out by The Office of Head Start, sending grants to specific
15 counties/areas, in
16 order to ensure efficiency.

17 **SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect immediately after its passage.

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

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Respectfully submitted,

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Unionville High School

**A RESOLUTION TO MAKE THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS ACT
(DACA) PERMANENT**

- WHEREAS**, President Trump has announced an end-date for DACA, with a moratorium on new applications, and current permit recipients to begin losing their permits on March 5, 2018 ; and
- WHEREAS**, Over 690 thousand active, contributing and productive members of our country, who are here through no fault or choice of their own, will be faced with deportation; and
- WHEREAS**, DACA recipients are more likely to strive for higher education than an undocumented citizen, and significantly less likely to commit a crime than any United States citizen; and
- WHEREAS**, These citizens in all but name currently contribute millions of dollars towards to the economy, and will add \$460 billion to the US GDP over the next decade; and
- WHEREAS**, Loss of these valuable workers and taxpayers would mean a massive blow to state economies, with states like Texas and California losing billions of dollars; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED**, That the Student Congress here assembled make the following recommendation for making the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act permanent .

Respectfully submitted,

Academy at Palumbo

A Bill to Reform Illicit Narcotic Use to Combat the Current American Drug Crisis

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The punishment for possession of illicit narcotics up to a 10-day supply is no longer a 1st or 2nd degree federal felony, and instead consists of a citation and mandatory appearance at a discussion panel consisting of legal, social, and psychological experts.

A. Rehabilitation care and treatment to discourage the use of narcotics and help fight addiction to these substances will be available for all users of narcotics free of charge and funded by the federal government.

SECTION 2. Illicit narcotics are designated recreational drugs including the varying forms and variations of Cannabis, Ecstasy, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Heroin Opioids. A 10-day supply of each of these substances is defined as: 1 gram of Heroin, Ecstasy, or Methamphetamine, 2 grams of Cocaine, or 25 grams of Cannabis.

SECTION 3. The Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services will jointly oversee the implementation of this bill. \$200 billion will be allocated to implement this bill from the Federal Budget yearly beginning in the first fiscal year after its passage.

SECTION 4. This law will be implemented on January 1, 2019.

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

Respectfully Submitted for Congressional Debate
by Aidan McGahey of St. Joseph's Preparatory School.

9

An Act to stop Israeli occupation through the halting of aid and the imposition of sanctions

Whereas Israel systematically discriminates against Arabs living in Israeli territory, and

Whereas Israel is engaged in aggressive and illegal settlement activities in the West Bank, and

Whereas Israel has acted with great cruelty towards the Palestinian people, both in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, and

Whereas Israel has ignored most all jus in bello restrictions in its recent conflicts, and

Whereas the Israel-Palestine conflict will never end if Israel is under no pressure to search for peace, and

Whereas our support of Israel, despite their treatment of Palestinians, has destroyed our credibility throughout the Middle East, and

Whereas Israel has repaid our support by interfering in American affairs through the Israel lobby.

Now, therefore be it hereby enacted by this congress that:

1. America will cease all financial and military aid to Israel.
2. America will engage in a nationwide boycott of all Israeli goods.
3. The nationwide boycott will end once Israel (1) formally bans its citizens from settling in the West Bank and (2) agrees to grant Palestine (comprising the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) formal independence, including membership in the United Nations as a member state.
4. All laws in conflict with this one are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
William Tennent HS

A BILL TO INVEST \$600B TO REBUILD OUR FAILING WATER SYSTEM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The water infrastructure of the US, no longer considered acceptable, must be rebuilt and upgraded to prevent further leaks and contamination.
- SECTION 2.** The water infrastructure of the United States includes dams, reservoirs, water treatment plants, pipes, and pumping stations, along with any other transportation method necessary to carry water for use nationwide.
- SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this bill.
- A. The total money invested is \$600B in \$30B increments added to the Federal Budget with each Fiscal Year (FY).
 - B. The money will then be allocated to regions determined to have the most need for repair, as decided by the EPA in the manner with which they see fit.
 - C. The money will be used to gather data on the status of the infra- structure, and then by physically repairing the infrastructure gradually.
 - D. The \$30B at each FY Proposal can be taken from the military budget, or any other budget exceeding its necessary amount in proportion to the rest of the budget breakdown.
- SECTION 4.** This proposal will be implemented over a 20 year period, with the first \$30 billion increment in FY 2019.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pennsbury HS*

A BILL TO BAN THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF “WET WIPES”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Article I: The production and sale of all products commonly

Marketed as flushable cloths or wipes be banned in the U.S.

Article II: This ban includes products marketed as wet wipes.

Article III: This ban shall take effect December 31, 2019.

Article IV: This ban shall be enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Continued production of the products after the deadline shall result in a fine of \$1,000,000 per day.

Sale of products after the ban shall result in a fine of \$5,000 per sale.

Article V: Any and all current laws in conflict with this new policy shall hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

Upper Dublin High School

A BILL TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON CUBA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States remove all sanctions and embargoes currently placed on the Republic of Cuba.

SECTION 2. Sanctions and embargoes will include any special restrictions on travel or trade between the United States and Cuba. Standard international travel procedures and import inspections will remain in effect.

SECTION 3. The Department of State, Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Treasury shall be tasked with the implementation of this legislation

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect 6 months after passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Strath Haven High School

A Bill to Increase the Federal Minimum Wage

1 **Section 1.** The current federal required minimum wage of \$7.25 (USD) an hour
2 shall be increased to \$9.75 (USD) an hour.

3 **Section 2.** Any employee must receive \$9.75 (USD) per hour of work; however a
4 state may keep their designated minimum wage as long as it is equal or higher than
5 the proposed amount of \$9.75 (USD).

6 **Section 3.** The United States Department of Labor will oversee enforcement of
7 the updated minimum wage.

8 **Section 4.** This bill shall be implemented on January 1, 2018.

9 **Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Archbishop Wood high school

A RESOLUTION TO END TEACHER TENURE

WHEREAS, teacher tenures promote laziness among teachers who know they have job security; and

WHEREAS, 2.3 million teachers have tenure in the U.S. and public school teachers in 46 states receive tenure; and

WHEREAS, the tenure system makes it difficult to fire employees that are not performing well, thus not allowing the students to have the best education possible; and

WHEREAS, teacher tenure is no longer necessary because of legislation previously passed against job discrimination; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, public schools will no longer provide teacher tenure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Education will oversee this termination.

Respectfully submitted,

Council Rock High School North

A BILL TO BAN THE USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The use of Solitary Confinement as a means of punishment for prisoners is hereby banned in all fifty states and the territories of the United States of America.

SECTION 2. Solitary Confinement shall be defined as the isolation of a prisoner in a separate cell for long periods of time as a punishment.

SECTION 3. The Federal Bureau of Prisons shall oversee the implementation of this legislation and The Department of Justice has the authority to enforce this legislation.

A. This legislation shall extend to privately owned prisons.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect 6 months after passage to allow ample time for prisons, The Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons to make necessary changes and create new rules.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pennsbury High School

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** A. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, within 180 days of enactment of this bill, issue regulations allowing wholesalers, licensed U.S. Pharmacies, and individuals to import qualifying prescription drugs manufactured at FDA-inspected facilities from certified Canadian sellers. After two years, the Secretary shall have the authority to permit importation from countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that meet specified statutory or regulatory standards that are comparable to U.S. standards.
- B. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall now have the appropriate authority to negotiate pharmaceutical prices with on behalf of Medicare Part D.
- C. “Pay for Delay” deals are now illegal.

- SECTION 2.** A. Certified foreign sellers are defined as firms that (1) have been in existence for at least five years and has a purpose for existing other than for this program; (2) if selling to an individual, does so only after receiving a valid prescription; (3) can certify that the physical premises and data reporting procedures and licenses are in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations in Canada, and has implemented policies to monitor compliance; (4) conduct ongoing and comprehensive quality assurance programs, including blind testing; (5) agree that laboratories approved by the Secretary shall be used to test product samples; (6) receive a certification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services that they meet the above criteria, including any of the regulations determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and renew their certification every two years.
- B. Qualifying prescription drugs must have the same active ingredient(s), route of administration, strength as drugs approved in the U.S, and exclude controlled substances, anesthetic drugs inhaled during surgery, or compounded drugs.
- C. “Pay for Delay” deals are defined as deals made between a pharmaceutical company manufacturing brand-name pharmaceuticals and a generic pharmaceutical competitor that delays the entrance of generic pharmaceuticals into the market.

- SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall oversee implementation of this law.
- A. Funds necessary to administer Section 1A shall come from an annual fee paid by certified foreign sellers set by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- B. Non-compliance with the ban on “pay-for-delay” deals shall result in a fine to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SECTION 4. This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Unionville High School

A Bill to Lower the Drinking Age to Protect the Rights of Young Adults

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Federal Government sets a minimum drinking age of 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. 23 U.S. Code § 158 (National Minimum Drinking Age Act) will be amended to account for this change.

A. States not in minimum compliance with this change face an 8% reduction in Federal Highway Funding.

SECTION 3. The implementation of this legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall go into effect the first fiscal year after its passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Patrick Adams of St. Joseph's Preparatory School