**A RESOLUTION TO BAN PLASTIC PLATES, CUPS, CUTLERY, AND OTHER PLASTIC DISPOSABLE UTENSILS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19 | **WHEREAS**, The United States of America must make a more effective contribution to  fighting climate change and encouraging energy independence and green living;  and  **WHEREAS**, Plastic cutlery and other servingware is typically made of type 6 Polystyrene  plastic, a type that is not often recyclable because of its high cost; and  **WHEREAS**, Polystyrene is not biodegradable and therefore can last centuries before it finally  breaks down. As this often occurs in landfills, moreover, it may last even longer,  since landfills are designed to store waste, not break it down; and  **WHEREAS**, Plastic cutlery and other servingware is not easily washed and reused, as they are  not designed for repeated use or cleaning and in fact, washing with hot water and  soap may cause the edges on the utensil to curl up, creating spaces that harbor  food particles and thus encourage rapid bacterial growth; and  **WHEREAS**, Eliminating plastic waste protects public health and promotes an economy  focused on more environmentally effective waste disposal and wider spread  recycling initiatives; and  **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled must act on their responsibility as a  developed country with a long-standing commitment to combating global  climate change; and, be it  **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled must join with other  developed nations like France and ban plastic cutlery and \  servingware for the purpose of saving the environment.  *Respectfully submitted,*  *Hampton High School* |

**A Bill to Reduce E-Waste**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Article I: This bill will require e-waste recycling centers to be built in high-population areas around the United States in order to reduce trash build-up, material waste and environmental detriments.

Article II: E-waste will be defined as: any electronic products no longer in use that cannot be conventionally recycled.

Article III: This bill will go into effect at the time of its passing.

Article IV: The EPA will be responsible for funding, implementation, and oversight of this bill.

1. Each city with a population of over 1 million, according to 2010 census data, must build 5 e-waste collection centers per million residents. All cities under 1 million but over 200,000 will be required to construct 1 center per 200,000 residents.
2. $1 billion will be allotted to the EPA budget for the express purpose of implementation and oversight of this legislation.
3. States will be required to have all applicable cities meet these guidelines by December 2020 or lose 10% of all federal funding.

Article V: All laws in conflict with this legislation shall be declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Bethel Park High School*

**A Resolution to Aid Rebel Groups in Venezuela**

1 **WHEREAS**, Venezuela continues to become more and more unstable under the

leadership of President Nicolas Maduro; and

2 **WHEREAS**, The people of Venezuela are struggling under a dictatorial regime that

routinely limits their access to human necessities such as food and

shelter; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The crisis shows no signs of resolving itself without outside intervention;

And

4 **WHEREAS**,The rigging of elections undermines the people’s ability to vote Maduro

out of power and armed struggle has become the only solution; now,

therefore, be it

5 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make a recommendation for the

allocation of funds in the form of economic aid to rebel groups fighting

the Maduro regime in Venezuela; and, be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled reaffirms our dedication to

fight for democratic principles and condemns the Maduro regime for

actions in interference with these values.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sewickley Academy*

A RESOLUTION TO DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF STUDENT DEBT

1. Whereas: the amount of national student debt has reached 1 trillion dollars,

2. Whereas: the large amount of debt deters people from lower income families from

3. attending college,

4. Whereas: federal and state loans have very high interest rates,

5. Whereas: the time to pay off student debts is increasing, as finding a job after

6. graduation is becoming exceedingly difficult,

7. Whereas: compared to other nations, the United States is lacking in providing

8. support to those attending post-secondary educational facilities,

9. Therefore, be it resolved by the congress here assembled that: the federal

10. government further subsidize postsecondary education by increasing the

11. amount of grants given out. And be it

12. Further resolved that; the interest rate on loans taken out for postsecondary

13. education be decreased.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic HS*

**A Bill to Reform the American Wage System**

Be it enacted by the Student Congress here assembled that:

**SECTION 1.** The United States raise the minimum wage to a livable wage and replace tipping salaries with a living wage through an incremental increase of wages over the course of eight years.

**SECTION 2.** A. A livable wage shall be defined as $15 per hour of work.

B. This shall be broken into a seven step increase to $15 per hour.

1. In year one from the passage of this bill, the minimum wage shall be $9.25 per hour.
2. In year two from the passage of this bill, the minimum wage shall be $10.10 per hour.
3. In year three from the passage of this bill, the minimum wage shall be $11.00 per hour.
4. In year four from the passage of this bill, the minimum wage shall be $13.00 per hour.
5. In year five from the passage of this bill, the minimum wage shall be $13.50 per hour.
6. In year six from the passage of this bill, the minimum wage shall be $14.25 per hour.
7. During and after year seven, from the passage of this bill, the minimum wage shall be $15.00 per hour.

C. 29 U.S.C § 203(4)(m) and 29 U.S.C § 203(4)(t) shall be declared null and void. Those affected by the nulling and voiding of 29 U.S.C § 203(4)(m) and 29 U.S.C § 203(4)(t) shall be put into the livable wage track as seen by section 2B of this legislation.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor and the Department of the Treasury shall be responsible for the implementation of this legislation.

1. The Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor shall be responsible for the wage incremental increase over the eight years.
2. The Internal Revenue Service shall be responsible for the change in income taxation for those affected.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be placed into effect in the first day of three months after this legislation is passed.

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

*Respectfully Submitted by*

*North Hills High School*

**A Resolution to Reserve a Portion of the United States Defense Budget for Artificial Intelligence Development**

**WHEREAS,** Artificial intelligence (AI) is defined as “the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.”

**WHEREAS,** The development of artificial intelligence systems can be characterized by an exponential curve.

**WHEREAS,** The brunt of AI development falls on the private sector, with corporations like Facebook and Google leading research.

**WHEREAS,** AI has many benefits, including deeper data analysis and machine learning capabilities, both of which can be an asset to government function.

**Whereas,** AI poses inherent risks. A sudden uptick in AI production could pose a risk to many job markets, as well as to national security due to the volumes of data in use.

**WHEREAS,** The nature of warfare has changed drastically over the past decade, with a greater emphasis being placed on intelligence and technology as opposed to raw size. Consequently, an outlet for managing information is desperately needed while an immense defense budget is not.

**WHEREAS,** The “National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan” released by the Obama administration serves as a solid framework for the relationship between government and AI development.

**WHEREAS,** This concept will go into effect January 1st, 2019.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT** a portion of the United States defense budget be diverted toward funding artificial intelligence research and development.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Moon Area High School.*

**A Bill to Reduce Carbon Emissions**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**ARTICLE I. A.** The United States shall reduce carbon emissions by 20% by placing

a carbon tax of $50 per metric tons on companies.

**B.** The United States shall place a cap on carbon for companies

at 25,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions annually.

**ARTICLE II. A.** “Carbon emissions” shall be defined as the release of carbon into the

atmosphere.

**ARTICLE III.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the

Internal Revenue Service shall enforce this legislation.

**A.** The Environmental Protection Agency shall conduct annual

inspections for compliance of the cap on carbon and measure the

amount of carbon emitted by metric ton for tax purposes.

**B.** The Internal Revenue Service shall calculate and collect the tax on

carbon emissions accordingly.

**ARTICLE IV.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

**ARTICLE V.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby null and void.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*North Allegheny Sr High School*

**A Bill to Remove Confederate Symbols from Public View**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Article I: All Confederate Symbols shall be removed from public locations, and said symbols shall only be viewable on one’s private property, out of the sight of the public.

Article II: “Confederate Symbols” are defined as any publicly viewable and easily recognizable symbol, statue, monument, and/or representation of any aspect of the Confederate ideology of hate, racism, and/or leadership, sans the Confederate flag. There are 1,503 symbols of the Confederate and hateful past openly viewable to the public, excluding Confederate flags. These come in a variety of forms, such as, but not limited to, monuments, naming of public buildings (including schools, military bases, and towns), and statues.

Article III: This bill will be implemented immediately upon passage.

Article IV: This removal will be funded through the government allocation of $30,000,000 of taxpayer money and will be carried out by the United States Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division. That Division will both identify and remove these symbols. This process is planned to last for 5 years, and, if being completed in a manner deemed diligent by Congress, will be extended as necessary and an additional $30,000,000 will be allocated to the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division until the process is deemed complete.

Article V: All other laws in conflict with this new policy shall hereby be declared null and void.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Fox Chapel Area High School*

*Diocese of Pittsburgh*

**A Resolution To Implement Current Event Classes In American Curriculum**

WHEREAS, The average American is under-educated in the realm of most current domestic and

global events; and

WHEREAS, According to Florida Today, most young Americans could not name Joe Biden as Vice President when he was in office, much less the leader of a foreign country; and

WHEREAS, Many public elementary, middle, and high schools in America do not offer a

class on current domestic or world events; and

WHEREAS, Many other countries’ youth are generally more informed of world events as they happen, nonetheless events that occur in their own nations; andWHEREAS, This course would provide an easy way for American students to get informed about global and domestic events and issues; and

WHEREAS This course would be in an online, traditional, and/or flipped classroom setting and include a standardized lesson plan that shall be expanded to include domestic and world events and crises as they happen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Congress here assembled formally recommend to the state governments the implementation of current domestic and world events classes into the curriculum of all public schools as an online, traditional and/or flipped course(s) lasting at least one semester per school year.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School*

A Bill to Develop High-Speed Rail in the United States

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

2. Article I: A. The Department of Transportation shall be granted $500,000 dollars to update

3. feasibility studies of potential high-speed rail corridors, and initiate new studies in

4. order to develop a cohesive national network.

5. B. The DoT shall be granted $15 billion dollars to provide to consortiums

6. constructing rail lines in these corridors. Grants shall be based on cost of

7. construction, and on the line’s ability to serve as part of a national network.

8. Article II: “Consortium” shall be defined as a partnership between the states involved in

9. each rail line, the private companies providing funding, and the federal

10. government. Equity shall be determined by financial input.

11. Article III: This legislation will be enacted at the start of the next fiscal year.

12. Article IV: A. The Federal Department of Transportation, in conjunction with state DOTs and

13. corporations, shall establish individual corporations to oversee line construction

14. and maintenance.

15. B. The federal DOT, in conjunction with all the states involved in a trans-

16. state intercity routing, shall award contracts for the operation of such services.

17. C. State governments retain operation contract authority for intrastate services.

18. Article V: All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Upper Saint Clair High School*

# A Resolution to Repair the US Social Security System by Privatizing Personal Investment Accounts

# 

**WHEREAS**, The current Social Security Program will collapse into insolvency by 2034 due to a shrinking ratio of workers to retirees; and

**WHEREAS**, Using the existing system to avoid this impending downfall will require significant payroll tax increases, heavy government borrowing, or a severe decrease in scheduled benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Fixing the Social Security program in 2034 with the current system would require a payroll tax increase of almost 4% or a 23% decrease in immediate benefits, harming American citizens, employees, and employers; and

**WHEREAS**,Privatizing Social Security, which would allow a worker’s salary contributions to be deposited into private investment companies or management funds supported by existing payroll taxes, will fix this crisis by “reducing Social Security’s debt and bringing the system back into solvency,” according to the CATO Institute; and

**WHEREAS,** The year-over-year growth rate for private investments is notably higher than the return gained by workers in the current Social Security program, Americans reliant on the Social Security Program will receive higher returns on their Social Security investment, supplementing individuals’ economic welfare and boosting national economic growth; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to repair the Social Security system through the privatization of personal investment accounts.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rep. Giri Viswanathan*

*Shady Side Academy*

A Resolution to Stop China’s Territorial, Human, and Animal Rights Violations.

1 **WHEREAS,** China is openingly committing genocide, human organ harvesting,

2 illegal island building, etc; and

3 **WHEREAS,** China threatens the US and its allies in the South China Sea which

4 is international waters; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Because of these matters a military force may be needed to put a

6 stop to these crimes for the sake of National security, other nations’

7 economies and the people of China; therefore,be it

8 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here make the following

9 recommendations to the UN and the US to stop China’s crimes

10 through peaceful negations and/or military action.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Knoch High School*

1.The Student Athlete Medical Act

2.A Bill to Tax the NCAA

3.A Resolution to Recognize Catalonia

4.A Bill to House America

5.A Bill to Halt Communications with North Korea

THE FOLLOWING FIVE PIECES OF LEGISLATION ARE FOR THE SUPER SESSION ONLY (AND ONLY IF THERE IS A NEED TO CONDUCT THAT SESSION.

APOLOGIES FOR THE UNUSUAL FORMATTING!!!



**The Student Athlete Medical Act**

**SECTION 1.** ​Intercollegiate Athletic Programs at 4 year universities will be required to adhere

to the following:

A.If a student athlete suffers an incapacitating injury or illness resulting from his/

her participation in the athletic program and therefore cannot compete, the athletic

program shall be responsible for renewing the scholarship funds [up to five years

or completion of degree, whatever comes first] in order to ensure the student can

continue with his/her education at the respective university.

B.The athletic program shall be responsible for paying the insurance deductible

amount applicable to the claim of any student athlete who suffers an injury

resulting from his or her participation in the athletic program and makes a claim

relating to that injury.

C. If a student athlete suffers an injury resulting from his or her participation in the

athletic program that requires ongoing medical treatment, the athletic program

shall provide, for a minimum of two years following the student athlete’s

graduation or separation from the institution of higher education, the necessary

medical treatment.

**SECTION 2.**​ Any university that does not adhere to the above standards will lose 40% of their

federal funding

**SECTION 3.** ​The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

**SECTION 4.**​ This legislation will be implemented July 1 2018.

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



**A Bill to Tax the NCAA**

**SECTION 1.**​ The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is hereby stripped of its

Non-Profit Status.

**SECTION 2.**​ “Non-Profit” is defined as a 501 C3; an entity that receives federal funding

subsidies and is excluded from federal taxing.

**SECTION 3**​. The Internal Revenue Service will be in charge of implementation of this

legislation.

**SECTION 4.** ​This bill shall be implemented April 16 2018.

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



**A Resolution to Recognize Catalonia**

**Whereas,**​ Catalonia has long considered itself a nation within a hostile state; and

**Whereas,**​ The history of its self-government has been repeatedly disrupted through acts of war

and dictatorships imposed by Central Spain; and

**Whereas,**​ The United States has its roots based in independence; and

**Whereas,**​ The United States has enormous leverage in the situation between Spain and an

emerging Catalonia; and

**Whereas,**​ The United States could use its influence to prevent a violent crackdown on the region

and encourage a peaceful separation; now therefore be it

**Resolved,** ​That the Congress here assembled recognize Catalonia as independent from Spain.



**A Bill to House America**

**SECTION 1.** ​Section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937 is amended to redefine “extremely low

income” as “incomes not exceeding 45% of the local median or poverty line”

**SECTION 2.**​ This legislation shall have no financial impact on the Veterans Affairs Supportive

Housing (VASH).

**SECTION 3.**​ The Department of Housing and Urban Development shall oversee the

implementation of this legislation.

**SECTION 4**​. This legislation shall be implemented upon passage.

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



**A Bill to Halt Communications with North Korea**

**SECTION 1.** ​The United States shall place economic sanctions on:

**A.** ​ Any bank or company involved in purchases of North Korean minerals, coal, textiles,

or other goods that earn Pyongyang hard currency.

**B.**​ Any financial institution that provides services to North Korean banks, shipping lines

that call at North Korean ports and insurers that underwrite cargoes to and from

North Korea.

**SECTION 2.** ​These sanctions shall be lifted when the respective entities eliminate interaction

with the businesses and government of North Korea.

**SECTION 3.** ​The Department of Treasury and the Department of State shall oversee the passage

and implementation of this legislation.

**SECTION 4**​. This legislation shall be implemented upon passage.

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

