

2026 IHSSA STATE STUDENT CONGRESS AGENDA

The Chair will open each session by calling for the orders for the day. A representative of the school in the house, or if no school representative is present, any member may claim authorship for the Bill/Resolution.

Only the bills/resolutions listed for a session may be used in that session. However, a member may call for a Suspension of the Rules to move a bill/resolution up the agenda. Members should note the different intent of a bill and resolution, which will affect the way they are debated.

Bills/Resolutions for session I Friday afternoon. 1:30-4:30

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| 1. Waukee NW | A Bill to Improve Welfare of People Who Rely on a Job that Pays Hourly |
| 2. Ankeny | A Bill to Improve American Health by Mandating Labeling on High Calorie Food Items |
| 3. North | A Bill to Aid Public Defenders |
| 4. Okoboji | A Bill to Mandate a SRO in Every School Building |
| 5. Bettendorf | A Bill to have BMX Racing recognized by the IHSAA |
| 6. Hampton-Dumont-CAL | The Hunger Games Act |
| 7. Dowling Catholic | A Bill to Supply Military Aid to the Philippines |

Bills/Resolution for session II Friday evening. 5:30-8:00

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| 1. Ames | A Bill to Send Humanitarian Aid to Darfur |
| 2. Norwalk | A Bill to Ban Smart Phone Usage for Those Under 18 Years Old |
| 3. Johnston | A Bill to Replace the \$1 Bill With the \$1 Coin |
| 4. CAM | A Bill to Require a Trade School Pathway |
| 5. Dowling Catholic | A Bill to Increase Surveillance in Metroes |
| 6. Grinnell | A Bill to Mandate Electric Vehicle Sales |
| 7. Hempstead | A Bill to Ban Artificial Intelligence in Schools |

Bills/Resolution for session III Saturday morning 8:00-10:30

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| 1. Bettendorf | A Bill to Improve Education |
| 2. Okoboji | A Bill to Prohibit Government Officials from Trading Stock and Crypto Assets |
| 3. Atlantic | A Bill to Restrict the Ability to Alter Vehicles |
| 4. Iowa City West | REPCA |
| 5. Hempstead | A Bill to Establish a Carbon Dividend and Innovation Tax to Combate Climate Change |
| 6. North | A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act |
| 7. Ames | A Bill to Reduce Housing Inequality |

Bills/Resolution for session IV Saturday afternoon 12:30-4:00

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| 1. Grinnell | A Bill to Expand SNAP Benefit Opportunities |
| 2. Dowling Catholic | Liberty Wallet Act |
| 3. Hampton-Dumont-CAL | Roots for the Future Act |
| 4. Hempstead | A Bill to Prohibit the Prosecution of Minors in Adult Criminal Courts |
| 5. Ames | A Bill to Reduce Food Deserts |
| 6. Johnston | A Bill to Ban All Zoning Laws |
| 7. Norwalk | A Bill to Create a Federal Tax Credit for Purchasing Life Insurance |

IMPORTANT: In the IHSSA State Congress Tournament, the 3-minute Authorship speech and the 1st Negative speech is followed by 2 minutes of cross-x. The c-x time may not be amended. All other speeches are 3 minutes followed by a 1-minute cross-x with the timing starting at the end of the speech. **STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO MAKE A PAPER NAME PLAQUE FOR THEIR DESK.**

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A Bill to Improve the Welfare of People Who Rely on a Job that Pays Hourly

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Increase minimum wage to \$15.50 for a double income family and \$20.00 single income family.

SECTION 2. A. Double income: 2 people each above 18 years old living in the same household.

B. Single income: A person who solely provides for their household.

C. Minors: A minor minimum wage is \$10.50

SECTION 3. The Department of Labor: Wage and Hour Division (WHD) will oversee the enforcement of this bill

A. 1st offense: A businesses caught underpaying their workers will receive a first warning.

B. 2nd offense: A second time they get caught underpaying their workers, the business will be investigated by the Department of Labour and will be forced to pay back stolen wages to the employee.

C. From that point on, employees can choose to have a private investigation.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Waukee Northwest

A Bill to Improve American Health by Mandating Labeling on High Calorie Food Items

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All fast food restaurants (also known as quick service restaurants) with at least 10 locations in the United States of America are required to label individual menu items containing 500 calories or more with a special symbol on all menus

SECTION 2. A fast food restaurant is defined as a restaurant with minimal or no table service where food is prepared and served quickly, often after being frozen and reheated.

A. An individual item is defined as a menu item that can be ordered on its own or that comes packaged individually. For beverages, an individual item will be defined as 12 fluid ounces of the beverage for the purposes of determining labeling requirements.

SECTION 3. The US FDA will oversee implementation of this legislation.

A. Restaurant establishments and chains found to be out of compliance with this law will be fined \$25 per menu item per location that is not properly labeled at the start of the month. Fines are increased by \$25 per item for each month that the item is not properly labeled, up to a maximum of \$1000 per item per location per month.

B. The symbol designating high calorie items will be the following emoji: 

SECTION 4. This legislation shall go into effect on January 1, 2027

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ankeny High School

A Bill to Aid Public Defenders

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Any public defender hired by a county within the State of Iowa or a public
2 defender hired by the State of Iowa shall have their tuition to the college or
3 university that the person attended to receive their Juris Doctorate
4 reimbursed if they remain a public defender for a county or state for more
5 than 5 years consecutively.
6
- 7 **SECTION 2.** The Office of the State Public Defender shall be in charge to oversee and
8 enforce the implementation of this legislation.
9
- 10 **SECTION 3.** The Office of the State Public Defender shall be allocated 2,500,000 dollars
11 a year from the Iowa General Fund budget.
12
- 13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on June 1st, 2026. All laws in conflict with
14 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Des Moines North High School.

A Bill to Mandate a School Resource Officer (SRO) in Every School Building

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** State the new policy in one or a few brief declarative sentence(s).
2 The implementation of this bill will mandate that every school building has a School
3 Resource Officer.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** These terms are defined as followed:
5 A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a sworn law enforcement officer assigned to work in a
6 school in a community-oriented policing capacity, performing law enforcement,
7 educational, and mentoring duties.
- 8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education and Department of Justice will oversee the
9 implementation of this bill
- 10 A. They will be funded through grants when available, local police
11 departments, and the school district itself.
- 12 B. States will be in charge of gathering the money to further help schools
13 in their states to afford an SRO.
- 14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this
15 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Okoboji High School

A Bill to have BMX Racing recognized by the IHSAA

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Bicycle Motocross Racing, otherwise known as BMX
3 Racing, shall hereby be recognized as a school sanctioned sport in the
4 state of Iowa by the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA).

5 **SECTION 2.** BMX Racing shall be defined as the sport founded and
6 sanctioned by USA BMX, involving bikes with pedals on dirt tracks.

7 **SECTION 3.** School sanctioned BMX Racing shall follow all rules used by
8 USA BMX except for the following:

- 9 A. Racing groups shall be categorized by Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity
10 (V), Varsity being the better of the two groups.
11 B. Usage of clipless pedals shall be coaches discretion, only permitted for
12 Varsity competitors.

13 **SECTION 4.** Any student who does not own a BMX racing specific bike
14 will be provided one via the school

15 **SECTION 5.** All USA BMX safety rules and regulations still apply,
16 including but not limited to helmets and clothing.

17 **SECTION 6.** \$100,000,000 shall be allocated to this legislation for initial
18 construction and resources, and an additional \$10,000,000 a year shall be
19 allocated annually for upkeep and general expenses.

20 **SECTION 7.** This legislation shall go into effect in FY 2028. All laws in
21 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bettendorf High School

The Hunger Games Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS THAT:

Section 1: The United States shall establish thirteen Federal Administrative Regions (FARs) to coordinate federal programs by managing disaster response, public health, transportation, environmental planning, multi-state grants, and population control.

Section 2: Definitions

- a. Federal Administrative Region (FAR): A non-sovereign administrative zone grouping contiguous states/territories to coordinate federal program delivery.
- b. Regional Sustainability Council (RSC): An advisory body for each FAR composed of state delegates, municipal leaders, public-health officials, and community representatives.

Section 3: FARs shall oversee implementation of federal programs, including:

- a. Voluntary family-planning services and reproductive health care.
- b. Investing in affordable housing, public transit, and childcare,
- c. Providing incentives (grants, tax credits) for sustainable building, green infrastructure, and family-friendly workplaces.
- d. The implementation of population control measures.

Section 4: The RSC will overlook any changes implemented after the bill is created, including:

Funding, adjustment of Region Borders, and any other changes needed.

Section 4: To fund these programs, we would increase taxes on alcohol and tobacco products by 3%.

Section 5: The RSC council will be a group of 20 members who are elected by popular vote every 4 years. Each region will send 12 representatives to a meeting of all 13 FARs every 6 months.

Section 6: In meetings, they will discuss anything else needed to make it run smoothly.

Section 7: This legislation will take effect on July 1st, 2026

Section 8: All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hampton-Dumont-CAL High School.

A Bill to Supply Military Aid To The Philippines

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall provide military aid and training to the Philippines
3 for the purpose of enhancing defense capabilities.

4 **SECTION 2.** Military aid shall include: 6 Boeing P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft,
5 2 MIM-104 Patriot Surface to Air Batteries, and 4 Independence-class
6 littoral combat ships as well as 20 F-35As

7 Training will be defined as training by the 1st Marine Raider Battalion of
8 800 Marines or any other government operation sent by the agency in
9 charge.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense will oversee the enforcement of this
11 legislation.

12 A. The 6 Boeing P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and 4
13 Independence-class littoral combat ships will all come from the
14 current US military reserve.

15 B. An amount of 15 billion dollars will be granted to cover the cost of Air
16 Batteries and Training.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on June 12th, 2026. All laws in conflict with
18 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dowling Catholic High School.

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A Bill to Send Humanitarian Aid to Darfur

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will send
2 in-kind and \$650 million in cash-based humanitarian aid to Darfur in
3 western Sudan. Humanitarian aid will be sent to non-governmental
4 organizations (NGOs) working in Darfur.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** In-kind humanitarian aid refers to non-monetary goods and services critical
6 to human life, such as food, water, shelter, and medical supplies.
7 Cash-based humanitarian aid is defined as the provision of money
8 delivered to recipients physically or digitally. NGOs are nonprofit,
9 third-party groups not officially affiliated with the government with the
10 intent of addressing social and/or political issues.
- 11 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of State will oversee this bill, and the USAID
12 will oversee its execution and implementation.
- 13 A. Because Sudan has no definitive form of government, but instead rival
14 government structures between the belligerents in its current civil war,
15 NGOs stationed in Darfur will be responsible for receiving and using aid
16 appropriately.
- 17 B. Aid will not be used for conglomeration by a specific group of people
18 and will be distributed between all ethnic and social groups in the
19 Darfur region.
- 20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2027. All laws in conflict with
21 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ames High School.

A BILL TO BAN SMART PHONE USAGE FOR THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

By Norwalk High School

BE IT ENACTED BY THE IHSSA STUDENT CONGRESS:

1 **Section 1:** Effective upon passage of this law, a person shall not give, sell or otherwise supply
2 a smart phone to any person under eighteen years of age.

3 **Section 2:** A smart phone is defined as a mobile device that combines the functions of mobile
4 phone and advanced computers. Features of a smart phone include, but are not limited to,
5 touchscreen interfaces, internet access, and an operating system capable of running
6 downloaded apps. The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) shall add to the definition
7 of a smart phone as technological advancement requires.

8 **Section 3:** Section 1 shall not apply to any mobile phone produced for the sole purpose of only
9 receiving and making phone calls.

10 **Section 4:** Any person or business in violation of this act shall be fined \$1,000 for the first
11 violation, \$5,000 for the second violation, and \$10,000 per additional violation. The Federal
12 Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall enforce all violations of this act.

A Bill to Replace the \$1 Bill With the \$1 Coin

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States will perform a variety of actions to phase out the \$1 bill, replacing it with the \$1 coin.

SECTION 2. The Department of the Treasury shall be allocated \$2 billion in order to oversee this piece of legislation.

A. The US Mint shall stop minting the \$1 bill.

B. All financial institutions, including but not limited to banks, credit unions, businesses, and ATMs, must provide change in \$1 coins instead of \$1 bills.

C. All newly manufactured vending machines, kiosks, and other automated payment systems must accept \$1 coins and may no longer accept \$1 bills.

D. A publicly accessible website shall be established and maintained by the Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Mint, enabling individuals to order \$1 coins at face value, with delivery fees subsidized by the Treasury to promote adoption.

E. Starting FY 2030, the \$1 bill shall be officially declared invalid as legal tender and will no longer be accepted for financial transactions.

SECTION 3. This legislation takes effect in FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Johnston High School.

A Bill to Require all High Schools in the State of Iowa to Provide a Trade School Pathway for Students as an Alternative Career Option to a Four-Year College

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This bill will require all High Schools in the State of Iowa to offer trade school career options in addition to the traditional 4 year College track

SECTION 2. A trade school is a postsecondary institution that provides hands-on training for specific, skilled careers, such as plumbing, electrical work, culinary arts, or medical assisting (but not limited to those listed).

SECTION 3. The State of Iowa Board of Education shall be charged with implementing this new legislation

A. The Iowa state legislature shall be charged with appropriating the funds to institute this new policy.

B. Smaller school districts may class-share with other school districts if necessary

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026.

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

Submitted by CAM HS

A Bill to Increase Surveillance in Metros

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This bill calls for increased video surveillance in large metro centers across the
3 entire nation.

4 **SECTION 2.** Video surveillance is defined as a way of video recording, more specifically
5 cameras in public areas. Large metros are defined as any city with a population
6 larger than 100,000, meaning a total of 346 cities across the United States. All
7 video footage that is deemed non-essential is deleted in 48 hours.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security would oversee the implementation of
9 this bill along with local law enforcement.

10 A. The Department of Homeland Security's budget of \$ 107.9 billion will be
11 used to install surveillance in cities.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2026. All laws in conflict with
13 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dowling Catholic High School.

A Bill to Mandate Electric Vehicle Sales

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal government will mandate that 95 percent of all
2 new cars, trucks, and vans produced for sale in the United States will be
3 zero-emission by 2035.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Definitions:
- 5 A. Zero-emission vehicles are defined as vehicles that have no tailpipe
6 emissions, such as battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) and fuel-cell electric
7 vehicles (FCEVs).
- 8 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will oversee the
9 implementation of this bill.
- 10 B. Manufacturers not in compliance with this bill will be blocked from
11 selling their cars, trucks, and vans in the United States.
- 12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2035. All laws in conflict with
13 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Grinnell High School.

A Bill to Ban Artificial Intelligence in Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1: The use of Artificial Intelligence, also known as AI, shall be banned in all public K-12 schools throughout the United States. This includes, but is not limited to, banning the use of AI tools used to assist students to complete classwork, authoring papers, or taking quizzes and assessments.

SECTION 2: *Artificial Intelligence* shall be defined as any software or system that uses machine learning, deep learning, predictive analytics, or any other forms of automated computation that produces output without human control. *K-12 schools* shall be defined as public educational institutions providing kindergarten through 12th grade instruction, funded and operated by local, state, or federal governments.

SECTION 3: The U.S. Department of Education shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

A: School districts shall be subject to regular audits to ensure compliance. Annual reports shall be published to assess enforcement and compliance rates. A system shall be created so individuals can safely report AI misuse.

B: Schools found in violation of this legislation shall become ineligible for certain federal education grants until compliant. \$200 million shall be allocated to support Implementation and monitoring

C: The Elementary and Secondary Education act shall be amended to make AI usage ineligible for federal program support. All educational software purchased with federal funds shall be fully human-controlled and non-AI-based.

SECTION 4: This legislation shall go into effect on **July 1, 2026**. All laws and regulations in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hempstead High School.

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A Bill to Improve Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The United States federal government will assist all public K-12 schools by offering increased financial support to those in need.
- SECTION 2.** Public school districts with documented students that score below the state's proficiency mandates will be offered aid to improve academic performance.
- SECTION 3.** Scoring will be calculated through the mean average of state required testing.
- SECTION 4.** Aid eligibility will reset annually after a state-wide test is conducted. Aid shall include, but is not limited to: extra teachers, tutors, online learning programs, grading websites, and physical supplies by request.
- SECTION 5.** The Department of Education will oversee the implementation of this bill.
- A. \$10,000,000,000 will be set aside for this bill from the general fund, to be utilized once the Department of Education requirements are met for said funding.
- B. The Department of Education will create a tool only accessed by school districts to request aid and ensure all government accountability policies are followed for the distribution of said funds.
- SECTION 6.** This legislation will take effect on July 1st, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bettendorf High School.

A Bill to Prohibit Elected Government Officials From Trading Stocks, and Crypto Assets

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. **SECTION 1:** No federally elected official will be allowed to trade stocks and/or
2. stock options, or change the status of their crypto assets while in office.
3. **SECTION 2:** A federally elected official is anyone who was elected to represent the
4. American public.
5. **SECTION 3:** Enforcement will be overseen by the SEC (Securities and Exchange
6. Commission). The first violation will require a fine equal to the amount of
7. profit made. A second violation will result in loss of political position.
8. **SECTION 4:** This legislation will take effect on March 1, 2025.
9. All laws in conflict with this legislation are declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted by Okoboji High School

A Bill to Restrict the Ability to Alter Domestic Vehicles

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Any citizen not working for a commercial trucking business will be
2 prohibited from altering the ride height of their vehicles to increase their
3 ground clearance by three (3) inches above the factory-set height.
4
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Making any other alterations - including, but not limited to, decals that
6 cover more than one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of a window's surface area, debris that can
7 hinder a driver's visibility and that is not easily removable, and having
8 window tint with a minimum light transmittance below seventy percent
9 (70%).
10
- 11 **SECTION 3.** The driver's first offence will result in a \$100 to \$1,000 fine. For the second
12 offence, at least thirty (30) days of jail time and an additional \$1,500 fine.
13 This bill will be enforced by local law enforcement within city limits, and by
14 state enforcement on highways, freeways, and the interstate.
15
- 16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2026. All laws in conflict with
17 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Atlantic High School.

A Bill to Reopen Economic Participation in Central America (REPCA)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The trade embargo on the state of Cuba will be lifted.
- 2 a. To further increase economic participation, 10% of the U.S
- 3 Department of Commerce’s discretionary spending fund will be
- 4 taken to invest in economic development in Central American
- 5 countries, focusing particularly on Cuba.
- 6 **SECTION 2.** An embargo is defined as a trade restriction adopted as an economic
- 7 sanction.
- 8 Economic development will be defined as development aimed at
- 9 developing an individual state’s economy.
- 10 **SECTION 3.** The Office of Foreign Assets Control will oversee this bill in coordination
- 11 with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.
- 12 A. The CFIUS will regulate investment in economic development in foreign
- 13 countries while OFAC will focus on enforcing the lift of Cuban embargo
- 14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2027. All laws in conflict with this
- 15 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Iowa City West High School.

A Bill to Establish a Carbon Dividend and Innovation Tax to Combat Climate Change

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** A. A federal carbon tax of \$80 per metric ton shall be levied on all corporations emitting more than 25 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year.
B. Fifty percent (50%) of all revenue collected shall be returned directly to U.S. citizens under the age of 25 as an annual “Climate Dividend.”
C. The remaining fifty percent (50%) shall be allocated to the Department of Energy (DOE) for grants supporting renewable energy innovation, carbon capture technologies, and electric grid modernization.
- SECTION 2.** A. A “carbon tax” shall be defined as a fee imposed on the carbon content of fossil fuels or industrial emissions.
B. “Corporation” shall be defined as any legal entity generating revenue exceeding \$5 million annually within the United States.
C. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall track emissions data, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) shall collect the tax.
- SECTION 3.** A. Corporations that reduce emissions by more than 30% within five years shall qualify for a Carbon Innovation Credit, reducing their effective tax rate by up to 25%.
B. Companies found falsifying emissions reports shall be fined triple the avoided tax amount and may face criminal investigation.
- SECTION 4.** The Department of Energy shall publish an annual “National Climate Accountability Report” detailing:
1. Total tax revenue collected;
 2. Total dividends distributed;
 3. Measurable reductions in national CO₂ emissions.
- SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect beginning January 1, 2026.
- SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hempstead High School.

A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, or better known as the “Jones Act” shall
2 hereby be declared null and void upon passage of this legislation.
3
- 4 **SECTION 2.** The United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Coast
5 Guard, the United States Department of Transportation, and the United
6 States Department of Commerce shall be in charge of overseeing this
7 legislation
8
- 9 **SECTION 3.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2028. All laws in conflict with
10 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Des Moines North High School.

A Bill to Reduce Housing Inequalities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Government shall prohibit localities from using single-family exclusive zoning in metropolitan areas with populations over 500,000, and require localities to allow for by-right development of multi-family housing, including affordable housing projects, in any zone designated for residential uses.

SECTION 2. Municipalities that maintain zoning ordinances out of compliance with the requirements of Section 1 shall be ineligible for federal grants for transportation, infrastructure, and community development. Affordable housing shall include any multi-family residential building with more than four units, or any single-family home that is deed-restricted to be sold or rented to households earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income.

SECTION 3. HUD shall oversee the implementation of this bill and allocate \$500 million for enforcement, community outreach, and housing development incentives.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ames High School.

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A Bill to Expand SNAP Benefit Opportunities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be
2 increased by ten percent per recipient and expanded to include prepared
3 food and non-alcoholic beverages sold at restaurants and toiletries.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Definitions
- 5 A. Restaurants are defined as establishments that prepare and serve food
6 and drinks meant for immediate consumption, which can be on or off
7 the premises of the restaurant.
- 8 B. Toiletries are defined as personal care items used for grooming and
9 hygiene necessary for the cleanliness and health of the person.
- 10 **SECTION 3.** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) within the U.S. Department of
11 Agriculture (USDA) will oversee the implementation of this bill.
- 12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this
13 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Grinnell High School.

Liberty Wallet Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A national wallet will be created in the United States with access to every
3 U.S. citizen.

4 **SECTION 2.** National Wallet: A government-backed digital platform that allows
5 individuals and businesses to store, send, and receive money
6 electronically, working like Apple Pay, Venmo, Cash App, etc.

7 U.S. Citizen: A person who is recognized under law as a legal member of
8 the United States.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Reserve System will oversee enforcement of this legislation
10 as well as any funding.

11 A. An amount of 800 million will be given to create the national wallet
12 and for the running of the wallet.

13 B. The Liberty Wallet will be accessible on any internet-enabled device.

14 C. In order to gain access to the Liberty Wallet, an application will have
15 to be made online with information like proof of citizenship, proof of
16 address, and an initial fee of 10 cents.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on March 5th, 2027. All laws in conflict
18 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dowling Catholic High School.

Roots for the Future Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS HERE ASSEMBLED CONGRESS THAT:

SECTION 1: To promote environmental sustainability, improve air quality, reduce heat islands, and enhance public health by requiring cities with populations exceeding 100,000 residents to maintain a minimum level of urban tree canopy coverage.

SECTION 2: All eligible cities must maintain a minimum urban tree canopy coverage of 20–30% depending on biome or population density of total land area within city limits by the year 2060. Cities below this threshold must submit an Urban Forestry Plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service within one year of this bill's enactment.

SECTION 3: Urban Forestry Plans must include:

- Annual canopy growth goals.
- Species diversity and native planting strategies.
- Maintenance and replanting policies.
- Community engagement programs for local tree stewardship.

SECTION 4: The USDA shall establish a Federal Urban Forestry Grant Program to help cities meet canopy goals. Grants may be used for tree planting, maintenance, and forest data collection, with priority given to cities facing high heat, poor air quality, or limited green space.

SECTION 5: Funds for this Act shall be reallocated from existing federal subsidies for fossil fuel research and development, specifically those under the Department of Energy's nonessential oil and gas exploration programs. The Secretary of Energy shall identify and redirect these funds within one fiscal year of enactment. If additional funds are needed, up to 0.05% of the annual discretionary budget may be redirected from the Department of Defense's environmental mitigation reserve funds.

SECTION 6: Cities failing to make a 5% progress toward goals may have federal urban development or transportation grants reduced by up to 10% each year until compliance plans are approved.

SECTION 7: The USDA Forest Service shall publish annual progress reports for all eligible cities.

SECTION 8: This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hampton-Dumont-CAL High School.

A Bill to Prohibit the Prosecution of Minors in Adult Criminal Courts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** (a) No individual who committed an offense while under the age of 18 shall
2 be prosecuted, tried, sentenced, or incarcerated in any adult criminal court
3 or correctional facility within the United States or any State, territory, or
4 tribal jurisdiction.
- 5 (b) All alleged offenses committed by persons under the age of 18 shall be
6 under the exclusive original jurisdiction of the juvenile or family court
7 system.
- 8 **SECTION 2.** (a) Any sentence imposed on a minor shall prioritize rehabilitation,
9 education, mental health services, and community reintegration.
- 10 (b) Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, mandatory
11 minimum sentences, and solitary confinement exceeding four consecutive
12 hours are expressly prohibited for any offense committed before age 18.
- 13 **SECTION 3.** (a) The Attorney General, in coordination with the Office of Juvenile Justice
14 and Delinquency Prevention, shall issue model guidelines within 180 days
15 of enactment to assist states in compliance.
- 16 (b) States shall certify compliance with this Act as a condition of receiving
17 federal funding under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
18 of 1974, beginning in fiscal year 2028.
- 19 **SECTION 4.** Any individual currently serving a sentence in an adult facility for an
20 offense committed before age 18 may petition the sentencing court for
21 transfer to juvenile jurisdiction or for resentencing under applicable
22 juvenile standards. Courts shall conduct such reviews within one year of
 petition.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hempstead High School

A Bill to Reduce Food Deserts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Government shall provide a federal tax credit of up to \$250,000 annually to grocery stores that open and operate in designated food desert areas. The tax credit shall scale proportionally with store square footage or annual revenue, as determined by the IRS. Eligible grocery stores must maintain operations for at least three consecutive years and dedicate a minimum of 40% of floor space to fresh produce and staple food items to qualify. Fresh produce and staple foods must be competitive priced relative to regional market averages. The IRS may reduce federal credit amount proportionally if a store receives other state incentives.

SECTION 2. Food deserts consist of low-income census tracts where residents have limited access to healthy, affordable food, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). A grocery store shall be defined as a retail establishment primarily engaged in the sale of food for home preparation and consumption. Staple foods must include at least three categories from the USDA's standard four food groups.

SECTION 3. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in coordination with the USDA, shall oversee the implementation of this bill and allocate \$500 million annually for tax credits and compliance monitoring.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ames High School.

A Bill to Repeal All Zoning Laws

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All existing zoning laws and ordinances that restrict the use of private property shall be abolished to encourage economic development and affordable housing.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this Act:

A “Zoning Law” refers to any regulation, ordinance, or statute at the federal, state, or local level that dictates how land may be used or developed, including but not limited to restrictions on building height, density, land use type, and setback requirements.

SECTION 3. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall enforce this piece of legislation.

A. All federal, state, and local zoning laws are hereby repealed.

B. All covenants, contracts, or agreements requiring compliance with zoning Laws are rendered null and void

C. Governments may regulate land use only to prevent direct harm to public health, safety, or environmental sustainability, or provide uniform infrastructure standards for essential public services such as roads, utilities, and emergency response.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect 1 year after enactment. All laws in conflict 19 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Johnston High School.

A BILL TO CREATE A FEDERAL TAX CREDIT FOR PURCHASING LIFE INSURANCE

By Norwalk High School

BE IT ENACTED BY THE IHSSA STUDENT CONGRESS:

1 **Section 1:** Effective January 1st, 2027, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) shall establish a
2 \$500 federal tax credit for each filer that demonstrates proof of purchasing \$750,000 or more
3 of life insurance coverage for 12 months in their name. Individuals filing jointly are eligible for
4 a \$1,000 tax credit if both individuals demonstrate proof of \$750,000 of life insurance
5 coverage for 12 months in their names.

6 **Section 2:** Life insurance is defined as a contract between a policyholder and an insurer in
7 which the insurer agrees to pay a designated beneficiary a sum of money (the death benefit)
8 upon the death of the insured person.

9 **Section 3:** All insurers must mail each policyholder a document declaring proof of
10 coverage for the previous year by January 31st. Failure to provide a document of proof by
11 January 31st to a policyholder shall result in a \$1,000 fine per violation. Insurers can provide
12 policyholders with the option to opt into electronic delivery of proof of coverage documents.