



2023-2024

ESC 5 Congress Legislation

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Chambers may set the agenda of their docket. Legislation does not belong to the chamber until it has first been introduced by the author or sponsor. School authorship is designated.



A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Require Cognitive Assessments and Age Limits for Government Officials

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the UIL Congress here assembled, that the following
3 article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United
4 States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the
5 Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the
6 several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the
7 Congress:

8 **ARTICLE XVIII**

9 **SECTION 1:** All elected government officials that are at the age of 60 and above shall
10 be required to complete a cognitive assessment, designed for the
11 purpose of measuring a person's mental capacity and cognitive functions,
12 when they announce their candidacy. No person shall be a Senator or
13 Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or
14 hold any office in the federal government If they do not receive
15 satisfactory results on the assessment.

16 **SECTION 2:** Once an elected official reaches the age of 75, they must forfeit their
17 position in government. A special election will be scheduled during the
18 normal November federal election to pick their replacement.

19 **SECTION 3:** The UIL Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
20 legislation.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Sabine Pass High School.



A Bill to Implement a Public Option to Realize a Universal Healthcare System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will replace Medicare and Medicaid with a Public
3 Option system.

4 **SECTION 2.** Public Option will provide people with a choice between Public Option
5 Insurance or their private insurance.

6 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will oversee the
7 implementation of Public Option so that a Universal Healthcare System is
8 achieved.

9 A. The funds will be allocated from the United States Department of
10 Defense budget using 1.7 trillion per year combined with the current
11 and expected budgets of Medicare and Medicaid to meet a total
12 budget of 24 trillion dollars.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect January 1, 2025, and will be
14 implemented over a 10-year period.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by West Hardin High School.



A Bill to Enforce FDA Regulation on Herbal Supplements, Dietary Supplements, and CAM Products

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This bill will force current and future herbal supplements, dietary
3 supplements, and Complementary & Alternative Medicine (CAM)
4 products to submit New Drug Applications to the Food and Drug
5 Administration to be verified safe and therapeutic through evidence
6 provided by the preparation and clinical phases.

7 **SECTION 2.** CAM Products: Medical products that are not part of standard medical
8 care. Examples include: Nonvitamin, nonmineral, and natural products.
9 Herbal Supplements: products derived from plants and/or their oils,
10 roots, seeds, berries or flowers. Dietary Supplements: In the United
11 States, dietary supplements are defined as products (other than tobacco)
12 intended to supplement the diet that contain at least one of the following
13 ingredients: vitamin, mineral, herb or botanical (including extracts of
14 herbs or botanicals), amino acid, metabolite, or any combination thereof.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Food and Drug Administration will enforce this legislation.

16 **SECTION 4.** This bill will be put into law July 21, 2024.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Orangefield High School.



A Bill to Codify Ethics Standards for the United States Supreme Court

1 BE IT ENACTED BY The CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Members of the United States Supreme Court will be required to adhere
3 to prescribed judicial codes of conduct governing other federal court
4 systems.

5 **SECTION 2.** Under this Code of Conduct, Justices will file a public financial disclosure
6 report including:

- 7 A. All personal financial gains, including gifts in excess of \$100, along
8 with the sources of the gains.
- 9 B. Income and investments by members of the Justice's immediate
10 family.
- 11 C. Perform the duties of office fairly, impartially, and diligently.
- 12 D. Recusal from cases when necessary
- 13 E. Refrain from political activity
- 14 F. Avoid extrajudicial activities that would be inconsistent obligations.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Administrative Office of the US Courts will oversee the enforcement.
16 Violations of these standards will be reported to the Judicial
17 Administration and may be subject to

- 18 A. Mandatory recusal, suspension of duties, and/or referral for
19 impeachment.

20 **SECTION 4:** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Woodville High School



A Resolution to Restrict the Use of AI to Preserve Human Creativity

1 **WHEREAS,** Artificial Intelligence is increasing in popularity as a quick and easy
2 tool in creative fields and is steadily replacing human thoughts
3 and creativity in entertainment; and

4 **WHEREAS,** This is hindering for those wishing to remain in/pursue a career in
5 these fields due to AI having created an environment where said
6 positions are no longer a sustainable career and is negatively
7 affecting the living conditions of workers, and

8 **WHEREAS,** if the use of Artificial Intelligence continues to be permitted
9 without restraint, workers in this field will be replaced and there
10 shall be little to no human creativity in the industry, and

11 **WHEREAS,** Prohibiting issues such as these from arising would protect and
12 prevent more workers from losing their job and maintain and
13 encourage creativity in the entertainment field; now, therefore,
14 be it

15 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled direct the Federal
16 Communications Commission and the United States Patent and
17 Trademark Office to draft regulations restricting and regulating
18 the use of AI for creative and entertainment purposes.

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** This change shall not prevent the development of AI as an
20 effective tool of human technology, while still preserving the arts.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Bridge City High School.



A Bill to End the Violation of Privacy by the Government on Personal Devices

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Fourth Amendment to the constitution of the United States forbids
3 the use of unlawful search and seizure. This bill shall end the process of
4 government agencies illegally wiretapping or searching citizens, without a
5 warrant.

6 **SECTION 2.** *Wiretapping* is defined as the practice of connecting a listening device to a
7 telephone line to monitor a conversation. *Searching* is defined as entering
8 a person's property, place of residence, or inspecting their person.

9 **SECTION 3.** This bill shall be enforced by the Department of Justice

10 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be enacted on the 1st of January 2025.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Lumberton High School



A Bill to Provide Paid Maternity Leave for Pregnant Individuals to Ensure Their Well-being

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Pregnancy often comes with an array of negative health effects that
3 often leave individuals bedridden and in danger of severe economic
4 impacts due to a loss of income. To combat this issue, all businesses must
5 provide pregnant individuals with 20 weeks of paid, job-protected
6 maternity leave.

7 **SECTION 2.** Negative health effects are defined as any adverse, possibly life-
8 threatening health issues one may face due to or contributed to as a
9 result of pregnancy.

10 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Labor will oversee the enforcement of this
11 legislation.

12 A. Eligible employees will earn 50% of their paycheck or salary.

13 B. Paid leave can be utilized during the pregnancy and postpartum care
14 within 3 months of the baby's birth.

15 **SECTION 4.** This law will take effect on January 1, 2025.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Nederland High School.



A Bill to Increase School Counselor Qualifications to Soothe the Mental Health Crisis in Adolescents.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** School Counselors will need 2 years' experience as a Licensed
3 Professional Counselor with adolescents.

4 **SECTION 2.** Anyone wanting to become a school counselor must have been a
5 Licensed Professional Counselor with experience in counseling children
6 ages 5-18. Any counselor that is already employed by the district should
7 be required to take a refresher course and start hosting counseling
8 sessions with the students.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Texas Education Agency will enforce the bill by refusing to hire
10 anyone that does not meet the requirements.

11 **SECTION 4.** The bill would be effective as of September 1, 2024.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Port Neches Groves High School.



A Bill to Mandate a Nationwide Carbon Tax to Reduce Emissions and Encourage the Switch the Renewable Energy in the U.S.

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Congress should hereby mandate a nationwide carbon tax on fossil fuels used for energy sources in order to cut U.S emissions and accelerate the switch to renewable energies.

SECTION 2. Fossil fuels are defined as coal, oil products, and natural gas. “Carbon” in carbon tax comprises all greenhouse gas emissions but will be referred to as carbon for abbreviation purposes.

SECTION 3. \$65 per ton will be charged on emissions from fossil fuels and will increase over time with respect to the growing severity of the climate crisis. The fee will be collected on the upstream process of fossil fuel production, and the price of fossil fuel products will reflect the effect of the tax. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), IRS (Internal Revenue System), and US Department of Energy will oversee and implement this bill.

A. The EPA is tasked with inspections of the state and severity of climate change in order to determine the increase of the carbon tax.

B. The IRS is responsible for enforcing and collecting the tax revenue generated.

C. The U.S. Department of Energy is responsible for distributing tax revenue collected as renewable energy subsidies for lower income families.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect in fiscal year 2024.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by West Brook High School.



A Bill to Accept and House Refugees in the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States federal government will provide asylum and housing to
3 all foreign refugees.

4 **SECTION 2.** Foreign refugees are defined as people who have fled war, violence,
5 conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find
6 safety in another country. Asylum is defined as a form of protection
7 which allows an individual to remain in the U.S. to avoid unsafe
8 conditions in their homeland.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of State will oversee the enforcement of the bill through
10 the expansion of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

11 A. Funding for this program will come from the U.S. Immigration and
12 Customs Enforcement Agency.

13 B. Once refugees have received asylum in the United States, they will
14 receive government-funded vouchers to cover the cost of housing.

15 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Sabine Pass High School.



A Bill to Limit Solar Farms to Protect Land

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Solar panel companies are prohibited from using Indigenous land, hunting land,
3 agricultural land, and residential properties to establish solar farms. Existing
4 Solar farms may remain, but no new ones will be allowed on prohibited
5 properties.

6 **SECTION 2.** Indigenous land is land within a Native American reservation or land over which
7 an indigenous people exercise governmental power. Hunting land is public lands
8 generally available for hunting. Agricultural lands are defined as croplands,
9 grasslands, rangelands, or pastures on which agricultural crops, forest related
10 products and/or livestock are produced. Residential property is property or
11 portions of property used to house human beings.

12 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture will review land areas to ensure compliance.
13 All government agencies are prohibited from granting licenses in violation of
14 section 1.

15 A. Violating entities will receive a warning and be required to remove all
16 apparatus.

17 B. After one warning, violators will be fined \$1 million on the second
18 violation. Each subsequent offense increases the fine by \$1 million.

19 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2025.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by West Hardin High School.

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and its subject matter is approved by school administration.



A Bill to Cease Funding Ukraine to Focus on Issues at Home

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. will cease all funding to the Ukrainian War. The funds will

3 instead be allocated to issues that fall within the U. S.

4 **SECTION 2.** Cease meaning to stop immediately. Issues will include the mental

5 health crisis, the opioid epidemic and the border crisis.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Treasury will oversee the allocation of funds. It will

7 also decide on any other issues to fund with this money that it deems

8 important.

9 **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect on January 25, 2026.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Orangefield High School.



A Resolution to Declare Mental Health Among Youth in the United States

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. is currently experiencing a mental health crisis among youth in the
2 United States, which creates the pressing need for historic investments in
3 mental health care for students.
- 4 **WHEREAS,** Over the past few decades and over the course of the pandemic, mental health
5 issues amongst young people have steadily become worse;
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The Department of Health and Human Services states that about 49.5 percent
7 of adolescents in the United States have faced mental health disorders at the
8 same point in their lives;
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Rural and underserved populations do not receive adequate funding to meet
10 growing needs;
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The White House states that over the course of the pandemic, emergency room
12 visits due to mental health reasons for children ages 5 through 11 increased by
13 24 percent and for children ages 12 through 17 increased by over 30 percent;
- 14 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled declare programs to enhance mental
15 health for adolescents as a priority in providing funding and services to meet the
16 diverse and growing needs of American youth, resulting in maintaining existing
17 programs and increasing availability of services,
- 18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** That funding mental health services with a focus on youth and
19 underserved locations be elevated to a priority when considering national
20 budgets and funding.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Woodville High School.

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and its subject matter is approved by school administration.



A Resolution to Reduce the Harmful Impact of Fossil Fuels

1 **WHEREAS,** Industrial plants that are powered by fossil fuels are the nation's second-
2 largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions; and

3 **WHEREAS,** These greenhouse gas emissions produced from the burning of fossil
4 fuels are direct contributors to the production of methane and other
5 greenhouse gasses, and are direct causes of global warming; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Despite promises, the U.S. continues to push and fund fossil fuel projects
7 simply because it is cheap and easy; and

8 **WHEREAS,** A myriad of alternative and renewable energy sources exist, such as solar,
9 wind, and geothermal energy, which are constantly being improved and
10 made more accessible; now, therefore, be it

11 **RESOLVED,** That the U.S. begin phasing out fossil fuels in place of cleaner energy
12 sources due to the irreversible damage caused by the burning of fossil
13 fuels.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Bridge City High School

*We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of
the students of our school and its subject matter is approved by school administration.*



A Bill to Require Mandatory Jail Time for Anyone Convicted of Animal Dumping

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This bill would require anyone convicted in the act of animal dumping
3 have to face mandatory jail time.

4 **SECTION 2.** Animal dumping is the act of abandoning any animal in an environment
5 that is unfamiliar to the animal and also lacks its basic requirements to
6 sustain life. These basic requirements are food, water, etc... For the
7 purpose of this bill, an "animal" is defined as a household pet, primarily a
8 cat or dog.

9 **SECTION 3.** Through government subsidiaries, the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of
10 Cruelty to Animals) and state offices, will enforce this bill and aid in the
11 prosecution and possible conviction of any alleged offenders.

12 A. An offender can also be described as a person who is the non-owner
13 of the pet who engages in "dumps" as defined in this bill.

14 **SECTION 4.** This bill would go into effect January 1, 2025.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Hamshire-Fannett High School

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and its subject matter is approved by school administration.



A Bill to Change Congressional Pay

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congressional pay shall be changed from \$174,000 to the “Mean
3 Household Income” of each representative congressional district.

4 A. This change shall only affect the House of Representatives.

5 B. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall receive one and
6 one third of the Mean Household Income of their congressional
7 district

8 **SECTION 2.** *Mean Household Income* is defined as the average amount of income a
9 single-family household brings in as recorded by the United States Census
10 Bureau

11 **SECTION 3.** This act shall be enforced by the Department of the Treasury and the
12 Department of Commerce.

13 A. The Department of the Treasury will be responsible for dispersing
14 payments to congresspeople.

15 B. The Census Bureau will provide statistical data about Mean
16 Household Income to the Department of the Treasury to use to
17 correctly distribute funds.

18 **SECTION 4.** This act shall go into effect on the 1st of January 2025.

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

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Lumberton High School.

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and its subject matter is approved by school administration.



A Resolution to Lift Sanctions on the Republic of Cuba

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The United States has imposed economic, commercial, and financial
2 trade restrictions on the Republic of Cuba that restricts the economic
3 growth of the island; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** These restrictions have caused significant harm to the Cuban people by
5 limiting access to food, medicine, technology, and other essential goods
6 and services; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** The deteriorating quality of life in Cuba has triggered 250,000 Cubans to
8 migrate to the United States in 2022; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** The United Nations General Assembly has continuously condemned this
10 embargo as a violation of international law; now, therefore be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled lift trade restrictions and
12 reestablish trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Nederland High School.

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and its subject matter is approved by school administration.



A Resolution to Eliminate Earmarking in Congressional Legislation

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The practice of earmarking lacks transparency and fairness); and
2 **WHEREAS,** Earmarking has led to the allocations of federal funds to projects
3 or initiatives that lack rigorous evaluation, cost analysis, or
4 alignment with national priorities; and
5 **WHEREAS,** This practice favors interests and specific constituencies at the
6 expense of more pressing national needs; and
7 **WHEREAS,** Earmarking undermines public trust in the federal budgetary
8 process and creates political favoritism; and
9 **WHEREAS,** There is a need to insure that government spending aligns with
10 national priorities and is conducted in a manner that promotes
11 fairness, equity, and fiscal responsibility; now, therefore, be it
12 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled prohibits the use of
13 earmarking in all legislative bills, appropriations, and related
14 legislation); and, be it
15 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That earmarking shall be prohibited, so no member of Congress
16 shall request or direct the allocation of funds for specific projects,
17 programs, or organizations through legislative language; and be it
18 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the impact of this prohibition can be reviewed to consider
19 any necessary refinements to maintain the highest standard of
20 fiscal integrity.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by West Brook High School

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and its subject matter is approved by school administration.