



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

DECEMBER 2020 LEGISLATION DOCKET



December 2020 Legislation

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A Resolution to Transition to Statehood

A Resolution to Transition to Statehood

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the United States states, “The Congress shall have Power to dispose
2 of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property
3 belonging to the United States” (Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2); and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico passed in November 2020 a referendum to become the
5 51st state; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** No valid petition for statehood has ever been denied by the United States Congress; now,
7 therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled recommends the 46th President of the United States
9 issue a proclamation on January 20, 2021, to begin the transition process that will result
10 in Puerto Rico’s admission as a state effective January 1, 2022.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

Amend the OSH Act of 1970**Amend the OSH Act of 1970**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Federal government increases penalties contained in the OSH Act of 1970 for willful
3 and repeated violations of COVID-19 protocols established to protect essential workers.

4 **SECTION 2.** Penalties under the OSH Act of 1970 will be increased as follows:

5 A. Section 17(a), increase penalties to a maximum of \$250,000 per violation and not less
6 than \$100,000 per willful violation.

7 B. Section 17(b), increase penalties to a maximum of \$250,000 per violation.

8 C. Section 17(c), increase penalties to a maximum of \$250,000 per violation.

9 D. Section 17(d), increase penalties to a maximum of \$25,000 per violation, per day.

10 E. Section 17(e), increase penalties to a maximum of \$5 million and imprisonment of
11 not more than 5 years per employee death, or by both, and upon repeat conviction, a
12 maximum of \$10 million and imprisonment of not more than 10 years per employee
13 death, or by both.

14 F. Section 17(f), increase penalties to a maximum of \$25,000 per violation and
15 imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or by both.

16 G. Section 17(g), increase penalties to a maximum of \$25,000 per violation and
17 imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or by both.

18 H. Section 17(i), increase penalties to a maximum of \$25,000 per violation.

19 **SECTION 3.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Labor will
20 oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

21 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect upon passage, with all laws in conflict hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Resolution to Decriminalize Personal Drug Use

A Resolution to Decriminalize Personal Drug Use

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Huge swaths of the American population are in prison due to a drug-related crime,
2 compounding the already existent issue of individuals getting trapped in the prison
3 pipeline as societal structures create a bulwark against opportunities even once they
4 leave prison, such as employment; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** There are currently more than 389,000 people in prisons for drug-related offenses and
6 individuals, consequently, fear the retributively centered American justice system,
7 which discourages them from seeking safe injection sites or medical treatment for
8 overdoses; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** The current legal system has demonstrated that the criminalization of drugs lacks
10 incentives for individuals not to use drugs in the ways that government officials hoped,
11 meaning without significant legal alterations individuals will continue to be sent to
12 prison in huge quantities; and
- 13 **WHEREAS,** Oregon in November of 2020 became the first state to decriminalize the possession and
14 personal use of all drugs in small quantities; and
- 15 **WHEREAS,** Oregon is expanding access to addiction assistance and other health services instead of
16 arresting and jailing its vulnerable populations; now, therefore, be it
- 17 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled recommend states adopt measures such as Oregon’s
18 to decriminalize the possession and personal use of drugs.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Raise Taxes on Gasoline to Combat the Impacts of Climate Change

A Bill to Raise Taxes on Gasoline to Combat the Impacts of Climate Change

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Federal government will implement higher taxes on all gas sold in the United
3 States for individual consumption with the goal of disincentivizing citizens from gas
4 usage.

5 **SECTION 2.** The tax will be 10.5 cents-per-gallon (CPG). The cents-per-gallon (CPG) flat-tax will
6 be annually adjusted for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

7 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

8 A. The IRS will work with independent corporations to invest the capital accrued from
9 the tax into the development of alternative energy sources, including but not
10 limited to wind, solar, hydro-electric, thermal, and nuclear power.

11 B. The IRS will work with an independent researching agency to analyze the implication
12 of the increased taxation on various socio-economic classes.

13 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect upon passage, with all laws in conflict hereby declared null and
14 void.

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A Resolution to Include Taiwan in the World Health Organization

A Resolution to Include Taiwan in the World Health Organization

- 1 **WHEREAS,** As an agency of the United Nations, the World Health Organization cannot recognize
2 Taiwanese sovereignty due to China’s Security Council veto power; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Membership in the World Health Organization would reflect an imperative first step in
4 ensuring Taiwanese sovereignty while also granting the Taiwanese government access to
5 the same information and resources as the rest of the members of the United Nations; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** International precedence has been established with Taiwan’s entry into the World Trade
7 Organization, independent of the People’s Republic of China, under the name Separate
8 Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei); now,
9 therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled recommend that the United Nations admit the
11 Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei) to the
12 World Health Organization.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Resolution to Encourage Integration of Individuals Formerly Convicted of Crimes into the Workforce

A Resolution to Encourage Integration of Individuals Formerly Convicted of Crimes into the Workforce

1 **WHEREAS,** If the purpose of the correctional system is to rehabilitate individuals convicted of
2 crimes, the high rate of unemployment of formerly incarcerated individuals prevents
3 their productive integration into the American workforce and compounds problems of
4 recidivism; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Systemic racism within the criminal justice system has contributed to deep racial
6 disparities in hiring practices; now, therefore, be it

7 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled urge States to implement legislation applicable for
8 public and private sector employers to prevent questions pertaining to conviction
9 history in initial employment applications, as well as guidance for expungement and
10 record-sealing; and, be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That States are urged to encourage facilitation of peer-to-peer networks to help
12 employers devise, share, and implement best practices of fair chance hiring to better
13 integrate citizens into the workforce following conviction and/or incarceration; and, be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That Congress establish a joint oversight committee to audit the Equal
15 Employment Opportunity Commission's enforcement of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act,
16 particular to race in hiring practices.

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Ending Qualified Immunity Act

Ending Qualified Immunity Act

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes ([42 U.S.C. 1983](#)) is amended by adding at the end
2 the following: “It shall not be a defense or immunity to any action brought under this
3 section that the defendant was acting in good faith, or that the defendant believed,
4 reasonably or otherwise, that his or her conduct was lawful at the time when it was
5 committed. Nor shall it be a defense or immunity that the rights, privileges, or
6 immunities secured by the Constitution or laws were not clearly established at the time
7 of their deprivation by the defendant, or that the state of the law was otherwise such
8 that the defendant could not reasonably have been expected to know whether his or
9 her conduct was lawful.”
- 10 **SECTION 2.** This bill shall take effect upon passage, with all laws in conflict hereby declared null and
11 void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association, as inspired by H.R. 7085, “Ending Qualified Immunity Act,” 116th Congress, sponsored by Rep. Justin Amash.

The Hush Money Act

The Hush Money Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Taxpayer money shall no longer be used to finance settlements between members of
3 the House of Representatives or the Senate who have been accused of sexual
4 misconduct and the individuals who accused them.

5 A. Any individual who accused a member of Congress of sexual misconduct and
6 received a settlement prior to the enactment of this legislation may publicize the
7 details of the settlement.

8 B. All non-disclosure agreements agreed upon in previous settlements between
9 accusers and the accused will be considered nullified.

10 C. All settlements between accusers and accused members of Congress will become
11 public record.

12 **SECTION 2.** Non-disclosure agreements will be defined as a legally enforceable contract between
13 two parties that establishes confidentiality.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Senate Committee on Ethics and the House Committee on Ethics will oversee the
15 enforcement of this legislation.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy Act

Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** 8 U.S.C. 1101(a) is amended–

3 (A). To replace paragraph 8 with: “the term ‘climate-displaced person’ means
4 any person who, for reasons of sudden or progressive change in
5 environment impacting life or living conditions– (a) is obliged to leave his or
6 her habitual home, either within his or her country of nationality or in
7 another country; (b) is in need of a durable resettlement solution; and (c)
8 whose government cannot or will not provide such durable resettlement
9 solution.”

10 (B). To amend paragraph 34 to read: “The term ‘designated application center’
11 means any United States embassy or consulate, or other facility as the
12 Secretary of State may delegate to accept applications for climate-displaced
13 person status.”

14 **SECTION 2.** 22 U.S.C. 2151p, §117 of Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended to establish
15 within the Department of State a comprehensive 10-year “Global Climate
16 Change Resilience Strategy,” to mitigate impacts of climate change on
17 displacement and humanitarian emergencies. This agency shall–

18 (A). Establish criteria, metrics, and mechanisms for determining aid, assistance,
19 and multilateral policies needed for such mitigations internationally;

20 (B). Determine what the United States can do to pathways for relocation to the
21 U.S., up to and including citizenship for climate refugees.

22 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State and Secretary of Homeland Security are responsible for
23 enforcement of this act, as well as reporting to Congress on the efficacy of
24 implementation.

25 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect upon passage, with all laws in conflict hereby declared
26 null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association, as inspired by S.2565, “A Bill to establish a Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy,” 116th Congress, sponsored by Sen. Edward Markey.

A Bill to Remove Tax-Exempt Status for Religious Institutions

A Bill to Remove Tax-Exempt Status for Religious Institutions

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** 26 U.S.C. §501 shall be amended to strike all exemptions for religious
3 organizations.

4 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall take effect January 1, 2022, with all laws in conflict hereby declared
5 null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association