September 2019 Legislation

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A Resolution to Raise the Poverty Line

WHEREAS, The current poverty line for a family of four in the continental United States is $25,750, +/- $4,420 for addition or fewer family members; and

WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is only available to those who earn 130% of the federal poverty level. Households must also have less than $3,500 in assets with an elderly or disabled person, or $2,250 or less in households without an elderly or disabled member.; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid is only available to families whose income is 138% of the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act provides insurance subsidies for households between 138% and 400% of the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, The poverty guidelines are the same across the nation, except for Hawaii and Alaska. They ignore the wide difference in the cost of living between states; and

WHEREAS, As a result, benefits buy more in rural areas, but the opportunities to find a good job and escape poverty are in more urban areas; now, therefore,

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the current poverty line rates be increased by 25% (5% each year) by July 1st, 2024.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association
A Resolution to Create a More Sustainable United States Healthcare System

WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) introduced
the prospects for major reforms in payment for and organization of care,
in prevention and population health, and in approaches to continuous
improvement. Yet it remains under legal assault and a cloud of
controversy; and

WHEREAS, Although annual health care spending in the United States nears $10,739
per person ($3.5 trillion), the current system is eroding—often denying
patients basic services; and

WHEREAS, Inequitable distribution of resources continues, and an increasing
number of American families do not have access to adequate care; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. has higher prices for most health care services and prescription
drugs, and spends almost double per person than any other comparable
wealthy county according to available internationally comparable data.
Meanwhile, utilization of several services, including physician
consultations and hospital stays, is lower than in many comparable
countries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the United States develop a new
Universal healthcare system by July 1st, 2025.
A Resolution to Slash the United States Military Budget

WHEREAS, The current United States military budget is $740 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, The United States military budget accounts for over half of all federal discretionary spending; and

WHEREAS, The Pentagon is asking for $989 billion in its fiscal 2020 budget; and

WHEREAS, Military spending is the second largest item in the federal budget after Social Security; and

WHEREAS, The United States spends more on defense than the next nine countries combined; and

WHEREAS, The defense base budget of $576 billion funds the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the United States military budget shall be reduced to only 10% over the defense base budget by the 2021 fiscal year.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association
A Resolution to Limit Congressional Service

WHEREAS, To be a member of the House of Representatives one must be 25-years old, be a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years, and be a resident or a particular state at the time of election; and

WHEREAS, To be a member of the U.S. Senate one must be 30-years old, be a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and be a resident or a particular state at the time of election; and

WHEREAS, Members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms and are considered for reelection every even year; and

WHEREAS, Senators however, serve six-year terms and elections to the Senate are staggered over even years so that only about 1/3 of the Senate is up for reelection during any election; and

WHEREAS, There are currently no limits on length of service, which has led to the continuation of “career politicians”; and

WHEREAS, This flaw in the system limits political growth and discourse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that no individual can serve more than a collective total of 20 years between the U.S. House and U.S. Senate starting in the next voting cycle.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association
A Resolution to Reduce the Congressional Pension Benefit

WHEREAS, Currently, Congressional pay is $174,000 per year, which, at an 80-percent rate, equates to a lifelong pension benefit of $139,200; and

WHEREAS, All benefits are taxpayer-funded; and

WHEREAS, Members of Congress enjoy the same Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) as all other federal employees, which is similar to a 401(k); and

WHEREAS, As of 2019, members who participated in the congressional pension system are vested after five (5) years of service; and

WHEREAS, A full pension is available to members 62 years of age with 5 years of service; 50 years or older with 20 years of service; or 25 years of service at any age; and

WHEREAS, This costs U.S. taxpayers over $75 million dollars each year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the Congressional Pension benefit be reduced by 25% (5% each year) by July 1st, 2024.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The National Speech and Debate Association
A Bill to Cut Foreign Aid to Eliminate U.S. Foreign Debt

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Federal Government must cut all foreign aid by 50% by the 2022 fiscal year to help eliminate the National Debt.

SECTION 2. Foreign aid refers to any assistance given by the United States to foreign nations. The National Debt refers to the ever growing $22.03 trillion dollars of U.S. debt.

SECTION 3. The Department of Treasury will oversee the enforcement of the bill along with the U.S. State Department to enforce the limitation of the distribution of foreign aid.

A. U.S. foreign aid accounts for just over 1% of the federal budget.

B. Funds cut from foreign spending will be used to offset the National Debt by paying off debt held by foreign entities ($5.86 trillion).

SECTION 4. This bill shall be implemented by the start of the 2022 fiscal year.

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
A Bill to Forgive All Student Loan Debt after Five Years

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All current and future student loan debt held by individuals after five years of qualifying payments shall be forgiven.

SECTION 2. Student loan debt refers to debt from loans for higher education, qualifying payments refer to timely payments made toward paying off student loans, forgiven means that the remaining money owed will be the burden of the lender to cover.

SECTION 3. The United States Department of Education and the United States Treasury will oversee the enforcement of the bill to ensure no violations occur by lenders and that all qualifying payments are processed.

A. Any lenders found to still be collecting payments after the five years of qualifying payments will be fined $1 million per incidence.

B. All money collected from fines will be used to fund materials for public schools in the United States.

SECTION 4. This policy will go into effect at the start of the 2021 fiscal year.

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
A Bill to Require Mental Health Training for Government Employees

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All current and future government employees must complete a government approved mental health first aid program every three years.

SECTION 2. Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that teaches you how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis.

SECTION 3. The United States Department of Health will oversee the enforcement of the bill.

A. This covers all governmental employees in the public sector.

B. Any company violating this bill will be fined $250,000 per violation.

SECTION 4. This policy will go into effect at the start of the 2021 fiscal year.

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
A Bill to Remove United States Military from the U.S.-Mexico Border

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All none required United States military personal shall be removed from the U.S.-Mexico border.

SECTION 2. Required military personal refers to the military presence needed to maintain boarder security.

SECTION 3. The Homeland Security Department and the Department of Defense will oversee the enforcement of the bill.

A. All none required troops must be stationed in a new assignment within 30 days of removal from the boarder.

B. No new military personal can be added to the United States border patrol for at least three years after this legislation passes.

SECTION 4. This policy will go into effect at the start of the 2020 fiscal year.

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
A Bill to Release All Individuals Detained at the US-Mexico Border

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States must release all non-threatening individuals who are currently detained at the U.S.-Mexico border.

SECTION 2. Non-threatening individuals refers to any individual not held at the boarder for violent or drug related reasons.

SECTION 3. The Homeland Security Department and the Department of Defense will oversee the enforcement of the bill.

A. All released individuals shall be sent back to their country of origin within 30 days of the passing of this legislation.

B. Go into further details if necessary.

SECTION 4. This policy shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

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