

The Compassionate Housing Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Commercial buildings in states of long-term disuse or abandonment shall
2 be 3 requisitioned by the federal government. Once acquired, these
3 buildings shall be 4 converted into free housing for those in need.

4 **SECTION 2.** “Commercial buildings” shall be defined as any privately-owned location
5 built for 6 commercial leasing purposes, including office buildings, strip
6 malls, or malls. “Long-term 7 disuse” shall be defined as rentable
7 properties having leasing rates which fall 8 consistently below 10% of units
8 for a given fiscal year.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development shall implement this
10 legislation, in collaboration with the Department of Health.

11 A. The Department of Housing and Urban Development shall offer
12 payments to the owners of said unused buildings in exchange for the
13 requisitioning of their properties. If property owners reject the terms of
14 purchase, the buildings may be seized under eminent domain if deemed
15 necessary.

16 B. The Department of Health shall establish and enforce standards of
17 cleanliness and safety in the housing facilities during their construction and
18 after their completion.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on June 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with this
20 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Memorial High School (Texas).

A Bill to Ban Self-Driving Cars

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Any automobile without a present, active human driver shall not be
2 allowed to drive on regular streets and infrastructure.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** Regular streets and infrastructure shall be defined as any structure built
4 through public works that are used primarily by civilian or commercial
5 vehicles.
- 6 **SECTION 3.** A driver relying solely on the self-driving mechanism of a car will be fined
7 at least \$1000 and have their license suspended for up to 30 days on the
8 first offense. States and counties may choose to increase penalties as they
9 see fit.
- 10 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation and local law enforcement agencies,
11 including police forces, shall oversee the enforcement of this bill.
- 12 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will come into effect upon passing.
- 13 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Centerville High School (Ohio)

A Resolution Encouraging Foreign Investment in Ecuador for Sustainable Development

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Foreign investment plays a pivotal role in fostering economic growth,
2 innovation, and job creation; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Ecuador, with its abundant natural resources, diverse ecosystems, and
4 strategic location, offers significant opportunities for sustainable and
5 mutually beneficial foreign investment; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Attracting foreign investment can contribute to the development of key
7 sectors such as renewable energy, technology, agriculture, and
8 infrastructure; now, therefore, be it
- 9 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled strongly encourages and welcomes
10 foreign investment in Ecuador, recognizing the potential for collaborative
11 ventures that contribute to the nation's sustainable development goals;
12 and, be it
- 13 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** that, in recognition of businesses embracing this commitment, the
14 Congress here assembled pledges support for initiatives that prioritize
15 responsible and sustainable foreign investment practices, ensuring
16 long-term benefits for both investors and the people of Ecuador.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alta High School (Utah).

A Resolution to Review the Ethics of the Supreme Court to Ensure Unbiased Interpretation of the Constitution

1 **WHEREAS,** In a poll distributed by the University of Pennsylvania, the institution
2 gathered that 53% of the people who took the survey disapproved of how
3 the Supreme Court performed its duties. Their duties consisted of
4 interpreting the Constitution and not allowing their personal lives and
5 beliefs to interfere with their ruling; and

6 **WHEREAS,** In comparison, the lower federal courts require a Code of Conduct for
7 judges to follow, whereas the Supreme Court judges are not bound by a
8 Code of Conduct. This resolution asks for the creation of a committee who
9 will oversee a Code of Conduct. Questions regarding the ethics of the
10 actions the members of the Supreme Court are engaging in and the effects
11 they have on judicial rulings have, as of late, become pertinent; and

12 **WHEREAS,** Furthermore, this can harm the American people because of the power of
13 the Supreme Court; justices should be the ones who uphold the
14 Constitution, as they should be the voice of the American people; and

15 **WHEREAS,** Use additional “whereas” clauses to elaborate rationale for the problem
16 that needs to be solved; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled makes the following create a bipartisan
18 committee of legislators to oversee and implement a review of ethics and
19 biases for the protection of the Constitution and the American people.
20

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Infinity Early College High School. (Texas).

A Bill to Prevent All Congressmen and Senators from Getting Paid During a Government Shutdown

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** By law, members of Congress are not allowed to alter their pay for a
2 current 3 session, although they are allowed to change the salaries of
3 future Congresses. 4 That means they can't just reduce or eliminate their
4 own pay. This law should be 5 changed to during a government shutdown,
5 both Congress and the Senate, 6 neither party should receive a salary.
- 6 **SECTION 2.** Government Shutdown: When Congress fails to enact the 12 annual 8
7 appropriation bill, federal agencies must cease all non-essential functions
8 until 9 Congress acts.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of the Office of Management and Budget will oversee
10 implementation of this legislation.
- 11 A. During a government shutdown, furloughed government employees are
12 prohibited from even checking their e-mail from home. Many agencies
13 require employees to return their government-issued electronic devices for
14 the duration of the shutdown
- 15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on November 5, 2024. All laws in conflict
16 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Stranahan HS (Florida).

A Bill to Invest in Kenya to Extract Rare Earth Elements

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** A. The United States shall build ten solar panel manufacturing plants in
2 Kenya to produce solar panels for the country, in exchange for benefits for
3 US companies and partnerships with local Kenyan miners.

4 B. This will reinforce the US national security mission to diversify its rare
5 earth elements supply chains while developing the Kenyan economy and
6 building US-Kenya relations.

7 **SECTION 2.** A. The solar panel manufacturing plants shall be American owned and
8 employ local Kenyan workers. \$1 billion of US aid will be directed toward
9 infrastructure improvement and construction of facilities, and \$500 million
10 will fund a program to install solar panels in local Kenyan homes.

11 B. In return, US companies shall receive priority access to partnership
12 opportunities with local miners in the rare earth elements industry, in that
13 US-offered contracts shall take precedence over business opportunities
14 from other foreign countries

15 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Agency for International Development will work to implement this
16 legislation. 15 The agency will submit an annual report for additional
17 funding.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2025. All laws in conflict with this
19 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano West Senior High School (Texas).

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Grant the Federal Government Authority over Federal Elections

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

ARTICLE --

7 **SECTION 1:** The Federal Government shall be responsible for
8 organization and managing all federal elections, including
9 the number of, types, and locations of polling stations.

10 **SECTION 2:** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by
11 appropriate legislation.
12

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Caney Creek High School (Texas).

A Bill To Prohibit Members Of Congress From Engaging In Public Trading

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Members of Congress along with immediate family, shall be prohibited
2 from engaging in the trading of stocks, bonds, or any other financial
3 instruments for personal gain during their tenure in office.

4 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation:

5 A. "Trading" shall encompass buying, selling, or otherwise participating in
6 the financial markets with the intention of making a profit.

7 B. "Members of Congress" shall include Senators and Representatives
8 serving in the United States Congress.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) shall oversee the
10 enforcement of this prohibition. The SEC, in coordination with the Office of
11 Congressional Ethics, shall establish mechanisms for monitoring and
12 investigating potential violations. Any member found in violation shall be
13 subject to appropriate penalties and disciplinary actions.

14 **SECTION 4.** This prohibition shall take effect on January 1st, 2026 upon passage of this
15 legislation. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null
16 and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alta High School (Utah).

The Prison Mental Healthcare Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** All incarcerated people and prison employees (herein “assessment
2 recipients”) shall receive mental health evaluations no less frequently than
3 once per year.
- 4 A. Mental health professionals shall identify assessment recipients who
5 would benefit from regular mental health counseling. All recipients
6 shall be able to “opt-in” to regular mental health counseling regardless
7 of assessment .
- 8 B. Regular mental health counseling, in the form of one-on-one sessions
9 no shorter than 30 minutes, no less frequently than once per month,
10 shall be provided to all assessment recipients for whom it is deemed
11 beneficial and/or who opt into such counseling.
- 12 C. Students who obtain a degree and/or specialized education to be
13 employed as a mental health professional shall be eligible for student
14 loan forgiveness after working as a mental health professional in prison
15 for at least ten years.
- 16 D. There shall be at least one mental healthcare professional employed by
17 a prison for each 100 assessment recipients within that given prison.
- 18 E. Mental health professionals employed by a prison shall be scheduled to
19 work for no more than 40 hours per week.
- 20 **SECTION 2.** Mental healthcare professional shall be defined as a psychologist,
21 psychiatrist, or any other person licensed to improve mental health or treat
22 mental illness. Student loan forgiveness shall be defined as the elimination
23 of one’s financial obligation to repay a lender for money spent toward
24 educational expenses.
- 25 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Prisons
26 shall enforce this legislation. Prisons found to be violating this legislation
27 shall have all of their federal funding revoked. The United States
28 Department of Education shall enforce the student loan forgiveness
described in Section 1C.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with this
legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Stop the Altering of Current Child Labor Laws

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The U.S may not change current child labor laws to make them looser. The
2 U.S may only alter or change current child labor laws to make them stricter
3 only after substantial research has been done.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Child labor is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood,
5 their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental
6 development.
7 looser meaning making the law less strict.
- 8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S Department of Labor will be responsible for overseeing and
9 enforcing this bill. Any congress member found to be proposing a change to
10 the current child labor laws in order to make them looser will be fined
11 \$5,000
- 12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on June 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with this
13 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Columbine High School.

A Bill to Eliminate the need to make refugees prove that they have a well founded fear of persecution to seek asylum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Refugees no longer have to prove their need for asylum in order to be
2 allowed into the United States.

3 **SECTION 2.** Defentions

4 A. Refugees are defined as a person who has been forced to leave their
5 country in order to escape war, persecution or natural disaster.

6 B. Assylum being defined as the protection granted by a nation to someone
7 who has left their native country as a political refugee.

8 C. Persecution is defined as hostility and ill-treatment, especially on the
9 basis of ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation or political beliefs.

10 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. department of state will be responsible for enforcing this bill with
11 a fine of \$2,000 upon first time violations and up to six months in jail for
12 second time violations.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Columbine High School.

A Bill to Require Citizens Charged with Non-Violent Misdemeanors to be Released on Personal Bond

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 3.** A magistrate judge shall release a defendant on personal bond if the
2 defendant:

3 A. is charged with a misdemeanor other than a misdemeanor that has as
4 an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force against
5 any person,

6 B. is enrolled full-time or part-time at a public or private institution of
7 higher education, as defined by 20 U.S.C. § 1001,

8 C. has not been previously convicted of an offense involving family
9 violence as defined by the US Department of Justice or the Family Code
10 of any state, and

11 D. is not, and has not previously been, the subject of a protective order.

12 **SECTION 2.** The change in law made herein applies only to a person who is arrested on
13 or after the effective date of this legislation. A person arrested before the
14 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the
15 person was arrested, and the former law is continued in effect for that
16 purpose.

17 **SECTION 3.** This law shall not supersede any bond order or standing order already in
18 effect.

19 **SECTION 4.** The United States Department of Justice shall oversee implementation and
20 enforcement 16 of this legislation.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with
22 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alief Hastings High School (Texas).