



## 2024-2025

### ESC 19 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 Bill to Ratify Presidential Pardons

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Article II, Section 2, Clause 1 of the US Constitution should be ratified  
3 allowing the POTUS (President of the United States) power to grant  
4 Reprieves and Pardons on the federal, state, and civic levels.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill:

6 A. **PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS:** the “President...shall have Power to grant  
7 Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except  
8 in Cases of Impeachment”

9 B. **REPRIEVE:** the commutation or lessening of a sentence already  
10 imposed; it does not affect the legal guilt of a person.

11 C. **PARDON:** granting of a pardon to a person who has committed a  
12 crime or who has been convicted of a crime is an act of clemency,  
13 which forgives the wrongdoer and restores the person’s Civil Rights.

14 D. **POTUS:** President of the United States.

15 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Justice shall have power to enforce this  
16 article by appropriate legislation.

17 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented immediately upon passage.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Parkland High School.*



## **A Bill to Mandate an Hour-Long Lunch in High Schools to Improve Student's Mental Health**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States should standardize an hour lunch in all high schools to  
3 improve student mental health. Studies show that having an hour lunch  
4 increases student productivity and performance in the classroom.

5 **SECTION 2.** An hour lunch shall be defined as a minimum of 60-minute lunch period  
6 in the middle of the school day.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education will oversee the implementation of this bill.  
8 Schools who refuse to implement the lunch hour will be fined \$10.00 per  
9 enrolled student per day.

10 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented at the beginning of the next school year.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Ysleta High School.*



## A Bill to Enable Price-Matching for Hospital Expenses

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

2 **SECTION 1.** United States citizens will now be able to challenge the prices for medical  
3 supplies listed on their respective hospital bills to eliminate price gauging  
4 for basic medical materials.

5 **SECTION 2.** Medical supplies shall be defined as materials used to treat patients in  
6 the United States within a hospital setting such as bandages, syringes,  
7 catheters, gauze, medical tape, etc. Price matching shall be defined as a  
8 customer's right to provide evidence that their products are available for  
9 a cheaper price so that they pay the lower price.

10 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Health and Human Services shall  
11 oversee this legislation by verifying all documentation provided by  
12 patients who wish to challenge their medical bill(s) because they believe  
13 they were over-charged for materials.

14 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect eight months after passage.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Horizon High School.*



## **A Bill to Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to Repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Title II of the Social Security Act is amended to repeal the government  
3 pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

4 A. Section 202(k) of the Social Security Act (42 USC 402(k)) is amended  
5 by striking paragraph 5.

6 B. Section 215 in subsection (a) by striking paragraph 7, in subsection (d)  
7 by striking paragraph 3, and in subsection (f) by striking paragraph 9.

8 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill:

9 A. The Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduces Social Security  
10 benefits for spouses and widows or widowers who receive non-  
11 covered pensions.

12 B. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reduces Social Security  
13 retirement or disability benefits if someone receives a pension from  
14 an employer who doesn't withhold Social Security taxes.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Commissioner of Social Security shall adjust primary insurance  
16 amounts to the extent necessary to take into account the amendments  
17 made by this legislation.

18 **SECTION 4.** The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to monthly  
19 insurance benefits payable under Title II of the Social Security Act for  
20 months after July 1, 2025.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Chapin High School.*



## **A Bill to Implement a National Firearm Buyback Program to Reduce Gun Violence**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** A nationwide mandatory firearm buyback program shall be enacted,  
3 requiring all citizens to surrender assault weapons and high-capacity  
4 magazines in exchange for financial compensation.

5 **SECTION 2.** “Assault weapons” shall be defined a semi-automatic firearms, and “high-  
6 capacity magazines” as any ammunition feeding device holding more  
7 than 10 rounds.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will  
9 oversee the buyback program.

10 A. Individuals who fail to comply within 1 year of the bill’s initiation will  
11 face criminal penalties.

12 B. Compensation for surrendered firearms shall be determined based on  
13 the fair market value of the weapon.

14 C. The funding of this program shall be sourced from a new excise tax on  
15 firearms and ammunitions sales, as well as reallocating federal  
16 defense funds.

17 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Coronado High School.*



## **A Bill to Ban Direct-to Consumer Pharmaceutical Marketing and Advertising to Reduce Public Health Misinformation and Lower Healthcare Costs**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Direct-to consumer (DTC) marketing and advertising of prescription  
3 pharmaceutical products shall be prohibited in all forms of media.

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

5 A. "Direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical marketing and advertising"  
6 refers to any promotion of prescription drugs directly to the public,  
7 intended to influence patients to request specific medications from  
8 healthcare.

9 B. "Pharmaceutical products" are defined as prescription-only  
10 medications from health care providers.

11 C. "Profit" is defined as a financial gain.

12 D. "Media" in this bill includes but is not limited to television, radio,  
13 internet, print, and social media platforms.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will oversee the enforcement of  
15 this bill.

16 A. The FDA will collaborate with the Federal Communications  
17 Commission (FCC) to regulate media platforms and ensure  
18 compliance with advertising restrictions.

19 B. Any pharmaceutical company found in violation of this policy will be  
20 subject to fines ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$50,000,000, depending  
21 on the severity and recurrence of the offense. Repeated Offenses  
22 may lead to suspension of product approval or distribution.

23 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by J M Hanks 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 Cease Funding to Israel to Prioritize Domestic Needs

- 1   **WHEREAS,**   The ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine has been exacerbated  
2                    by international funding, contributing to violations of international law;  
3                    and  
4   **WHEREAS,**   Redirecting funds currently allocated to Israel towards domestic priorities  
5                    such as healthcare, education, and environmental protection could  
6                    significantly benefit U.S. citizens; and  
7   **WHEREAS,**   A majority of United Nations members (143 out of 193) recognize  
8                    Palestine as a sovereign entity, and many have consequently reduced or  
9                    ceased their financial support to Israel, increasingly isolating the U.S. as a  
10                   primary contributor; and  
11   **WHEREAS,**   Continued financial support to Israel has not facilitated a resolution to  
12                   the conflict and has coincided with escalating tensions and repeated  
13                   violations of international law by Israel; now, therefore, be it  
14   **RESOLVED,**   That the UIL Congress here assembled should thoroughly evaluate the  
15                   implications of continuing financial support to Israel, considering both  
16                   direct and indirect consequences; and, be it  
17   **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That all funding to Israel, including military aid and economic  
18                   relief, should be terminated in favor of addressing urgent domestic  
19                   issues.

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Mission Early College High School.*





## A Resolution to Ban Artificial Intelligence on Autonomous Weapons

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Artificial Intelligence on autonomous weapons can cause mass casualties;  
2 and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Artificial intelligence can gain sentience and start attacking innocent  
4 people; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Autonomous weapons can be defined as weapons that use computer  
6 algorithms to independently identify a target an employ an onboard  
7 weapon system to engage and destroy the target without manual human  
8 control of the system; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** AI on autonomous weapons can lead to danger to the public; now,  
10 therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled ban artificial intelligence on  
12 autonomous weapons.

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Mountain View High School.*



## **A Bill to Initiate Term Limits for Supreme Court Justices and Reallocate Power to Appoint Justices**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The U.S federal government will instate term limits for Supreme Court  
3 Justices.

4 **SECTION 2.** Term limits are defined as the number of years Justices may serve.  
5 Justices will abide by a two-term limit rule, akin to a Presidential term,  
6 four years per term for a total of 8 years served.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Judicial Branch of government will be responsible for overseeing  
8 term limits placed on the Supreme Court Justices. The Executive Branch  
9 will be responsible for appointment of new Justices through majority  
10 decision. Term limits will be the same as the Presidential “two-term  
11 limit”, meaning that they will serve no more than eight years total, with  
12 four years counting as one total term.

13 A. Justices currently serving will be relieved of their duties upon the  
14 Presidential inauguration 2025, with the eligibility for reappointment  
15 by the Executive Branch.

16 B. Any reappointed Justices will be subject to the two-term policy.

17 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect upon Presidential Inauguration 2025.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by IDEA Edgemere College Preparatory High School.*



## **A Bill to Supply More Armed Forces and Combat Attacks in the Red Sea**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. will supply more armed forces and combat attacks in the Red  
3 Sea with the aim of de-escalating tensions, restoring stability, to defend  
4 civilians and protect the free flow of commerce in one of the world's  
5 most critical waterways.

6 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill:

7 A. Red Sea: critical waterway that has been essential to freedom of  
8 navigation and a major commercial corridor that facilitates  
9 international trade.

10 B. Armed forces: U.S. code, section 101, defines the term "armed  
11 forces" to include the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Department of the  
12 Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.

13 C. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a group of countries  
14 from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and  
15 territories of its members.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense will oversee enforcement along with the  
17 Department of the Treasury. The Department of Treasury will oversee  
18 the funding of the bill by supplying an additional \$2 billion annually for  
19 Armed Forces services in the Red Sea.

20 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect at the start of the fiscal year 2025.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Parkland High School.*



## **A Resolution to Increase Funding for Fine Arts and Academic Clubs and Classes in High Schools**

- 1   **WHEREAS,**    Fine Arts and academic activities have proven to be beneficial to the  
2                    education of students; and
- 3   **WHEREAS,**    There has been a strong trend in public schools to focus more attention  
4                    on athletic programs while essentially ignoring Fine Arts programs; and
- 5   **WHEREAS,**    The arts and academic classes and clubs help students develop numerous  
6                    skills that can useful in college and life in general; and
- 7   **WHEREAS,**    Programs such as speech and debate, art, dance, theater, music, etc. are  
8                    more likely than sports to have their classes cut due to budgetary or  
9                    teacher constraints. Students in Fine Arts programs are suffering due to  
10                   lack of budgets for their programs; now, therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,**   By the UIL Congress here assembled that Fine Arts and Academic  
12                    programs should be allotted equal budgets as athletic programs at the  
13                    district level including funding, equipment, coach’s salaries, etc. All  
14                    schools will be required to offer at least an equal number of fine arts or  
15                    academic activity classes as they offer sports classes.

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Ysleta High School.*



## A Bill to Reform SNAP

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will pay  
3 participating grocery stores \$3,000 monthly stipend to provide healthy  
4 staple foods in their stores for SNAP participants. Currently, participants  
5 on SNAP are at a higher risk of heart disease, obesity, some cancers, and  
6 diabetes because grocery stores in lower income areas tend to lack  
7 access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and nutritious foods. The CDC reported  
8 in 2018 that only 7% of people living below or close to the poverty level  
9 get the recommended 2-3 cups of vegetables per day.

10 **SECTION 2.** “Healthy Staples” shall be defined as grains, fruits, vegetables, beans, and  
11 food high in multiple vitamins.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Agriculture will oversee the enforcement of the bill  
13 and assist grocery stores gain access to the recommended healthy staple  
14 foods.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect nine months after passage.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Horizon High School.*



## **A Bill to Increase Maternal Leave After Birth to Support Postpartum Mental Health and Bonding**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** This bill establishes a right to paid maternal leave. Any business  
3 employing more than 4 workers must give a minimum of 12 weeks paid  
4 maternal leave to a person who has given birth in the period immediately  
5 following the birth.

6 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill:

7 A. Paid maternal leave is paid at the full average salary of the person  
8 taking leave.

9 B. The person taking leave must have been continuously employed by  
10 the employer for a minimum of 9 months prior to applying for the  
11 paid maternal leave.

12 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Labor is responsible for enforcing this legislation.

13 A. The Department of Labor shall establish an Office of Maternal Leave  
14 Enforcement, authorized to issue fines for violation of this legislation.

15 B. Fines for violation shall be issued in the amount of \$1000 per day, per  
16 violation.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 1, 2025.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Chapin High School.*



## **A Resolution to Reform the U.S. Immigration System for Greater Efficiency and Fairness**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The current U.S. immigration system faces significant backlogs, delays,  
2 and inconsistencies in processing applications; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** These inefficiencies have led to prolonged family separations and  
4 uncertainty for legal immigrants; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Comprehensive immigration reform is necessary to create a clear, fair,  
6 and streamlined process for legal immigration, while addressing border  
7 security; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** A reformed system would ensure better integration of immigrants and  
9 foster national security; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled make the following  
11 recommendation for solution: implement an expedited process for  
12 immigration and visa applications.

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Coronado High School.*



## A Bill to Ban the Promotion or Discount of Any Recreational Drug to Limit Teen Consumption

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

2 **SECTION 1.** All recreational drugs will not be able to be advertised, promoted, or  
3 discounted in any form of media, in-store promotions, or include  
4 deceptive marketing.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill:

6 A. "Recreational drugs" are substances that cause negative medical  
7 effects and are legal to be purchased at retailers.

8 B. "Media" refers to, but not limited to, television, radio, internet, print,  
9 and social media.

10 C. Products cannot deceptively sell themselves using flavors and  
11 mascots.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will oversee this bill.

13 A. The FDA will collaborate with the Federal Communications  
14 Commission (FCC) to regulate media platforms and ensure  
15 compliance with advertising restrictions.

16 B. Any company found in violation of this policy will be subject to fines  
17 ranging from \$100 to \$5,000,000, depending on the severity and  
18 recurrence of the offense. Repeated offenses may lead to the  
19 suspension of sales and licenses.

20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by J M Hanks High School.*





## A Bill to Provide Free Community College to All Citizens

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Community college education shall be provided at no cost to all citizens  
3 seeking a degree from a public community college, effective from the  
4 start of the next fiscal year.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill:

6 A. Citizen refers to any person who holds a U.S. citizenship.

7 B. Public community college refers to any community college accredited  
8 by recognized accrediting agencies and receiving funding from state  
9 or federal governments.

10 C. Degree includes associate degrees and professional certificates.

11 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Education will oversee the enforcement  
12 of this bill.

13 A. The Department will work with state education boards to ensure  
14 compliance with this bill.

15 B. Funding for free education provided will be monitored and  
16 distributed by the Department of Education, derived from reallocated  
17 educational grants and subsidies.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1 of the next fiscal year.

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

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Mission Early College High School.*



## **A Resolution to Reduce the Use of Plastic to Decrease Plastic Pollution**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Virtually all of the world’s tap water is contaminated by microscopic  
2 plastic fibers, raising concerns about the implications of rampant plastic  
3 pollution on human and planetary health; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** In the U.S., researchers have found that 94% of all water samples  
5 including tap water from places like the U.S. Capitol and the  
6 headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency were  
7 contaminated by plastic; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** France has become the first country in the world to ban disposable plastic  
9 cups and plates, and only 12 states in the U.S. have begun limiting  
10 plastics; and
- 11 **WHEREAS,** With almost 400 million tons of plastics produced annually, the  
12 worsening contamination problem it brings to oceans and rivers has  
13 attracted increasing concern; now, therefore, be it
- 14 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled make the following  
15 recommendation to ban the use of plastic disposable items such as  
16 plastic cups and plates.

*Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Mountain View High School.*