

2010 Peggy Ann Madden Memorial Speech and Debate Tournament

North Hills High School

February 6th 2010

Student Congress Legislation

***Note to Competitors and Parliamentarians**

Bills #1-10 Must be debated first. Bills #11B-20B are supplemental. Any Bills submitted by schools after the deadline will be distributed to the Congressional Houses at the tournament and should be placed after #10 but before #11B

#1 A Resolution Involving Foreign Language Education

1. **Whereas:** In Most European Union countries, secondary school pupils are
2. required to study at least one modern foreign language before they
3. graduate from the secondary education system.
4. **Whereas:** Foreign languages are less often compulsory in English-speaking
5. countries.
6. **Whereas:** Pupils in countries with a Baccalaureate system must usually study two
7. years of foreign language in order to be accepted into that program.
8. **Whereas:** More employees skilled in a foreign language help companies perform
9. and interact with businesses around the world.
10. **Therefore Be It Resolved That:** Secondary school students be required to take two
11. credits or two years of a foreign language offered by the school district
12. that the student attends.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lakeview High School

#2 A BILL TO ESTABLISH CIVILIAN DEFENSE OF THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. A neutral zone of three miles shall be established
3 between the United States and Mexico in the states of
4 Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Legal,
5 gun-owning U.S. citizens may obtain a permit from the
6 federal government, allowing said citizen to shoot
7 any illegal immigrant found crossing neutral zone.
8 All aliens successful in crossing neutral zone are
9 granted amnesty and recognized as legal, U.S.
10 residents.
11

12 SECTION 2. A "legal, gun-owning U.S. citizen" is defined as an
13 American citizen who is in legal compliance with his
14 or her own state's gun laws.

15 SECTION 3. The issuing of permits will be overseen by the Bureau
16 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

17 SECTION 4. This bill shall take effect six months after its
18 passage.

19 SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this bill shall be
20 hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sewickley Academy

**#3 A Resolution Mandating Daily Physical Education in Schools
To Fight Childhood Obesity in America**

1. WHEREAS: between 16 and 33 percent of children and adolescents in the United States
2. are obese, and
3. WHEREAS: overweight children are much more likely to become overweight adults
4. unless they adopt and maintain healthier patterns of eating and exercise, and
5. WHEREAS: Unhealthy weight gain due to poor diet and lack of exercise is responsible
6. for over 300,000 deaths per year, and
7. WHEREAS: the physical consequences of obesity include increased risk of heart disease,
8. high blood pressure, diabetes, breathing problems and trouble sleeping, and
9. WHEREAS: the annual cost to society for obesity is estimated at \$100 billion,
10. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Student Congress here assembled that
11. a federal mandate be put into place requiring daily physical education classes that
12. include vigorous exercise in all K-12 schools, and
13. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Federal school funding be withheld from schools
14. that do not comply.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peters Township High School

#4 A Resolution to Establish English as the Official Language of America

Whereas: English is the most widely spoken language in the world with 1.5 billion speakers in over 40 countries; and

Whereas: English is the most studied language in the world; and

Whereas: English is an American tradition dating back to when our forefathers wrote the Declaration of Independence, a symbol of our nation; and

Whereas: Only 28 states currently have defined English as their official language; and

Whereas: Only 80% of Americans speak English as a primary language even though all road signs and federal government documents are in English.

Therefore: Be it resolved by this Student Congress here assembled that the United States establish English as the official national language within all of the United States and it's territories.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Oleksak
Fairview High School

#5 A Bill to Reform Home-School Education

1 **Section 1:** All parents who wish to educate their children via “home-schooling” will
2 be required to pass a standard teaching exam.

3 **Section 2:** “Home-schooling” will be defined as students who are ages 5-18 and in a
4 grade equivalent to at least kindergarten and no higher than grade 12 who
5 are educated alternatively at home by a legal parent or guardian.

6 **Section 3:** The provisions of this law shall be overseen by the United States
7 Department of Education.

8 **Section 4:** All laws or portions of laws in conflict with this legislation shall hereby be
9 declared null and void.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Bell
Mercyhurst Prep

#6 A Resolution Concerning Prescription Drug Advertisements

1. **Whereas:** Direct to consumer prescription drug advertisements intend to sell the
2. drug rather than properly treat a medical condition; and
3. **Whereas:** Drug advertisements create false impressions and mislead consumers
4. instead of educating them; and
5. **Whereas:** Every dollar spent on advertising, \$4.00 is added onto the original drug
6. price; and
7. **Whereas:** The United States and New Zealand are the only two countries where direct
8. to consumer drug advertisements are legal; and
9. **Whereas:** Details of potentially harmful side effects are not sufficiently described in
10. the time of a television advertisement; and
11. **Whereas:** Some doctors would make decisions only in light of keeping patients
12. happy rather than lose business;
13. **Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Student Congress Here Assembled That:**
14. Direct to consumer prescription drug advertisements be banned in the United
15. States.

Respectfully submitted,

Deer Lakes High School

#7 A Bill Extending “Sin Tax” to Certain Automobiles

1 WHEREAS: Automobiles purchased by consumers that cost more than \$35,000 or have
2 a fuel efficiency that is equal or less than 25 mpg will have an extra 15% tax;
3 WHEREAS: This tax will provide consumers & automobile manufacturers with
4 incentive to pursue energy efficient technology;
5 WHEREAS: Hybrid automobiles that meet fuel efficiency will be exempt from tax
6 although purchase price may be higher than \$35,000;
7 WHEREAS: The revenue created by this tax will be used to fund research devoted
8 to finding technology that will help to end America’s dependence on foreign oil;
9 WHEREAS: After being passed, this bill will be put into action immediately;
10 Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that the extension of
11 the “Sin Tax” become effective immediately.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hampton High School

#8 A Resolution to promote musical education in public schools

1. Whereas: numerous studies have concluded that participating in musical activities
2. stimulates brain development especially in children, and
3. Whereas: students who are musically active generally perform better in math and
4. science than those who are not, and
5. Whereas: music provides a means of self expression to students, and
6. Whereas, many musical concepts are also applicable to math and science, and
7. Whereas, music, despite being a form of art, is not given the same priority as the
8. visual arts in most public schools,
9. **Be it resolved by this Student Congress that:**
10. Musical education should be required for all public school students up to the
11. eighth grade.
12. Musical education should consist of active participation in some kind of
13. musical activity for each student.
14. Students should be examined for their proficiency in basic musical concepts
15. after the eighth grade level.
16. The Department of Education should oversee this promotion of musical
17. education.

Respectfully submitted,
Pine-Richland High School

#9 A Resolution Affirming the Value of our National Park System

WHEREAS, The National Park Service was established in 1916 to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

WHEREAS, The National Park System of the United States comprises 384 areas covering more than 83 million acres in 49 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands. These areas are of such national significance as to justify special recognition and protection in accordance with various acts of Congress.

WHEREAS, These parks represent a source of national pride for the American People and an outlet for the preservation of a National Heritage.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that the National Parks of the United States of America receive continued, enthusiastic support from the Federal Government.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Mielecki

St. Joseph High School

#10 A Resolution Concerning Guantánamo Bay

1. **Whereas** Guantánamo Bay detention camp has housed 775 inmates since 2001 and
2. released 420 without charge, and
3. **Whereas** only three inmates in Guantánamo have been tried and convicted of any
4. terrorism-related charge against them, and
5. **Whereas** government personnel utilized illegal water boarding and other methods of
6. “enhanced interrogation” on inmates in Guantánamo, and
7. **Whereas** many allegations of religious persecution, such as flushing the Qur’an down
8. the toilet, have been filed against officials at Guantánamo, and
9. **Whereas** both Habeas Corpus and Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention have
10. provisions for prisoners in direct contrast with conditions in Guantánamo, and
11. **Whereas** it is strictly and clearly unlawful to indefinitely detain accused inmates
12. without a fair and just trial,
13. **Be it resolved by this Student Congress here assembled that** the United States
14. government take swift and immediate actions to close Guantánamo Bay detention
15. camp, relocate its prisoners to a safe prison somewhere in the U.S., and either try
16. or release all of the detainees once held there.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Mueller

Oakland Catholic High School

Additional Legislation
Bills #11 to # are to be debated after the completion of #1-10

#11B A BILL TO LEGALIZE PROSTITUTION

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **Section 1:** Prostitution shall be a legalized and licensed profession in the Commonwealth of
3 Pennsylvania.

4 **Section 2:** All prostitutes will register with the Departments of Public Health within their respective
5 counties of the Commonwealth within 60 days of passage of this bill.

6 **Section 3:** At the time of registration they will be given an appointment for a physical examination
7 to include testing for AIDS and STDs.

8 **Section 4:** Upon the receipt of a favorable medical report they will be licensed to practice their
9 profession in the Commonwealth. The licensing fee shall be \$1500.00 per year.

10 **Section 5:** Each licensed prostitute will be required to have a complete physical, including medical
11 testings for STD's and HIV every six months. The examining physician must submit all health
12 information to the county Department of Public Health within 15 days of the examination.

13 **Section 6:** Monies earned through prostitution will be taxed as a wage tax at the legislated rate for
14 Pennsylvania wage earners..

15 **Section 7:** Practicing prostitution without a license will be punishable by a fine of \$5000.00 and
16 imprisonment of not less than one year nor in excess of three years.

17 **Section 6:** Implementation and maintenance of this law shall be administered by a newly created
18 bureau of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and financed by the monies
19 generated from the licensing fees.

22 **Section 7** This bill shall have the force of law within six months of passage.

#12B A Resolution to Improve Public Health and Safety

1. **Whereas:** There are a number of individuals in the United States with deadly
2. and contagious diseases, and
3. **Whereas:** On occasion these individuals refuse treatment, which make them a
4. danger to themselves and others, and
5. **Whereas:** This refusal of treatment or quarantine could mean the spread of highly
6. contagious diseases, and
7. **Whereas:** With the growing trend of global epidemics, it is not enough to just tell
8. citizens to wash their hands.
9. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that:** A
10. committee shall be formed within the CDC named the Committee for the Elimination
11. of Deadly 11 Afflictions (CEDA).
12. **Be it further resolved that:** This committee shall be granted the power and funding
13. to quarantine and treat diseases and the like that it deems to present a danger to the
14. health or safety of the community. It shall be granted the ability to serve court
15. ordered quarantines to persons afflicted with aforementioned diseases.
16. **Be it further resolved that:** This committee will be permitted to treat infected
17. persons without their consent, and will be authorized to use military resources
18. if it can demonstrate that such resources are necessary to the prevention of disease.

#13B A Resolution to Increase Social Security

1. WHEREAS: For the first time since 1975, Social Security is not being raised and
2. WHEREAS: Social Security is often not enough for senior citizens to live off of
3. as it is, and
4. WHEREAS: The cost of living is rising considerably, and
5. WHEREAS: Economic decline is causing many senior citizens' homes and
6. retirement accounts to dwindle, and
7. WHEREAS: Many senior citizens who do not need social security are collecting
8. it, thus taking funds from the senior citizens who do need it.
9. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS STUDENT CONGRESS that
10. Social Security be awarded to senior citizens who are in need of it, and withheld
11. From those who are not in need of it, judged by an estimation of assets.

#14B A Resolution to Abolish the Electoral College

1. WHEREAS: the electoral college does not accurately represent the people, and
2. WHEREAS: some states have predetermined biases to certain political parties,
3. and
4. WHEREAS: someone who wins the popular vote might not win the Electoral
5. College vote, therefore not fairly representing the people
6. WHEREAS: it would help increase voter turnout, and
7. WHEREAS: it would encourage candidates to respond to all citizen's issues.
8. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLED STUDENT
9. CONGRESS that the Electoral College be abolished in the United States
10. by the next election, November 6, 2012, and the election process go to the
11. Popular Vote.

#15B A Resolution to Mandate Congressional Confirmation of all Presidential “Czars”

1. Whereas: The United States Constitution states the US Congress must confirm all
2. appointees to the Presidential cabinet before they may hold office.
3. Whereas: These cabinet members are charged, unlike other Presidential appointees,
4. with making policy in addition to advising the President.
5. Whereas: Recent Presidents have appointed so-called “czars” to make policy
6. decisions and issue orders that carry executive power.
7. Whereas: Czars hold policy and decision making power that exceeds that of
8. Presidential cabinet members and yet are never confirmed by the US Congress.
9. Whereas: Czars continue to represent an “unchecked” power in our system of checks
10. and balances.
11. **Therefore Be It Resolved:** That all current and future “czars”, and also all those
12. appointed by the President given executive power, be confirmed by the US Congress
13. according to the same confirmation guidelines concerning Presidential cabinet
14. members.

#16B A Resolution Permitting Assisted Suicide for the Terminally Ill or Those in Constant Chronic Pain

- 1 WHEREAS: Throughout North America, committing suicide and attempting suicide is not considered
- 2 a crime, and
- 3 WHEREAS: Helping someone commit suicide is considered a criminal act, and
- 4 WHEREAS: One study found that "More often than not, patients died in pain, their desires
- 5 concerning treatment neglected, after spending 10 days or more in an intensive care unit," and
- 6 WHEREAS: Assisted suicide would be voluntary and requested by the individual who is terminally ill
- 7 or in constant chronic pain, and
- 8 WHEREAS: An individuals should have a right to the way of death.
- 9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the student congress assembled that assisted suicide for the
- 10 terminally ill or those in constant chronic pain be permitted.

#17B A Resolution to Repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell

- 1 WHEREAS high-ranking people within the military have agreed that it is no longer necessary, and
- 2 WHEREAS President Obama has pledged to have the piece of legislation removed, and
- 3 WHEREAS the repealing of the legislation has been since pushed back, and
- 4 WHEREAS more than 200 service men and women have been other than honorably discharged
- 5 since President Obama was elected in November 2008, on the basis of their sexual orientation, and
- 6 WHEREAS more than 1300 service people have been discharged from the service of their country
- 7 since the instigation of this bill 16 years ago, and
- 8 WHEREAS the Declaration of Independence states that all people are created, ergo treated, equally.
- 9 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT Don't Ask Don't
- 10 Tell is repealed.

#18B A Bill Concerning Banned Books

1 **Whereas**, there were over 80 banned books in the United State in 2008, and
2 **Whereas**, some of these books contain valuable educational material, but are
3 banned because they contain racial slurs, sexuality, drugs, or vulgar information.
4 **And Whereas**, there are constantly complaint about our education not being as
5 good as other countries,
6 **And Whereas**, the content that is banned is seen every day outside of school.
7 **And Whereas**, students constantly complain about the current reading list,
8 **And Whereas**, if banned books were allowed in all public schools then more
9 options would be open to the teachers on what to teach,
10 **Therefore, be it resolved by this student body**, that all banned books be open
11 for reading in all United States public schools beginning with the next school year
12 after the passage of this bill.

#19B A Resolution Concerning Palestinian Statehood

Whereas: The US brokered peace talks between the Israeli Government and Palestinian Authority have broken down, and

Whereas: this failure of the peace initiative has strengthened militant groups like Hamas or Islamic Jihad, and

Whereas: the Israeli Government has refused to treat the Palestinians as political equals, and

Whereas: the Israelis have refused to halt the building of the settlements within the West Bank, and

Whereas: the Israelis have refused to halt missile strikes within the Palestinian territories, and

Whereas: the Palestinian Authority is considering a declaration of independence to attempt to force the Israelis to treat them as equal partners, and

Whereas: the US is viewed as a puppet of Israel within the Palestinian territories, and

Whereas: this limits their role to act as independent brokers within the peace talks between Israel and Palestine, and

Whereas: the US needs to show political independence from Israel in order to strengthen the peace talks, and

Whereas: the longer we wait to restart the peace talks the further strength Hamas and other terrorist groups gain.

Therefore: be it resolved by the Student Congress, that the US shall recognize the Fatah-controlled element of the Palestinian Authority as the legitimate government of an independent Palestine.

#20B A Resolution to Implement a Nationwide Tax on Artificially Sugared Beverages

- 1 WHEREAS: the United States is currently in more than 1 trillion dollars in debt; and
- 2 WHEREAS: in the current economic climate the U.S. should be looking for ways to bring
- 3 revenue; and
- 4 WHEREAS: an artificially sugared beverage is defined as any beverage to which sugar is
- 5 added during the manufacturing or preparation process; and
- 6 WHEREAS: an artificially sugared beverage will not be defined as a beverage with naturally
- 7 occurring sugars such as milk or 100% fruit juices; and
- 8 WHEREAS: an artificially sugared beverage will not be defined as a beverage to which the
- 9 consumer has added sugar to the beverage after manufacture and/or purchase; and
- 10 WHEREAS: the average person drinks about 31,000 oz. or 239 gallons of sugary beverages a 11 year;
- 11 and
- 12 WHEREAS: studies have shown that this much sugary beverage consumption is aiding the
- 13 onset of diabetes in all age groups; and
- 14 WHEREAS: taxation of artificially sugared beverages would bring in billions of dollars to help 15 the
- 15 ailing U.S. economy;
- 16 THEREFORE: be it resolved by the Student Congress assembled here today, that a 5% tax on
- 17 artificially sugared beverages be enacted across the entire United States.