



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

OCTOBER 2020 LEGISLATION DOCKET



October 2020 Legislation

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A Resolution to Adopt a National Happiness Index

A Resolution to Adopt a National Happiness Index

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The dichotomous nature of monetary value prevents governments from
2 adequately assessing both the stability and overall happiness of individuals within a country by
3 using Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** The depression rate for American adults in 2019 was approximately 7% and
5 while average income has increased dramatically since the early 1900s, levels of happiness
6 have remained close to static; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Without adjusting to an index that accurately portrays the status of a population,
8 the U.S. risks further psychological deterioration of American citizens under the veil of a
9 successful economy; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** Surveying individuals for the Happiness Index would provide vital information
11 about the mental health of Americans and incentivize the prioritization of mental health-care in
12 the future, as it would impact a nation’s international ranking, be it
- 13 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to adopt
14 the Happiness Index as an additional mechanism to measure national success.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Resolution to End the Cuban Trade Embargo

A Resolution to End the Cuban Trade Embargo

1 **WHEREAS**, The embargo is currently economically devastating Cuba and creating a national
2 humanitarian crisis, while also economically disadvantaging the United States and acting
3 counter-productive towards efforts of liberalization; and

4 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that the United States loses \$1.2 billion per year in sales and
5 exports and that the embargo has cost Cuba more than \$130 billion since it began in 1960
6 which, coupled with the ramifications of COVID-19, will cause its economy to shrink an
7 additional 10% in the next fiscal year; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Extending diplomacy and softening U.S. policy and restrictions has previously
9 caused the Cuban government to relax regulations on remittances and travel to Cuba and
10 create economic reforms including decentralizing the agricultural sector and expanding access
11 to goods; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The use of the embargo has proven ineffective, while extending diplomatic
13 measures achieved the political and economic liberalization the embargo unsuccessfully
14 attempted to incentivize, which were only reversed when the full extent of the embargo was re-
15 implemented; now, therefore, be it

16 **RESOLVED**, That the Congress here assembled ends the Cuban trade embargo.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Prohibit Paid Political Advertisements

A Bill to Prohibit Paid Political Advertisements

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Paid political advertisements, either by individuals or political parties, will be
3 banned.

4 **SECTION 2.** The following definition will apply: Political advertisements are defined as any
5 advertisement through the media aimed to influence a matter that is currently at the center of
6 political debate. These advertisements can concern a political party, candidate, or a dominant
7 political issue.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Election Commission will oversee the implementation of this
9 legislation and allocate time for broadcasting slots.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

11 **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

Climate Change Act of 2020

Climate Change Act of 2020

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will produce 80% of its power from renewable energy sources
3 by 2050 with the goal of reaching net-zero emissions.

4 A. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will institute a carbon tax of \$20 per
5 pound of carbon produced.

6 B. \$3 billion in subsidies will be allocated towards renewable energy sources.

7 C. An independent review board will be established to process research and provide
8 advice to governmental agencies concerning the sustainability of renewable
9 energy usage.

10 **SECTION 2.** Renewable energy will encompass solar power, wind power, hydroelectric power,
11 geothermal power, tidal power, and biomass.

12 **SECTION 3.** The EPA will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

13 A. The EPA will work alongside the independent review board to monitor progress
14 and compliance.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect January 1, 2021.

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

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A Bill to Create a National Firearms Registry

A Bill to Create a National Firearms Registry

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government will create a national firearms registry and
3 mandate the registration of all firearms in the United States.

4 A. Any currently unregistered firearms must be registered within 1 year of this
5 legislation's passage.

6 **SECTION 2.** A firearm will be defined as any portable weapon designed to expel a shot, bullet,
7 or any other variation of projectile discharged by burning gun powder or another form of
8 combustion.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives will oversee the
10 enforcement of this bill.

11 A. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives will register all
12 firearms sold in the United States, regardless if they are sold through licensed
13 dealers or individual sellers.

14 B. \$10 million will be allocated to updating technology in the National Tracing
15 Center, including the addition of digital records of registration, to assist law
16 enforcement in the oversight of the registry.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

18 **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 Resolution to Require Employers to Recognize Unions

A Resolution to Require Employers to Recognize Unions

1 **WHEREAS,** There has been a rapid decline in unions in the United States because
2 corporations are making it increasingly harder for Americans to form unions within companies,
3 while the American legal system has allowed this prevention of unionization to become a norm;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS,** Less than 8% of the private sector has union membership, a decrease from a
6 third of the private sector in the mid-1900s, largely because some estimates approximate that
7 pro-union employees have more than a 20% chance of being fired; and

8 **WHEREAS,** Individuals' democratic right to unionize is often a sole mechanism of
9 accountability, either through internal pressure or external media attention, against large
10 corporations who are unresponsive to individual actors; and

11 **WHEREAS,** Without action, the decline of unions will inevitably continue, leaving American
12 workers unprotected against the swaths of resources accessed by large corporate powers and
13 companies that will continue to edge out the capability to unionize by ignoring legal precedent;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to
16 require employers to recognize unions.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Combat the Gender Pay Gap

A Bill to Combat the Gender Pay Gap

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall implement the following reforms to combat unequal pay:

3 A. Enhance nonretaliation prohibitions.

4 B. Limit the use of the bona fide factor defense to claims of wage discrimination.

5 C. Eliminate the requirement of employees to sign a contract prohibiting discussion
6 about an employee's wages.

7 **SECTION 2.** The following definitions will apply:

8 A. Bona fide facto defense is the practice that allows employers to state that
9 discrimination was based on a bona fide occupational qualification.

10 B. Nonretaliation policies mean that no retaliatory action may be taken against
11 employees for reporting corporate ethical violations in good faith.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor will oversee the enforcement of this legislation and will
13 receive \$10 million to carry out the following:

14 A. Create a grant program for outreach to gender minorities for negotiation training
15 programs.

16 B. Conduct studies to reveal the disparity of pay currently in the workplace and
17 make results of the research public.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect January 1, 2021.

19 **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 Resolution to Remove Sanctions Against North Korea

A Resolution to Remove Sanctions Against North Korea

1 **WHEREAS,** Sanctions have done little to incentivize Kim Jong-Un from experimenting with
2 nuclear weapons, but it has pushed North Korean citizens further into a humanitarian crisis
3 while allowing the North Korean government to use international sanctions as viable proof of the
4 antagonistic actions of the West; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Currently over 10 million North Korean citizens are in need of humanitarian aid
6 and many have been surviving on less than 300g of food per day, while between 2012 and
7 2019, North Korea conducted 91 nuclear tests despite international economic sanctions; and

8 **WHEREAS,** The sanctions are preventing the United States from using soft power to
9 negotiate with North Korea, but the North Korean government has found alternative trade
10 channels in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa to evade some of the impacts of
11 sanctions, resulting in their inefficacy; and

12 **WHEREAS,** North Korea's humanitarian crisis will only worsen without external change,
13 resulting in the deaths of millions of North Korean citizens; now, therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to
15 remove economic sanctions against North Korea; and, be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the United States extends nuanced negotiation efforts and aid
17 packages to the North Korean government.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Resolution to Allocate Funding to the United States Postal Service

A Resolution to Allocate Funding to the United States Postal Service

1 **WHEREAS**, The United States Postal Service (USPS) does not have sustainable capital
2 inflow and is projected to run out of funding; and

3 **WHEREAS**, First-class mail volume has decreased by more than 30% over the past decade
4 and in 2019 the USPS' net loss rose to \$8.8 billion and currently has more than \$160 billion in
5 unpaid liabilities; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The reduction in mail sorting machines, overtime hours for mail carriers and
7 after-hours deliveries has significantly slowed the process of mail delivery and, consequently,
8 may not meet deadlines for delivering voting ballots for the elections in November of 2020; and

9 **WHEREAS**, It is forecasted that the USPS will run out of funding by April 2021 without
10 substantial financial action and, until then, will not be able to efficiently guarantee mail delivery
11 services; now, therefore, be it

12 **RESOLVED**, That the Congress here assembled allocate \$20 billion to support the United
13 States Postal Service.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

A Bill to Increase Taxes on Millionaires

A Bill to Increase Taxes on Millionaires

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Individuals who earn more than \$1 million annually will be taxed at a rate of 30%
3 after charitable contributions have been accounted for.

4 **SECTION 2.** Charitable contributions will allow taxpayers to make donations which shall be
5 deposited in the Treasury's general fund and utilized to reduce Federal public debt. This
6 donation must be noted on the taxpayer's income tax return.

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

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect January 1, 2021.

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

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