



**AST/MAST Legislation 2nd  
Semester, Spring 2021**

<b>JANUARY 2021 LEGISLATION</b>	<b>2</b>
A Resolution to Promote the Development and Exploration of Outer Space	2
A Bill to Create a Pathway to Citizenship	3
A Bill to Form a Collaborative Cybersecurity Agency	4
A Bill to Reinstate Funding for the World Health Organization	5
<b>FEBRUARY 2021 LEGISLATION</b>	<b>6</b>
A Bill to Provide Tuition-Free College Education	6
A Resolution for the US to Rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership	7
A Resolution to Restore Stability in Mali	8
A Resolution to Use Ranked Choice Voting for National Elections	9
<b>MARCH 2021 LEGISLATION</b>	<b>10</b>
A Resolution to Eliminate Governmental Subsidies for the Fossil Fuel Industry	10
A Resolution to Ban the Use of "No Knock" Warrants	11
A Bill to Recognize Ethiopia's Claims to the Nile River	12
A Resolution to Grant Statehood to Puerto Rico	13
<b>APRIL 2021 LEGISLATION</b>	<b>14</b>
A Bill to Increase the National Tax on Gasoline	14
A Bill to Ban Prison Labor to Enable Carceral Education	15
A Bill to Define Ethnic Hairstyles as Part of Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1984	16
A Resolution to Strengthen US-Taiwan Relations	17



## **JANUARY: A Resolution to Promote the Development and Exploration of Outer Space**

- WHEREAS,** Humanity has extraordinarily little knowledge of Space Beyond Earth's Atmosphere; and
- WHEREAS,** The Exploration and Development of space will have immense Economic, and Scientific Benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States has a prudent interest in being one of the primary driving forces in Outer Space Development and Exploration; and
- WHEREAS,** Prioritizing collaboration with international agencies, along with private companies will expedite and improve the Exploration and Development of space; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that all relevant agencies prioritize the Development and Exploration of Outer Space; and
- FURTHER RESOLVED,** That all relevant agencies mentioned prior substantially increase Collaboration with International organizations as well as private companies, with the intent of furthering expediting the Development and Exploration of Outer Space.

*Thank you to Sandra Day O'Connor High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **JANUARY: A Bill to Create a Pathway to Citizenship**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The United States will begin a two year long amnesty program and reform the immigration process to establish a pathway to citizenship.

**SECTION 2.** The amnesty program will give Lawful Permanent Residency or a “Green Card” to undocumented immigrants who have no felonies, and who can prove they have lived in the US for a minimum of ten years.

An asylum cap or quota is defined as a limit on the number of asylum seekers allowed into the country every year.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will be charged with the implementation of this bill.

- A. There will no longer be asylum caps or quotas.
- B. Lawful Permanent Residences (LPRs) will no longer be deportable.
- C. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) must receive an arrest warrant signed by a judge in order to pursue a deportable immigrant.
- D. Immigrants can no longer be barred from applying for legal status based on illegal entry charges alone.
- E. \$300 million will be allocated every year to the DOJ for a public defender system to be established in immigration courts.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2022.

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

*Thank you to Pflugerville High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **JANUARY: A Bill to Form a Collaborative Cybersecurity Agency**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** A new cybersecurity agency shall be created by the Department of Defense to oversee technological needs of all official government agencies and be provided \$1.5 billion in annual funding.

- A. This agency shall hire any necessary IT professionals.
- B. This agency shall monitor cybersecurity threats spanning multiple individual government agencies.
- C. This agency shall be tasked with updating outdated software and devices as seen fit by the IT professionals.

**SECTION 2.** Official government agency: any independent executive unit listed in the United States Government Manual.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense will implement this legislation.

**SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect in the FY 2022

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

*Thank you to Louis D. Brandeis High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



# **JANUARY: A Bill to Reinstate Funding for the World Health Organization**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The U.S Federal Government will hereby decide to remain a part of the World Health Organization (WHO) and reinstate previously frozen funding over a period of 5 months.

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

- A. The World Health Organization will be defined as a multilateral organization tasked with ensuring global health security
- B. “Previously frozen funding” will be defined as the \$893 million funding program to the WHO which was terminated in April 2020

**SECTION 3.** The USAID, Department of State, and Department of Human Health Services will be tasked with the implementation of this bill.

- A. The USAID will provide a report to the US House Subcommittee of Appropriations every three months regarding the integrity and efficacy of the WHO.
- B. If the US House Subcommittee of Appropriations deems failure in funding for the WHO based on the report, all aid will be retracted from the multilateral organization.

**SECTION 4.** This bill will go into place effective immediately.

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

*Thank you to The Village High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **FEBRUARY: A Bill to Provide Tuition-Free College Education**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The US federal government will guarantee access to tuition-free college education for citizens with a family income of less than \$110, 000/year.

**SECTION 2.** "Tuition-free" will include tuition, institution fees, course fees, and textbooks required for the completion of each college course.

**SECTION 3.** The US Department of Education will oversee the implementation and oversight of this bill.

A. Colleges included in the tuition-free program will be publicly funded 2-year and 4-year public colleges and universities, community colleges, technical colleges, and all minority-serving institutions.

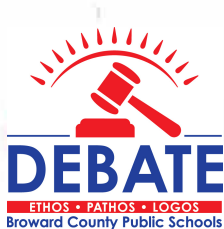
B. Each institute of higher learning receiving federal funds will submit a biennial plan detailing its efforts at tuition cost containment for approval.

C. Following the initial year of enrollment, students must make satisfactory progress toward graduation each year to continue in the program. Funds will be available for a maximum of 5 years or the completion of a 4-year degree, whichever comes first.

**SECTION 4.** This bill will become effective in the Fall semester of 2022.

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

*Thank you to James E. Taylor High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **FEBRUARY: A Resolution for the US to Rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership**

- WHEREAS,** The Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, is a free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Vietnam, and Brunei, countries that border the Pacific Ocean; and
- WHEREAS,** On January 23, 2017, President Trump signed to withdraw from the TPP; and
- WHEREAS,** The Obama administration and many trade economists argued that the deal lowered tariffs and increased market access, which would have reduced prices for consumers, spurred cross-border investment, and boosted U.S. exports; and
- WHEREAS,** The TPP was set to become the world's largest free trade deal, covering 40 percent of the global economy; and
- WHEREAS,** Data from the U.S. International Trade Commission shows that U.S. trade with TPP countries amounted to more than \$1.5 trillion, or about 40 percent of all U.S. trade, before withdrawing; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States would greatly benefit from the TPP; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States should rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership as it is a comprehensive deal that would provide economic growth.

*Thank you to Elkins High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **FEBRUARY: A Resolution to Restore Stability in Mali**

- WHEREAS,** In August 2020, protests led by the June 5th movement led to a military coup in Mali, and
- WHEREAS,** The international community has condemned the military government and urged for a peaceful transition back to a civilian-led, democratic government; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States has retracted military assistance to and cooperation with Mali to further pressure the military government; and
- WHEREAS,** US military assistance to Mali totaled \$145 million in 2017 and has been critical to training troops for counterterrorism operations; and
- WHEREAS,** Islamic extremists have taken advantage of growing political instability in Mali and are attempting to gain a stronghold in the region; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States shall reinstate US military assistance and cooperation with the Malian military to thwart rising extremism.
- FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the US shall work in conjunction with African Union Election Observation Missions (AUEOM) to ensure fair, democratic elections are held.

*Thank you to Plano West Senior High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*





## **FEBRUARY: A Resolution to Use Ranked Choice Voting for National Elections**

- WHEREAS,** the current system of 'first past the post' voting entrenches the dominance of the two-party system in American politics by forcing people with a wide variety of values, beliefs, and experiences to choose a Democrat or Republican for fear of not wasting their vote; and
- WHEREAS,** the founders of our country and most legal scholars today acknowledge the harms of a two-party system; and
- WHEREAS,** ranked-choice voting allows voters to rank candidates in their order of preference; if a vote's top pick receives the fewest votes and no other candidate earns over 50% of the vote, their vote transfers to their second choice; and
- WHEREAS,** in other countries where ranked-choice voting is used, there are a significant number of parties representing the interests of specific groups of people outside of the scope of the main parties; and
- WHEREAS,** this system has been successfully used in congressional, state, and municipal elections in America; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that By the Congress here assembled that the American congressional and presidential elections should use ranked choice voting rather than the current 'first past the post' method.

*Thank you to Jack C. Hays High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **MARCH: A Resolution to Eliminate Governmental Subsidies for the Fossil Fuel Industry**

- WHEREAS,** The United States is one of the largest contributors to climate change globally due to massive subsidies for its fossil fuel sector; and
- WHEREAS,** Subsidies result in lower prices for fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and gas – this makes renewables appear vastly more expensive in the market; and
- WHEREAS,** A transition to 100% renewable energy is crucial to mitigating the effects of rising global temperatures; and
- WHEREAS,** Studies have found that carbon emissions decline by 18% through the elimination of subsidies; and
- WHEREAS,** The European Union has implemented a policy of phasing-out fossil fuel subsidies and has seen relative success in shifting to renewable energy; and
- WHEREAS,** Ending subsidization leaves an additional \$20 billion in public funds available for investment into renewable energy; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States should eliminate governmental subsidies for the fossil fuel sector to initiate a shift towards renewable energy.

*Thank you to Coppell High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **MARCH: A Resolution to Ban the use of “No Knock” Warrants**

**WHEREAS,** there have been numerous recent events involving “no knock” warrants;  
and

**WHEREAS,** many of these events have ended poorly for all involved; and

**WHEREAS,** “no knock” warrants lead to confusion and panic typically causing  
shooting by police and civilians resulting in police and civilian deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** examples such as the deaths of Breona Taylor and Bounkham  
Phonesavanh were directly related to “no knock” warrants; and

**WHEREAS,** individuals responsible for these deaths were not held accountable  
because of working under “no knock” warrants; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that “no knock” warrants should be  
banned in the United States.

*Thank you to Claudia Taylor “Lady Bird” Johnson High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **MARCH: A Bill to Recognize Ethiopia's Claims to the Nile River**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The United States Government will hereby recognize Ethiopia's claims to the Blue Nile and any land required for their Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project.

**SECTION 2.** CYBERCOM will refer to the United States Cyber Command program under the DOD that focuses on cybersecurity. The Ethiopian National Defense Force will be defined as the military of Ethiopia.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense (DOD), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Department of State (DOS), will be tasked with distributing the following funds over a 15 year period:

- A. \$5 billion will be allocated to the DOD to fund defensive weapon systems as well as CYBERCOM operations in Ethiopia.
- B. \$500 million will go to aiding Ethiopian National Defense Force operations in the Nile basin.
- C. \$3 billion of this aid will be allocated to the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) construction process.
- D. Every 5 years the DOS will review Ethiopia's use of the aid money. The DOS may terminate the Aid if it is being misused.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect in fiscal year 2022.

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

*Thank you to Pflugerville High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **MARCH: A Resolution to Grant Statehood to Puerto Rico**

- WHEREAS,** The United States currently holds federal power over the island territory of Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States currently has the ability to significantly improve the quality-of-life and economic status of Puerto Rico by providing the same benefits that current states hold; and
- WHEREAS,** Nearly half of people in Puerto Rico live under the poverty line; statehood will create new job opportunities and income creation benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** Both the US and Puerto Rico will benefit economically through statehood. Puerto Rico can contribute nearly \$2b to the US Treasury every year and bring in a large amount of extra revenue through taxes. Puerto Rico would have access to more financial aid from the US government; and
- WHEREAS,** Puerto Rico would be able to enter into an open trade market with the United States and its allies; and
- WHEREAS,** Statehood would provide Puerto Rico with representation in the government and the right to vote in elections; and
- WHEREAS,** Puerto Ricans would be granted full United States citizenship; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that that the United States will grant Puerto Rico statehood.

*Thank you to Northland Christian School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## APRIL: A Bill to Increase the National Tax on Gasoline

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall increase the national tax 30% on every gallon of  
3 gasoline and diesel. The collected tax will go towards FEMA and the  
4 Department of Transportation.

5 **SECTION 2.** FEMA is defined as the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The tax  
6 shall be collected by the states' Department of Transportation.

7 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Transformation and the Office of  
8 Management and Budget will work together to enforce this bill.

9 A. The federal tax will be increased to 23.92 cents on every gallon of  
10 gasoline and 31.72 cents on every gallon of diesel.

11 B. 50% of the collected tax will go to FEMA to help fund the National  
12 Preparedness System and the other 50% of the collected tax will go to  
13 the Department of Transportation for the purpose of creating and  
14 fixing climate change safe infrastructure.

15 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

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

*Thank you to James Bowie High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **APRIL: A Bill to Ban Prison Labor to Enable Carceral Education**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Penal labor shall be prohibited in all federal correctional facilities within the United States. All such facilities shall be required to offer college or vocational degree programs to both current inmates and ex-offenders.
- SECTION 2.** Penal labor is any form of employment of currently incarcerated inmates, regardless of their employer.
- SECTION 3.** The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the Department of Education (DoE) shall be tasked with enforcing this legislation.
- a. The BOP shall terminate all existing penal labor programs.
  - b. The DoE shall inspect new and existing prison education programs to certify that and that the range of programs offered is sufficient for future
  - c. \$25bn shall be allocated to the DoE to fund contracts with colleges and vocational schools that will offer carceral degree programs.
- These contracts shall cover tuition for students.
- SECTION 4.** Penal labor shall be banned upon passage. Educational programs shall be completed by 2024.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Thank you to L C Anderson High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*



## **APRIL: A Bill to define Ethnic Hairstyles as Part of Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1984**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Henceforth, banning ethnicity-related hairstyles shall be considered a violation of Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1984 save for specific safety concerns in certain professional environments. Furthermore, no education agency may penalize a student for ethnicity-related hairstyles.
- SECTION 2.** Ethnic hairstyles are defined as any styling of hair on the head or face that has a historical or genetic connection to a defined people or religious group.
- SECTION 3.** The Office of Civil Rights shall enforce this legislation. The Department of Education shall enforce this legislation in schools.
- A. Any business or government entity maintaining unreasonable rules against ethnicity-related hair due specifically to workplace danger shall be civilly liable for injuries and/or damages caused to individuals due to discriminatory actions.
- SECTION 4.** This law will take effect January 1, 2022
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Thank you to Barbers Hill High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*





## **APRIL: A Resolution to Strengthen US-Taiwan Relations**

- WHEREAS,** Taiwan is instrumental to the political and economic stability of the Indo-Pacific region; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan has been a trusted partner to the United States in multiple global challenges including trade and the response to Covid-19; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan is vital to US economic competitiveness as one of the world's leading producers of information and communication technologies; and
- WHEREAS,** The People's Republic of China has taken increasingly hostile action to reign in Taiwan's democracy; and
- WHEREAS,** The PRC has engaged in threatening action against Taiwan in the form of cyberattacks and threats of military engagement; and
- WHEREAS,** a secure and free Taiwan serves the interests of both the international community and US foreign policy; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States should undertake a comprehensive review of Taiwan's security to address issues of military security, cyberattacks, and disinformation.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the United States should assist in expanding Taiwan's engagement in international organizations related to economics and democratic institutions.

*Thank you to James E. Taylor High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.*