



**AST/MAST Legislation
1st Semester, Fall 2021**

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SEPTEMBER: A Bill to Increase Homeless Shelters to Rehabilitate the Homeless

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Government will work to increase the amount of homeless shelters in cities with homeless populations greater than 10,000 people.

SECTION 2. Homeless shelters shall be defined as temporary residencies for homeless individuals and families. Homelessness shall be defined as lacking housing or lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

SECTION 3. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) will work in conjunction with state governments to implement this legislation.

A. An additional 75 million dollars will be allocated annually to the budget of the USICH for a span of 5 years.

B. The additional funding will be attained through diverting funds from the Department of Defense (DoD).

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect by January 1st 2022.

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

Thank you to Spring Woods High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.



SEPTEMBER: Pandemic Response and Control Act of 2021

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** It is the sense of Congress that rapid response to future pandemics requires quick public action, reliable contact tracing, the ability to distance from infected individuals, and increased public knowledge, and therefore authorizes the following:
- SECTION 2.** Upon the designation of a Public Health Emergency by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (hereinafter “Secretary”) under 42 U.S.C. § 247d(a)(2), the Secretary may authorize the limitation of protections on individually identifiable health information in 45 CFR §§ 160, 162, and 164. Previously protected individually identifiable information may be released by the Secretary to the Centers for Disease Control, and the governing state health agency for each U.S. State and territory.
- SECTION 2.** “Individually identifiable health information” will be defined according to 45 CFR § 160.103.
- SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be in charge of enforcing this bill.
- A. Previously protected individually identifiable information approved for release shall be limited to the name and the address of any individual infected with the disease which is the subject of the 42 U.S.C. § 247d(a)(2) declaration.
- B. The Secretary shall renew or rescind the order authorizing release of protected individually identifiable information every 90 days.
- SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect 180 days after passage.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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



SEPTEMBER: A Bill to Support the Ukrainian Military

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The United States Army and Marine Corps shall develop a comprehensive program to train and equip Ukrainian soldiers to aid the Ukraine in military conflict with Russian-backed separatist forces fighting against the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
- SECTION 2.** The United States government shall provide the Armed Forces of Ukraine with modern military technology, tactics, and equipment to ensure military success.
- SECTION 3.** The US Department of Defense shall oversee this program.
- SECTION 4.** This program shall take effect at the start of Fiscal Year 2022 or immediately upon any clear showing of Russian military aggression toward or invasion of the Ukraine.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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



SEPTEMBER: A Bill to Permanently Reinstate the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Congress shall permanently reinstate the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and increase the Department of Transportation budget to provide for the maintenance of transportation infrastructure and public transit options across America.

SECTION 2. Transportation Infrastructure is composed of fixed installations such as railroads, roads, and airways. Public transit options include but shall not be limited to subways, busses, and other modes of mass transit which reduce fuel consumption, exhaust emissions, and automobile pollution.

SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation will implement and oversee the program.

A. Congress will increase the Department of Transportation budget by \$88 billion.

B. \$35 Billion of the increased funding may be used by the Department of Transportation to plan new transportation projects that will enhance public transit options.

C. \$53 billion of the increased funding may be used by the States and municipalities through the FAST Act federal grant program.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2023.

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

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



OCTOBER: Bereavement Healing and Hope Act of 2021

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** A. Eligible employers must provide a total of 30 days leave, with 10 of those days being paid leave, for eligible employees who experience a qualifying bereavement event.
- B. Eligible employees who experience a qualifying bereavement event will qualify for an increase of \$10,000 to the standard income tax deduction to pay for bereavement counseling.
- SECTION 2.** “Eligible employer” will be defined according to 29 U.S. Code § 2611(4).
“Eligible employee” will be defined according to 29 U.S. Code § 2611(2).
“Qualifying bereavement event” includes the death of an individual’s spouse, child, parent, step-child, the still-birth of a child, or the miscarriage of a fetus after the 16th week of pregnancy.
- SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Labor will be in charge of enforcing Section 1(A) of this bill.
- A. Employers found in violation of Section 1(A) will be fine \$25,000 for the first violation.
- B. Employers found in violation of Section 1(A) will be fined \$40,000 for each subsequent violation.
- C. The Internal Revenue Service shall develop guidelines for reporting an increase to the standard deduction for the use of counseling services outlined in Section 1(B) of this Bill.
- SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2023.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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



OCTOBER: A Resolution to Provide Fair Housing Opportunities for People with Arrest Records

1 **WHEREAS,** The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination concerning the sale, rental and
2 financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin and sex, but does not
3 prohibit discrimination based on an arrest record; and

4 **WHEREAS,** Formerly incarcerated people are almost ten times more likely to be homeless
5 than the general public; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Property owners have the ability to implement their own screening criteria to
7 determine if an applicant merits housing, including criminal record checks, which
8 means they have wide discretion to punish people with arrest records; and

9 **WHEREAS,** This type of discrimination disproportionately targets African Americans and
10 Latino populations, as the justice system incarcerates people of color at a higher
11 rate than white people; and

12 **WHEREAS,** The federal Department of Housing & Urban Development does not consider
13 arrest records a legitimate reason to deny someone housing, as it can have a
14 disparate impact on minorities; and

15 **WHEREAS,** There are very little legislative precautions to ensure that this type of
16 discrimination does not occur regardless; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that property owners and housing authorities be
18 held under higher standards and regulations to ensure that individuals with an
19 arrest record are not deprived of housing opportunities.

Thank you to Chapin High School and the Texas Forensic

Association for authoring this legislation.



OCTOBER: A Bill to Abolish Gifted and Talented Programs to End Education Inequality

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Gifted and Talented programs throughout public schools are to cease operation.
- SECTION 2.** The following definitions are provided:
- A. "GT programs" is defined as gifted and talented entry programs offered between K-8 grades that require an entry test for admission.
 - B. A "gifted student" is defined as any student classified as GT via testing, merit decided by schools in elementary education, or evaluation determined by teachers and/or administrators.
- SECTION 3.** The US Department of Education will work with local school districts to oversee the implementation of this bill.
- A. Schools will no longer test and/or seek out students to classify as GT.
 - B. Any students currently in GT programs will be transferred back to a standard education with their non-GT peers.
 - C. Mental health services will be provided for GT students upon transferring to assist in the adjustment.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect fiscal year 2022.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Thank you to William P. Clements High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.



OCTOBER: A Resolution to Negotiate a Grand Bargain between the United States and China

WHEREAS, China has drilled deep in disputed territories to retrieve sediment core
from the seabed; and

WHEREAS, This action has raised tensions with neighboring countries in East Asia;
and

WHEREAS, China has used artificial islands to falsely extend its control of the sea;
and

WHEREAS, International institutions have been unable to resolve the conflict; and

WHEREAS, US action is necessary in order to broker peace in the region; and

WHEREAS, US rejection of the One China Policy has acted as a roadblock for
negotiations between US and China; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the United States should offer to
recognize and adopt the One China Policy under the conditions that
China peacefully resolves territorial disputes in the South China Sea and
East China Sea and abides by international law with regards to territory
disputes ; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That in exchange for ending the United States' commitment to the
defense of Taiwan, China must officially accept the United States' long-
term military presence in East Asia.

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



NOVEMBER: A Resolution to Abolish Corporate Tax Cuts to Help Underfunded Federal Programs

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Corporations operating the United States are avoiding paying federal
2 taxes; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** 157 companies received \$73.9 billion in tax cuts; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** In 2020, 55 of America's largest corporations paid no taxes on billions of
5 dollars in profits; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Federal Programs including the National Flood Insurance Program, are
7 grossly underfunded, rendering them inefficient and ineffective; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** The American people deserve a government that is fully funded to
9 provide promised services to those who need them; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** American businesses benefit from open markets, lower tax rates, and
11 limited government regulations; now, therefore, be it
- 12 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that tax cuts for corporations with a net
13 worth of \$50 million or more end in fiscal year 2025; and be it
- 14 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** that monies collected from these corporate taxes be earmarked
15 for currently underfunded federal programs.

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



NOVEMBER: A Bill to Prevent Hospital Nonprofit Status Abuse To Reduce Medical Costs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Federal Government shall deny nonprofit status to any hospital that violates either of the following conditions.

- A. Any single executive compensation exceeds \$500,000 before tax
- B. The hospital fails to use at least 95% of profits generated on capital improvements or measures to reduce costs to patients.
- C. The hospital or parent organization contributes to political campaigns or lobbying at the local, state, or federal level.

SECTION 2. The Internal Revenue Service shall be tasked with determining the nonprofit status of hospitals in accordance with Section 1 and any existing restrictions on nonprofit status

- A. Hospitals losing nonprofit status for violations of Section 1 shall be audited going back 5 years, or to the date of enactment of this legislation, and shall owe taxes plus interest in accordance with for-profit status for any years in violation.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall go into effect Jan 1, 2023.

SECTION 4. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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



NOVEMBER: The Measuring Act of 2021

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall change the generally accepted measuring system in the US from the Imperial System to the Metric System in order to conform to worldwide practices. The metric system shall be made mandatory and implemented nationwide.

SECTION 2

- A. The Imperial System shall be defined as a system of measurement that uses specific units of measurements such as inches, feet, yards, miles, square feet, acres, fluid ounce, cup, pint, quart, gallon, ounce, pounds, and Fahrenheit,
- B. The Metric System shall be defined as a system of measurement that uses specific units of measurements such as centimeters, meters, liters, milliliters, kilometers, grams, kilograms, and Celsius

SECTION 3. Private corporations that refuse to comply with the new system of measurement shall be taxed at 41% of their annual revenue by the IRS until they comply, and in conjunction the following will apply

- A. The Department of Transportation shall be allocated \$10 billion to convert our nation's roadways
- B. The Department of Education shall be allocated \$1 billion towards the re-education of our nation's students throughout our schools
- C. The US Department of Commerce shall be allocated \$10 billion towards the switch of measurements within trade relations

SECTION 4. This Bill shall go into effect in the next Fiscal Year

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

Thank you to Alief Kerr High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.



NOVEMBER: A Resolution to Support Increased Education and Technology in Federal Prisons

- WHEREAS,** Since 2018, the First Step Act has addressed issues regarding the lack of education in prisons, and
- WHEREAS,** The lack of education among 24% of inmates has caused an increase in recidivism rates, and in turn, inmates are left without financial resources or social support systems; and
- WHEREAS,** The mass prison populations from high recidivism rates have resulted in poor health care, increased gang violence, and mental health issues; and
- WHEREAS,** Prioritizing the health, education, and safety of inmates will improve the outcomes of individuals to include increased personal income, lower unemployment, greater political engagement, volunteerism, and improved health outcomes; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that we amend the 2018 First Step Act to include federally funded education programs to all federal prisons to offer inmates with more education opportunities and better access to internet, academic advisors, and professors; and,
- FURTHER RESOLVED,** That these educational programs will be available to all inmates who seek further and advanced education in the areas of high school, college, and vocational programs.

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



DECEMBER: The Aquaculture Expansion Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Understanding the prominent risk of overfishing and the detriment it poses to the marine life of the Gulf of Mexico, \$15 Billion is hereby allocated for furthering research and implementing extensive commercialization of aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico.

SECTION 2. Aquaculture will be defined as the rearing of aquatic animals or the cultivation of aquatic plants for food.

SECTION 3. The Department of Agriculture will oversee the funding and implementation of a program specifically for aquatic farming and cultivation while working with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for additional research and guidance.

- A. Grants to subsidize the research on aquaculture efficiency methods will be given to with a degree in biology or aquaculture.
- B. Sea animals and plants must be verified by the Department of Agriculture and the NOAA before being mass produced and farmed.
- C. Any farmer caught not following any conservation guidelines set by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) without proper approval will be subject to a \$50,000 fine and will have their agriculture license suspended and revoked.

SECTION 4. This bill will hereby be in effect January 2022.

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

Thank you to San Angelo Central High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.



DECEMBER: A Bill to Introduce Nonvoting Members to Represent Indigenous Tribes in Congress

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** For each federally recognized tribe with greater than 25,000 members according to the most recent US Census, one non-voting member shall be added to the United States House of Representatives.
- SECTION 2.** A Non-voting member shall be defined as a Resident Commissioner, who has the power to participate in committees, introduce legislation, and speak on the House floor, but can't vote for both Committee and legislation decisions. They will serve four year terms, and decisions on how representation is chosen will be left to the discretion of each tribe.
- SECTION 3.** This shall be overseen by the Clerk of the House and the Federal Election Commission.
- A. If the tribe leaders do so request, up to \$50,000 may be allocated by federal funds for election security and costs of operation.
- SECTION 4.** These members will be seated starting in the 118th US Congress.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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



DECEMBER: A Bill to Establish a Crypto Task Force to Secure Cryptocurrency

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. \$4 Billion shall be appropriated for the creation of a crypto task force on digital assets with the purpose of examining the impact and regulating the rise and future of cryptocurrency companies, such as Bitcoin.

SECTION 2. Task Force (TF) shall be defined as a unit established to work on a single defined task to increase communication and report to, work with and advise the federal government. Cryptocurrency shall be defined as digital currency in which transactions are verified and records maintained by a decentralized system using cryptography.

SECTION 3. The US Department of Treasury will oversee the implementation of this policy while agencies involved include, but are not limited to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

A. The Secretary of the US Department of Treasury shall give quarterly reports to Congress of significant findings and effects of the fluctuation of cryptocurrency.

SECTION 4. This policy shall go into effect fiscal year 2023.

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

Thank you to Spring Woods High School and the Texas Forensic Association for authoring this legislation.



DECEMBER: A Bill to Abolish Plea Bargains

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government will eliminate the usage of plea
3 bargains within the criminal justice system.

4 **SECTION 2.** A “plea bargain” shall be defined as a pre-discussed arrangement
5 between the prosecution and the defendant in which the defendant
6 pleads guilty in exchange for a reduced or alternative sentence. “Plea
7 bargains” shall encompass offers made by both the prosecution and the
8 defense.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice will oversee the implementation and oversight
10 of this bill.

11 A. The defendant will still have the right to plead guilty, but the
12 prosecution may not provide any alternate sentencing if the
13 defendant chooses to do so. The trial will continue in the status quo.

14 B. All sentencing remains under the jurisdiction of the judge if a
15 defendant chooses to plead guilty.

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

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

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