

## 2024 Rocky South Congress Docket

AM:

1. Eliminate Homeschooling (SMT)
2. FMLA (GW)
3. Composting (RV)
4. NASA Funding (Golden)
5. UBI (MV)
6. Factory Farming (Golden)
7. Expunge Criminal Records (GW) ← **added 2.19.24**

PM:

1. Affordable Post-Secondary (MV)
2. AI Congressional Redistricting (Golden)
3. Sidewalks (RV)
4. Weapons Exportation (SMT)
5. Under God (Golden)
6. Cats Indoors (GW)
7. Ranked Choice (RV)
8. Mandated Vaccines (SMT)



AM-2

## A Bill to Provide Paid FMLA Leave

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **Section 1.** All employees will be given 12 weeks of federally funded, paid
3. Family and Medical leave (FMLA)
4. **SECTION 2.** Up to \$4000 per month will be paid to those on FMLA, designed
5. to replace a minimum of two-thirds of average weekly wages, rising to Eighty
6. Percent for the lowest-wage workers.
7. **Section 2.** This policy will be phased in over a ten year period, guaranteeing
8. twelve weeks of paid, parental, family illness, or safety related leave by year
- ten. Workers will receive three days of bereavement per year starting in year one.
9. **Section 3.** Funding for the bill will come from an increase in the federal
10. income tax rate for the top one percent of American income earners from
11. 37% to 39.6% and an increase in capital gains and dividend tax rates for
12. those who earn more than \$1 Million per year.
13. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be overseen by the Department of Labor.
14. **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2024.
15. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by George Washington High School.*

## A Bill to Require Recycling and Composting Infrastructure for all Entities Receiving Government Funding

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All facilities operated by organizations receiving federal funding will be  
2 required to implement Recycling and Composting policies and  
3 infrastructure in their facilities.

4 **SECTION 2.** "Infrastructure" is defined as the means to properly recycle and compost  
5 any recyclable/compostable items through simple and common means.  
6 "Policies" is defined as any rule or policy encouraging the usage of recycling  
7 and composting infrastructure and any education on those topics as  
8 necessary.

9 **SECTION 3.** A. This will be overseen by the EPA in collaboration with local and state  
10 governments as they see fit, with federal intervention(Ex: audits) as  
11 necessary

12 B. Funding will be provided for organizations coming up to compliance.  
13 This funding will be derived from a federal tax of .5% imposed on the  
14 purchase of single use plastic bottles(including styrofoam).

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2025.

16 **SECTION 5.** Timeline to establish compliance deadlines will be determined by the EPA.

17 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ralston Valley High School(Colorado)*

AM-4

## A Resolution to Give NASA funding to Research Asteroid Mining

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Earth's material is slowly depriving due to over-mining and lack of  
2 replenishing important material that can be found in asteroids  
3 and/or comets; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Due to the slow decline in materials, mining asteroids is a way to  
5 replace or replenish elements such as Gold, Silver, Platinum, Iron,  
6 Nickel, Carbon, Oxygen, Zinc, Silicon, Iridium, as well as the rare  
7 material Lithium; and,
- 8 **WHEREAS**, Mining asteroids can help restore the elements that Earth is quickly  
9 running out of, and which are important for building materials,  
10 medical purposes, and the development of the United States; and,
- 11 **WHEREAS**, The investment made in asteroid mining technology will have an  
12 astounding return on investment; and,
- 13 **WHEREAS**, The climate is heavily impacted by over-mining and over-use of  
14 materials; now, therefore, be it
- 15 **RESOLVED**, The Federal Government ought to increase NASA funding to  
16 research asteroid mining.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Olivia Shults of Golden High School.*

## A Bill to Implement a Universal Basic Income

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   The United States Federal Government shall provide a monthly universal  
2                               basic income of \$1,000 in order to aid in financially supporting its  
3                               population.
- 4   **SECTION 2.**   A universal basic income is provided by governments to all who qualify, but  
5                               can differ on parameters such as age of eligibility and eligibility criteria.
- 6   **SECTION 3.**   This legislation shall be implemented and overseen by The Department of  
7                               the Treasury.
- 8   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect by January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with  
9                               this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mountain Vista High School (CO).*

AM-6

## A Bill to Make Intensive Factory Farming Illegal to Protect the Welfare of Animals

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Intensive/Factory Farming will be banned to ensure humane treatment of  
2 farm animals. Manufacturers that violate this bill will be fined, along with  
3 distributors who are purchasing goods. The factory will also be seized until  
4 humane treatment of farm animals is ensured.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Factory Farming shall be defined as a system of rearing livestock using  
6 intensive methods designed to maximize profits and minimize cost.  
7 The Term Farm Animals includes, but is not limited to, poultry, pigs or  
8 cattle.  
9 Humane Treatment shall be defined as the treatment in which farm  
10 animals are free to express normal behavior, by providing sufficient space,  
11 proper facilities, and company of the animals own kind in a natural  
12 environment.
- 13 **SECTION 3.** The U.S Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health  
14 Inspection Service (APHIS) will oversee this bill by monitoring producers of  
15 farm animal products every 6 months, guaranteeing proper farm animal  
16 care.  
17 A. An inspection involves checking the farm animals environment, diet  
18 and health.
- 19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with  
20 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Golden High School*

AM-7

## A Bill to Expunge the Records of Former Felons

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1     **SECTION 1.**     The records of former felons who do not commit any crimes after being  
2                         released from prison for 4 years.

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4     **SECTION 2.** Expungement is defined by the process of sealing or destroying an  
5                         individual's criminal record to restore the person to the position they  
6                         occupied before their involvement in the criminal justice system.

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8     **SECTION 2.** This expungement will be automatic and will not require any action by the  
9                         individuals seeking to clear their records.

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11    **SECTION 3.**     The exceptions are sex crimes and domestic violence.

12    **SECTION 4.**     This legislation will be overseen by the Department of Justice.

13    **SECTION 5.**     This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2024.

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

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17    *Introduced for Congressional Debate by George Washington High School.*

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## A Bill to Promote Affordable Postsecondary Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All U.S. citizens shall be entitled to equal and affordable postsecondary  
2 education, thereby protecting students from exorbitant student loan debts,  
3 fostering a more proficient workforce, and promoting economic mobility,  
4 prosperity, and competitiveness in the global economy. Thus, no eligible  
5 institution shall charge an annual in-state or out-of-state tuition exceeding  
6 \$7,500. Eligible institutions shall also be incentivized to expand scholarship  
7 programs. Additionally, the Free Postsecondary Education Program shall  
8 allow eligible individuals to be enrolled in eligible institutions for a time  
9 period of no more than four years and all tuition costs due within this  
10 period shall be waived.

11 **SECTION 2.** Postsecondary education shall be defined as any education beyond high  
12 school, including but not limited to community colleges, vocational schools,  
13 technical schools, and four-year colleges and universities. An eligible  
14 institution shall be defined as any public institution recognized by the  
15 Department of Education that offers postsecondary education.

16 **SECTION 3.** To be eligible for the Free Postsecondary Education Program, an individual  
17 must be a documented U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident currently  
18 living below their state poverty line. Eligibility shall be determined based  
19 on a sliding scale that counts for the individual or family's income, ensuring  
20 that those with the greatest financial need receive the most aid.

21 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Education, relevant federal agencies, and state  
22 governments shall coordinate to oversee the implementation of the Free  
23 Postsecondary Education Program. All necessary funding to cover costs as a  
24 result of this legislation will be allocated by the general fund of the  
25 Treasury to the necessary entities with a budget of \$15 billion annually. No  
26 new taxes shall be levied for the purpose of this legislation.

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29 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect at the end of the current academic year. All  
30 eligible institutions are expected to be in compliance with this legislation  
by October 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby  
declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Braeden Kieffer from Mountain Vista High School, Colorado.*

A Bill to Revise the Process of Drawing Congressional Districts Utilizing Artificial Intelligence to Prevent Gerrymandering

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 SECTION 1. Artificial Intelligence will be utilized in order to create  
2 congressional districts instead of our current processes, which are  
3 done by state officials.

4 SECTION 2. Artificial Intelligence: Computer systems able to perform tasks that  
5 normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception,  
6 speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between  
7 languages.

8 SECTION 3. All contracting, enforcement, and technical management will be  
9 taken care of by the federal elections commission as they have done  
10 in the past.

11 A. The AI will take into account population, political borders, and  
12 cultural borders when drawing the districts.

13 B. The borders will be redrawn every ten years in coordination with  
14 data from the Census.

15 C. The first time these processes will be utilized will be in  
16 coordination with the 2030 census.

17 D. All funding needed will come from lobby tax.

18 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect Immediately All laws in conflict with  
19 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Respectfully introduced for congressional debate by Golden High School*

PM-3

## A Bill to Mandate Sidewalks on Roads

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Sidewalks, or pedestrian pavements shall be required on each side of the  
2 road that is not considered a "highway".
- 3 **SECTION 2.** "Sidewalk" or "pedestrian pavements" shall be defined as a portion of  
4 street between the curb lines of roadways and adjacent property lines  
5 intended for use by pedestrians, it should be 48 inches wide and properly  
6 lit.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** The term "Highway" shall be defined as a stretch of road that doesn't have  
8 frequent stops and is intended for high speeds on vehicles.
- 9 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure will oversee this, by  
10 making sure that a sidewalk is added to streets that don't have any.  
11 A. The Federal Government will allocate funds to states Department of  
12 Transportation and Infrastructure in order to build sidewalks
- 13 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on December 1, 2024. All laws in conflict  
14 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by ~~Golden~~ High School

Ralston Valley

PM-4

## A Bill to Ban the Exportation of Weapons from the US

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** No roadway, sea port, or airfield that resides in the United States shall be  
2 permitted to allow or assist in the exportation of weapons to foreign  
3 countries.

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5 **SECTION 2.** Weapons include machines meant specifically for war or whose designs'  
6 primary purpose is to cause lethal harm. Also included is any ammunition  
7 or support materials needed for weapons of war that already exist outside  
8 the United States.

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10 **SECTION 3.** Any company found to have violated the exportation ban will have its  
11 operations seized by the Federal government.

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**SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on December 31st, 2024. All laws in conflict  
with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by SMART High School*



PM-5

## A Resolution to Remove the Phrase “Under God” to Establish Freedom of Religion in America

- 1   **WHEREAS,**   The Pledge of Allegiance includes the phrase “Under God”; and
- 2   **WHEREAS,**   The United States’ first amendment guarantees the right to freedom of
- 3                   religion; and
- 4   **WHEREAS,**   The phrase could make those of other or no religion be singled out or not
- 5                   represented in the pledge; and
- 6   **WHEREAS,**   The phrase could increase hate speech toward different religious groups by
- 7                   excluding them; and
- 8   **WHEREAS,**   The use of “under God” is not required to be said, but it does establish a
- 9                   Christian default; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,**   That the Congress here assembled removes the phrase “under God” from
- 11                   the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Shannon Palmintier of Golden High School*

## A Resolution to require cat owners to keep their pets indoors

1. **WHEREAS,** Free roaming, outdoor, cats kill billions of birds, small
2. mammals, reptiles and amphibians each year ; and
3. **WHEREAS,** When wild animals are attacked by cats, they are not likely to
4. survive due to infection that occurs with cat related injuries
5. including minor scratches and bites ; and
6. **WHEREAS,** Cats are not part of the ecosystem; they are an invasive
7. predator whose presence is a disruption to the local
8. environment. and
9. **WHEREAS,** Cats impact more than just the wildlife they catch; the
10. mere presence of cats can cause additional stress on
11. **WHEREAS,** Cats impact more than just the wildlife they catch; the
12. mere presence of cats can cause additional stress on
13. wildlife, particularly during the nesting season; and
14. **WHEREAS,** Free-roaming cats themselves encounter a variety of
15. dangers and risks, including crossing roads, attacks by
16. other animals and people, and exposure to disease, toxic
17. substances, and severe weather.
18. therefore be it
19. **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled that cat owners keep their
20. pets indoors.
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PM-7

## **A Bill to Institute Rank Choice Voting in National Elections**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall host general national elections under a rank choice voting  
2 system(also known as instant runoff voting) under which each voter shall rank the  
3 candidates for the office in the order of the voter's preference, in accordance with  
4 this title.

5 **SECTION 2.** Rank choice voting allows people to vote for multiple candidates, in order of  
6 preference. The candidate who did the worst is eliminated, and that candidate's  
7 voters' ballots are redistributed to their second-choice pick. That process continues  
8 until there is a candidate who has the majority of votes. The candidate with the  
9 majority (more than 50%) of first-choice popular votes wins outright.

10 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be enforced by the US Department of Justice.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Zayne Yeager, Ralston Valley High School*



PM-8

## A Bill to Require All Public Employees be Vaccinated

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Any person employed by the government in a publicly funded position shall  
2 be required to be vaccinated once a year for the COVID-19 virus and any of  
3 its variations or other viruses deemed important by the Surgeon General.

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5 **SECTION 2.** The vaccination expectation applies to all government workers, including  
6 but not limited to: workers of the Federal government, state government,  
7 local school district, public libraries, law enforcement, and the military.

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9 **SECTION 3.** Any person hired to do contract work for the government shall also be  
10 subject to the vaccination requirement if their contract is for work that will  
11 take longer than 365 days.

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**SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect on December 31st, 2024. All workers will  
have 365 to become vaccinated. Failure to meet the vaccination  
requirement will result in termination of employment.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by SMART High School*