

A Bill to Cap Out-of-Pocket Expenses (C.O.P.E.)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall cap the amount
2 that health insurance companies may require patients to pay out-of-pocket
3 through copayments for essential medical procedures. Copayments shall
4 not exceed 6% of the median household income of the state in which the
5 hospital is located. The maximum copayment allowed for any essential
6 procedure may not increase annually at a rate greater than the rate of
7 inflation, as determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

8 **SECTION 2.** “Median household income” shall refer to the most recent
9 state-level data published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will
11 oversee the implementation of this legislation.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2026.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Millburn High School.

A Bill to Require the Redistribution of Surplus Food to Combat Hunger

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All large-scale retail food engines and grocery chains shall be prohibited
2 from discarding edible, unsold food and must instead donate such surplus
3 to registered non-profit food recovery organizations.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. “Edible Unsold food” shall be defined as food that is past its “Best If
5 Used By” date but remains fit for human consumption according to safety
6 standards, or food with damaged packaging that does not compromise the
7 integrity of the product.

8 B. “Large-Scale Grocery Chain” shall be defined as a retail entity operating
9 more than 10 physical locations nationwide.

10 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall oversee the
11 implementation of this bill.

12 A. Grocery chains must enter into formal written contracts with food banks
13 or redistributive charities to manage daily pickups.

14 B. Entities found in violation of this mandate shall be fined \$500 per instance
15 of documented disposal of edible food.

16 I. Entities shall be exempt from fines in instances where the disposal
17 of edible food is a direct result of documented transportation
18 delays or the unavailability of a food recovery organization for
19 pickup on that specific day.

20 C. The federal government shall provide a 10% tax rebate on transportation
21 costs incurred by grocery chains specifically for the delivery of donated
22 goods to food banks.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with
24 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Javed Ali, Xaverian High School

A Bill to Decriminalize Personal Drug Possession and Treat Addiction as a Public Health Issue

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All federal criminal charges for personal possession of controlled
2 substances shall be expunged and replaced with health interventions.
3 Individuals found in possession of drugs for personal use shall be referred
4 to treatment and/or support services rather than legally punished.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation, the following terms are defined:

6 A) Personal possession are amounts suggesting individual use over a
7 ten-day period, as determined by state drug schedules.

8 B) Civil health interventions are mandatory assessment by health
9 professionals, harm reduction education, and addiction services/helplines.

10 C) Manufacturing, trafficking, and distribution of controlled substances
11 remain federal crimes subject to existing penalties under the Controlled
12 Substances Act.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Agency for Substance Treatment and Harm Reduction (ASTHR) shall be
14 established within the Department of Health and Human Services to
15 oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

16 A) ASTHR shall establish treatment programs, harm reduction initiatives,
17 and public health campaigns nationwide.

18 B) ASTHR shall develop guidelines for personal possession quantities and
19 civil intervention protocols.

20 C) 75% of the budget previously used for drug-related incarceration and
21 DEA operations related to personal possession shall be redirected to fund
22 ASTHR programs.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with
24 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rep. Alexander Mihm, Walt Whitman High School.

A Bill to Restrict Pharmaceutical Advertising to Protect Public Health

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs shall be
2 subject to the following restrictions:

3 A. No pharmaceutical advertisements may air on broadcast or cable
4 television between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM local time.

5 B. No pharmaceutical advertisements may appear in broadcast media
6 content (not inclusive of social media).

7 C. Pharmaceutical advertisements shall not include emotionally
8 manipulative imagery, high distraction imagery, testimonials from
9 actors portraying patients, or depictions of miraculous recovery
10 within the commercial content.

11 **SECTION 2.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in
12 consultation with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), shall be
13 responsible for enforcing the provisions of this act.

14 A. Broadcast media entities or pharmaceutical companies found in
15 violation of this act shall be subject to civil penalties not to exceed
16 \$500,000 per infraction.

17 B. The FCC shall be authorized to issue further guidelines necessary to
18 enforce this act in a manner consistent with First Amendment
19 protections.

20 **SECTION 3.** This bill shall take effect January 1, 2027

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by La Salle College High School.