

2026 ISSDA State Debate Tournament

Congressional Debate Docket

Prelims:

1. A Bill to Redefine Executive Branch Powers Regarding Tariffs
2. A Bill to End U.S. Military Funding for Foreign Militaries Using Child Soldiers
3. A Bill to Lower the Cost of Pharmaceutical Drugs

Semifinals:

1. A Resolution to Recognize Palestine as an Official Nation
2. A Bill to Require a Four-Hour Screen Limit for Children Under 16
3. A Bill to Ban the Public Use of A.I. to Generate Images and Videos

Finals:

1. A Bill to Ensure Child Support Payments are Made
2. A Bill to Expand Federal Subsidies for Domestic Semiconductor Manufacturing to Strengthen Market Independence
3. A Resolution to Ensure Equitable and Evidence-Based U.S. Refugee Policy

REMINDER: All legislation is considered moved by the ISSDA. Even if your school submitted the legislation, you are NOT entitled to an “authorship” speech (first aff).

At the beginning of each session, the chamber may set the order of legislation to be debated in whichever order they desire.

A Bill to Redefine Executive Branch Powers Regarding Tariffs (Prelims)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. **A.** The President will have the power to impose tariffs without the consideration of Congress in the event of a declared and Congressionally affirmed national emergency.

B. The President will have the power to impose tariffs without the consideration of Congress prior to the implementation of the tariff in the event of the President having received an informed recommendation.

C. In both events, Congress must review the circumstances and reason for the invocation of the tariff, then pass judgment on whether the tariff will be upheld or not. Congress must pass judgment before the implementation of the tariff or:

1. If the tariff was invoked using section 1A of this bill: within 90 days of the tariff's implementation.
2. If the tariff was invoked using section 1B of this bill, within 30 days of the tariff's implementation.

SECTION 2. **A.** A national emergency will be defined as any event in which a national emergency is declared under the National Emergencies Act (NEA) and affirmed by a simple majority vote of both houses of Congress.

B. An informed recommendation will be defined as any event in which the President has been informed by the Cabinet that a tariff must be immediately instituted.

SECTION 3. The Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements shall enforce any tariffs so designated.

SECTION 4. This bill will be implemented July 1, 2026

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

A Bill to End U.S. Military Funding for Foreign Militaries Using Child Soldiers (Prelims)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** No funds appropriated by Congress for military or security assistance may be disbursed to any foreign government, military, or security force that is found to recruit, employ, or use child soldiers.
- SECTION 2.** A child soldier is defined as any person 16 or younger who is part of any armed force in any capacity.
- SECTION 3.** The U.S. State Department shall submit an annual report identifying countries in violation and listing all funds requiring suspension.
- SECTION 4.** Waivers may be granted if the President certifies to Congress that continued assistance serves compelling national security interests and presents a plan – in collaboration with the offending country – to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Congress must vote to approve the waiver by a 2/3 majority.
- SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect beginning on January 1, 2030, with the intention of giving foreign nations the ability to change their policies prior to this bill's implementation.
- SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Lower the Cost of Pharmaceutical Drugs (Prelims)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Pharmaceutical companies and suppliers are hereby only permitted to mark up pharmaceutical drugs at up to 20% of the drug's production and shipping cost.
- SECTION 2.** Pharmaceutical drugs shall be defined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as "a substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of diseases, both physical and/or mental."
- SECTION 3.** The FDA and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall jointly oversee the implementation of this legislation.
- SECTION 4.** Pharmaceutical companies and suppliers that are caught marking up pharmaceutical drugs above the allowed 20% shall be fined \$5 million for each infraction.
- SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on October 1, 2026, at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2027.
- SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Resolution to Recognize Palestine as an Official Nation (Semis)

WHEREAS, The land known as Palestine has been subjected to war, famine, and outright genocide since its inception; and

WHEREAS, The international community has nearly universally condemned the actions done against Palestine and has recognized Palestine as a nation; and

WHEREAS, The United States is the largest nation which has not officially recognized Palestine as a nation and has also not condemned actions done against Palestine by Israel; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of Palestine would significantly help the legitimacy of Palestine and would help Palestine receive the same protections that any other nation would; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The United States hereby declares the land of Palestine as an official nation and shall do so in every legal capacity possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, The United States shall set up official diplomatic relations with the Nation of Palestine; and be it further

RESOLVED, The land that encompasses Palestine shall be defined as the lands encompassing both the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

A Bill to Require a Four-Hour Screen Limit for Children Under 16 (Semis)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. To address negative developmental and mental health impacts, each parent/parental figure of a child under age 16 is permitted to regulate their child's screen time limit with the maximum legal allowance set at 4 hours per day. Once the child turns 16, it is up to the parent's discretion whether to have a longer limit or any limit at all.

SECTION 2. Negative developmental impact is defined as a detrimental effect concerning the emotional, social, contextual, and physical stunting or developmental shortcoming because of an external action separate from genetics or hereditary history concerning development.

SECTION 3. **A.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shall oversee implementation and management of this legislation using diverted funds from the Department of Defense (DOD).

B. 1% of the DOD's budget will be redirected to the FTC for the purpose of executing this legislation.

C. The FTC will ensure that the limit is observed and implemented by collaborating with phone manufacturing companies such as Apple and Samsung to lock screen time according to the legal age of the owner/possessor of the phone.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on October 1, 2026, at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2027.

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

A Bill to Ban the Public Use of A.I. to Generate Images and Videos (Semis)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The public use of artificial intelligence (A.I.) to generate images and/or videos is hereby prohibited.

SECTION 2. **A.** Artificial intelligence shall be defined as a computer program designed to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity, and autonomy.

B. Public use shall be defined as use by any person or persons not directly under the employment or jurisdiction of the United States federal government.

SECTION 3. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will oversee the implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on October 1, 2026, at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2027.

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

A Bill to Ensure Child Support Payments are Made (Finals)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** To prevent the evasion of paying child support, the obligor is able to be charged with child neglect if payments are excessively missed.
- SECTION 2.**
 - A.** Excessively missed is defined as missing at least \$2,700 in payments to the custodial parent.
 - B.** Child neglect is defined as the willful failure to provide necessary financial support for a minor child, resulting in the potential harm of the child's health, welfare, or development.
- SECTION 3.** The implementation of this legislation will be overseen by the Office of Child Support.
- SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect on January 1, 2027.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Expand Federal Subsidies for Domestic Semiconductor Manufacturing to Strengthen Market Independence (Finals)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The U.S. federal government shall expand subsidies given to domestic semiconductor manufacturers to encourage investments in the USA, and counter China and their stronghold on CHIP manufacturing.

SECTION 2. **A.** Semiconductors shall be defined as a material with electrical conductivity used to control electrical currents in electronic devices such as, but not limited to, phones and laptops.

B. Domestic semiconductor manufacturers shall be defined as an entity that designs and assembles semiconductors in the United States.

C. Federal subsidies shall be defined as the federal government's financial contribution to support manufacturing, research, and innovation through tax credits, grants, loans, and direct funding.

SECTION 3. The Department of Defense and the Department of Commerce shall oversee this legislation and ensure that federal funds are appropriately allocated.

A. \$11 billion shall be allocated over the course of five years as competitive grants to ensure domestic competition.

B. Tax incentives shall be given proportionally to domestic semiconductor manufacturers investing in research, design, and production based off company size and CHIP investment.

C. \$500 million shall be allocated to educational institutions and workforce programs to strengthen talent pipelines.

SECTION 4. This bill will take effect on October 1, 2026, at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2027.

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

A Resolution to Ensure Equitable and Evidence-Based U.S. Refugee Policy (Finals)

WHEREAS, The United States has historically upheld a commitment to providing refuge to individuals facing genuine persecution, irrespective of race, ethnicity, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, Recent executive actions have prioritized the resettlement of white South African Afrikaners based on claims of systemic violence and genocide, despite a lack of substantiated evidence meeting international refugee criteria; and

WHEREAS, South African authorities and human rights organizations have refuted allegations of targeted persecution against Afrikaners, noting that white South Africans remain among the country's most economically privileged groups; and

WHEREAS, The selective focus on Afrikaner resettlement has coincided with the reduction or denial of asylum to other vulnerable populations, including Afghan allies, Haitian migrants, and others facing documented threats, raising concerns about the equitable application of refugee policies; and

WHEREAS, Such actions risk undermining the integrity of the United States' refugee admissions programs and may erode international confidence in the United States' commitment to human rights and nondiscriminatory practices; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The United States shall reaffirm its dedication to an evidence-based refugee policy that evaluates asylum claims without bias toward race, ethnicity, or political considerations; and be it further

RESOLVED, Congress urges the Executive Branch to consult with relevant international bodies, human rights organizations, and domestic stakeholders to assess the validity of persecution claims and to allocate refugee admissions in a manner that reflects genuine need and upholds the United States' longstanding humanitarian values.