Title:
A rescheduling of certain drugs for the purpose of medical research for treatment

Major Areas to be Affected:
Drug Enforcement Agency, medical community, scientific community, the Controlled Substances Act

Justification:
Currently certain psychoactive drugs that have potential for medicinal purposes are listed under Schedule 1 on the Controlled Substances Act. A Schedule 1 listing means that “A) The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, B) The drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, C) There is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under Medical Supervision”. This scheduling essentially does not allow for intensive or thorough research of the drug, while at the same time, the only way to be rescheduled is for researched proof of some medicinal value. Based on the research that has been conducted with these substances, it is clear that some of these Schedule 1 substances deserve a chance to be researched effectively for determining if they can be used for treatment.

Proposal for Action:
The goal of this proposal is to shift a list of currently Schedule 1 hallucinogenic drugs to Schedule 2 classification. The list that will be changed to Schedule 2 is as follows:

- Diethyltryptamine (DET)
- Dimethyltryptamine (DMT)
- Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)
- Marihuana
- Mescaline
- 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)
- Peyote
- Psilocybin
- Psilocyn
- Tetrahydrocannabinols

A Schedule 1 listing makes it incredibly difficult to properly research any of these drugs. They deserve an opportunity to be medically researched thoroughly with multiple trials because of the work that has been done about these substances, there is potential for their treatment of mental ailments.

The changing of these 10 substances to a Schedule 2 directly means that “A) The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, B) The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions, C) Abuse of the drug or other substances may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence”. Essentially, this action would allow medical research, but upon DEA approval and terms. This would allow for thorough research that is approved by the government and therefore potentially recognized and accepted for medical purposes.

Results to be Expected:
For the previously mentioned list of Schedule 1 drugs to move to being classified under Schedule 2 for the purpose of medical research. This alters the Controlled Substances Act (U.S. Code §?812.Schedules of controlled substances). A schedule 2 listing means limited research, where each trial or investigation requires the DEA’s approval. With the ability to do proper research that is legitimately recognized, there may be more opportunities for treating illnesses/ailments of PTSD, physical and mental addictions and more.
Proposal #011

Author: Luis Reyes, Delegation: Arizona

Title:

Naloxone to be put in all Automated External Defibrillator boxes.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Any person who takes prescription opioids or is abusing them.

Justification:

The opioid crisis is among us and it takes only minutes for an overdose to start causing brain damage. Having naloxone in AED boxes will make it easily accessible for when someone overdoses on opioids.

Proposal for Action:

To place naloxone drugs in AED boxes to make it easily accessible in the event of an opioid overdose.

Results to be Expected:

Fewer deaths from opioid overdoses and fewer people with brain damage from opioid overdoses.
Proposal #116

Committee: A

Author: Venicesa White, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
Creating a Federal Grant Program to Implement Mental Education in Intermediate, Secondary, and Collegiate Education Systems

Major Areas to be Affected:

Middle schools, high schools, colleges

Justification:

The adolescent mental health issue can be broken roughly into two sections: the history aspect and the mental/cognitive aspect. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between the ages of ten and twenty four. At least 4,600 lives of youth are lost every year in the United States. Even worse, each year, approximately one hundred and fifty seven thousand youth between the ages ten and twenty four are ready in emergency departments across the United States for self-inflicted injuries. Those are very large numbers that are addressed, but not much is put in the spotlight. The risk factors of suicide in adolescents increase with not only age but family history as well. If an adolescent has a family history of suicide, history of depression or another mental health issue, incarceration, easy access to lethal means, alcohol and drug use, or exposure to previous suicidal behaviors by others, they may already be at an extremely high risk for suicide, dropping out of school, or substance abuse.

While efforts are made, there aren’t enough educated people in this subject to make a big enough difference. Approximately 86% of school psychologists reported that they had counseled a student who had threatened or attempted suicide. Yet out of that 86%, only 22% believed their graduate training sufficiently prepared them to adequately intervene with a suicidal youth or even contribute to suicide postvention activities.

Factors that can help include close personal relationships with friends, family, faculty or staff, resiliency skills, healthy habits, adequate sleep, diet and physical exercise, and finally readily accessible health care and counseling services. A psychological autopsy of twenty children and adolescents aged 12 to 19 years who had committed suicide and a matched paired control group revealed that 85% of the victims and 18% of the control subjects had expressed suicidal ideation. A statistically significant number of the victims had a history of suicide threats (55%), suicide attempts (40%), drug or alcohol abuse (70%), antisocial behavior (70%), or inhibited personality (65%). Suicidal behavior of parents, relatives, or friends and parental history of emotional problems and absence or abusiveness were also significant factors for the victims. There has definitely a direct correlation between a person’s mental health and the increasing suicide rates of young people. In terms of substance use and abuse, youth with suicidal behaviors were more likely to use and abuse substances without suicidal behavior. The results show a relationship between types of suicidal behaviors and substance abuse/dependency. Overall, the effects of intoxication lead to high-risk behavior, may be secondary to affective illnesses such as depression, and as self destructive behaviors, suicidal behaviors and substance abuse share commit biological, behavioral, and environmental organs or result from common vulnerabilities.

The one place of connection that has the potential to be most stable for all children, teens, and adults alike is the family environment. The first place we feel love or acceptance or hatred and a lack of acceptance is in the family. We learn who we are, if we are valuable or not, all through how we are raised. When the home environment isn’t healthy, neither can a child be all that healthy (Campbell, Teen Suicide: The Role of Family Dynamics & Health Issues).

Adolescence comes with change, vulnerability, responsibly, and possible unhealthy habits that grow into problems as one gets closer to adulthood. Studies show that substance abuse and use is one of the biggest problems that parents of adolescents around the world have to deal with. The amount of those adolescents that get help is also low. One in 5 teens will seek help. This has led to more than 50% of students with mental health disorders to dropout of school. One in four parents find it difficult to obtain mental help for their child. With this federally funded program, students will have a better understanding of mental illnesses they may encounter from eating disorders to substance abuse. This program would also help them feel more support from their peers to get help. This will reduce some of the stigma on the parents and students trying to figure out what to do.
According to the US National Library of Medicine, most suicide survivors do not seem out formal or informal support or mental health treatment. Through Peer Support Groups at these schools, members may feel they are benefiting from sharing thoughts and experiences. Research has found that individuals involved in general bereavement support groups for spousal death often have contact with other members outside the context of the group and report feeling close to other group members despite the frequency of the group itself. This might help group members with the highest levels of depression, loneliness, and life stress.

This program would not only create better connection between the youth, it would also teach them resiliency and coping techniques. The program is meant to educate and advance the youth's knowledge on problems they are facing, may face, or someone else may face that they can help.

Proposal for Action:

Create federally funded mental health programs for middle schools, high schools, and colleges and increase the amount spent on adolescents regarding health care.

Results to be Expected:

Decreased drop out rate, suicide & overdose rate along with better educated youth.
Proposal #138
Author: Agha Jahangir, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
To produce additional revenue for the United States through a federally-sponsored lottery system for those with misdemeanor offenses in order to treat mental illnesses, support charitable nonprofits organizations, fund education grants, and lower the inmate population.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Currently, the United States’ prisons are heavily overcrowded with approx. 103.9 percent occupancy levels nationwide. Looking at the inmate population, nonviolent misdemeanors account for about 80% of all dockets. Misdemeanors, by nature, are very minor petty crimes that are more damaging to both the individual and the economy in how they impact the job market. When a lower income jobseeker, with a former misdemeanor charge, attempts to get a job they are 50% less likely to get a callback simply due to the fact that they have a charge on their record. With a large portion of lower income americans unable to get a job, they are subjected to poverty. However, once uncovered, the definition of a misdemeanor accounts for small crimes such as Cannabis possession, trespassing, petty theft, and loitering, which subjectively is a minor offense.

With college tuition in the United States averaging around $9,970 in state and $25,620 out of state, many americans find it hard to pay off college debt. In particular, lower income families find that they cannot afford 95% of US colleges and the majority who attend college find themselves approx. $40,000 in debt after completing college.

For the case of mental health, in the United States alone, 1 in 5 teenagers experience a severe mental disorder and 1 in 25 adults experience the same in a given year. From the perspective of economic efficiency, these life impending disorders cost the United States approx. $193.2 billion in lost earnings yearly and led to a 1.43% loss in productivity. Amongst these costs, there is the issue of expensive treatment in which many americans skip out on treatment and attempt to “toughen it out on their own.” This large group of untreated individuals end up leading to 2 to 4 times the cost of their peers and many end up committing suicide or self harm.

With the introduction and legalization of LSD and MDMA, mental health treatment costs will be astronomically lower and reduce economic inefficiency. Although pop culture subjects MDMA to being a harmful chemical, it is actually different from “ecstasy” and the reported harm is due to street dealers selling off dangerous substitutes under the name. Both LSD and MDMA cause 45-65% lower relative harm to the individual than cannabis and are both non-addictive substances.

Proposal for Action:

Section 1 NTF Organization:
A nonprofit entity will be established known as the “NTF Organization” or, the subsequent abbreviation, “NTF.” The NTF will be made up of representatives for drug discovery institutes, the prison system, and healthcare professionals. Their sole duty is to oversee the lottery systems.

Section 2 Inmate Lottery System:
Those who are officially charged and sentenced with a misdemeanor of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or ungraded degree and is either awaiting transfer into a jail/prison or is serving time within a jail/prison, shall be eligible to enter in their charge related state Inmate Lottery System. The permissible numerical value of participants allowed to have an offense waived shall be derived from taking 6% of the total state inmate population, and equally distributing such value across the calendar year. Inmates are allowed to make three total entries per year and each entry costs 150 US dollars per applicable offense.

Section 3 National Lottery System:
Those who have previously been officially charged and sentenced within the United States, under jurisdiction of their charge related state, with a misdemeanor of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or ungraded degree and is no longer required by the Department of Corrections to attend
their facilities, shall be eligible to enter the National Lottery System. The permissible numerical value of participants allowed to have an offense waived shall be derived by taking 4.95% of the total United States population and equally distributing such value across the entire calendar year. Participants are allowed to make three total entries per year and each entry costs 350 US dollars per applicable offense.

Section 4 Lottery Offense Waivers:
Those randomly selected from the participant pool of either Lottery System will be granted a complete removal of all documentation relating to their offense, an official waiver of their attendance in any related court, and all serving time attached to the offense.

Section 5 Lottery Exemptions:
Any person applying to the Inmate Lottery System or National Lottery System shall be deemed ineligible to enter their respective lottery under either the “Concealing death of a child” or “Sexual intercourse with animal” offenses.

Section 6 Revenue Appropriation:
All collected revenue shall be strictly distributed every three months towards:
(1) drug discovery institutes for the research of LSD and MDMA in psychiatric application,
(2) the general fund of each contiguous US State’s education grants,
(3) nonprofit charitable organizations chosen by the NTF,
(4) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mental health grants,
(5) NTF operations,
(6) legal damages made by the waived participant.

Section 7 Drug Scheduling:
Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) will be nationally designated as a Schedule IV substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Methylenedioxy-methylamphetamine (MDMA) will be nationally designated as a Schedule III substance under the Controlled Substances Act.

Results to be Expected:
With the passage of this proposal, the lottery system will create approx. $175 billion USD in revenue which will be distributed to state education grants, LSD and MDMA research, and charitable non-profit organizations. With cheaper undergraduate education available, many will be able to pursue higher income specialized jobs and have lower student debt. LSD and MDMA legalization will lead to cheaper mental health treatment and can minimize the attributed costs by $100 billion USD. As result of money given to nonprofit charities, there will be greater social capital which creates incentives to support local businesses which garners further economic growth. With the decline in the inmate population, the quality of care in prisons and jails will increase. As more people, specifically lower income, lose their misdemeanor charge there will be a larger supply of workers to fill in smaller jobs which will lower income disparity.
A proposal to decriminalize certain psychedelic drugs and create a governmental department responsible for regulating the use and distribution of these drugs.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Department of Health and Human Services and the Drug Enforcement Agency

Justification:
The effects of psychedelic drugs on the human body and mind has been a major area of focus within the scientific and medical communities in recent years due to an increase in prevalence of certain psychedelic substances. The popularity of these substances prompted research and studies to be done on them in order to understand their effects and the experiences one has while using the substance. For example, at the 2018 American Psychological Association (APA) Symposium, 13 patients experiencing intense anxiety and distress due to terminal illness were treated with single doses of psilocybin (the active ingredient in psilocybin mushrooms) and combined this dose with talk therapy. All 13 participants reported a significant reduction in their anxiety, and stated that they had come to terms with their illness. Similar studies have been conducted about MDMA, another psychedelic substance. At the 2018 APA Symposium, researchers tested the effects of MDMA on adults with autism and social anxiety. The results found that a majority of the participants found it easier to speak to a talk therapist after receiving the treatment, and reported that they experienced positive results lasting months long. Another study conducted at the symposium was focused on the effects of N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT), lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and psilocybin mushrooms. 159 participants reported that they had used one of these substances before, and that they have felt an increase in their emotional stability after their experience, which may lead to improved mental health. Certain small studies also suggest that MDMA and ayahuasca, whose main ingredient is DMT, could potentially help treat substance abuse and other mental health complications. Additionally, there have been a plethora of studies surrounding marijuana and its effect on the body and mind, with results that have led to a surge in legalization for medical marijuana, as well as an uptick in the number of states approving the legalization of marijuana for recreational use.

In the past few years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of people who has reported using these psychedelic substances. As it is currently illegal, it is difficult for users to find drugs that are “pure” (containing no other drugs in the product). Impure drugs impose a great risk on this growing population of users.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal will legalize marijuana, psilocybin mushrooms, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), d-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), peyote (mescaline), and dimethyltryptamine (DMT) for medical and recreational use.

- Only microdoses of LSD will be legal, meaning LSD will only be legal in low doses.

It will also create the Bureau of Psychedelic Substance Control within the Department of Health and Human Services that will be responsible for ensuring the safe and appropriate use of these drugs, as well as licensing and regulating the dispensaries and distribution centers where these substances are available. The main purpose of these regulations would be to:

- Ensure the safety of the substances by requiring them to be examined by testing laboratories before it is allowed to be sold.
- Require potential users to receive written approval from a psychiatrist in order to ensure that the users do not have any mental or physical conditions that may lead to a negative experience after consuming the substances.
- Due to the more extreme experiences that may occur when using high doses of these substances, it will be required for each distribution location to have an expert on site to be available at all times for any high-dosage users who need guidance during their hallucinations.
Low doses are those that cause minor hallucinations that often consist of visual and auditory distortions, as well as a number of therapeutic benefits. High doses are those that cause more complex/intense hallucinations that often consist of religious/emotional realizations. This Bureau will be given the right to investigate any businesses or distribution locations in violation of these regulations, and may remove their license if needed.

Results to be Expected:

By legalizing these psychedelic substances and creating the Bureau of Psychedelic Substance Control, it would be easier to purchase clean substances, which will reduce the number of drug related deaths. Additionally, a great number of job opportunities will be created due to the new demand for employees in this industry. Legalization of these substances would result in a major economic impact. The Drug Policy Unit of the Faculty of Psychology of the Autonomous University of Barcelona calculated that the Spanish Treasury could expect $3.71 billion in taxes. This study also showed that over 100,000 job opportunities would be created in Spain alone. In addition to this, according to the Colorado Department of Revenue, the total marijuana sales in 2017 exceeded $1.5 billion in Colorado, totalling 0.55% of all personal consumer expenditures. If a number of other psychedelic substances are legalized, the sales and number of job opportunities will continue to rise.
A proposal to require juvenile detention centers to administer a mental health evaluation to juveniles upon entering the juvenile correction system and provide a course of treatment upon diagnosis.

Incarcerated juveniles, Juvenile detention centers, In prison psychiatrists.

Youth in the juvenile correctional system are a high-risk population who more often than not, have their physical, developmental, and mental health needs neglected. Every year, almost 2 million juveniles are arrested. 70% of those arrested have a mental illness. Rates of recidivism are extremely high amongst incarcerated youth. Within three years of release, around 75% of youth are rearrested and 45 to 72 percent are convicted of a new offense. These facilities also set up youth for incarceration in adult prisons – incarcerated youth are 60 percent more likely to be incarcerated as adults. (youthjusticemke.org)

Often, these juveniles commit crimes because of past trauma and untreated mental illnesses. Everyone deserves a second chance, and it is up to us to help those who are unable to help themselves.

This proposal will require all detention centers to administer a mental health examination to juveniles and provide treatment for the diagnosed mental illness once a juvenile enters a juvenile detention center in efforts to help reduce the risk reoffending. These examinations will be administered by the psychiatrists employed by the prison.

By providing juveniles with mental health examinations and treating their mental illnesses upon being entered into a juvenile detention center, juvenile offenders will be less likely to re-offend due to proper mental health care and rehabilitation.
Proposal #192
Author: Sydney Brown, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
Mandatory Mental Health Education in Public Schools

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public School Systems, Board of Education, Health Educators

Justification:
In 2017, 47,173 Americans died from suicide, and there were around 1,400,000 suicide attempts. As a country, we need to be pushing for ways to reduce this climbing statistic. Our country needs to be aware of mental illness, especially the upcoming generations. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, most mental illnesses begin before the age of fourteen. According to John Hopkins University's School of Medicine, the rate for adolescents diagnosed with depression has increased by 40 percent between the years 2005 and 2014. Most states currently require mandatory health classes that include lessons on drugs, cancer, healthy habits, and abstinence from sexual activity. New York's new law adds mental health instruction to the list in kindergarten through twelfth grade; Virginia requires it in ninth and tenth grades. These two states are advocating for mental health awareness. They are starting the movement to raise awareness about the importance of mental health. Dustan Verga, a high school health teacher from New York states, "We teach them how to detect the signs of cancer and how to avoid accidents, but we don't teach them how to recognize the symptoms of mental illness. It's a shame because, like cancer, mental health treatment is much more effective if the disease is caught early." With the climbing suicide/self-harm rate amongst teenagers all states need to add mandatory mental health education into their health curriculum.

Proposal for Action:
Current health educators will add curriculum including recognizing mental illnesses, the differences between each illness, coping mechanisms, and also different ways to get help for the illnesses. Schools will not have to hire more educators for this curriculum, for it will just be included in the (already) mandatory health classes.

Results to be Expected:
Students will be aware of mental illness in present society. Students will be able to identify mental illness either in their own life or in the life of another. They will have the knowledge on how to cope with mental illness and how to help someone else as well. This knowledge will help in lowering the climbing suicide rate in our country today.
Title:
Mental Health Screening for Correctional Officers

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal prisons, federal inmates, federal correctional officers, federal healthcare of correctional officers, National Institute of Corrections

Justification:
As prisons become more dangerous and overpopulated, prison guards must fight for their mental sanity. In a 2017 study by the California Correctional Peace Officers Association that surveyed thousands of correctional officers in California, 3 out of 4 officers reported that they had seen "someone seriously injured or killed" at work. Of the officers surveyed, 65% reported having at least one symptom of PTSD. Roughly 1 in 9 officers surveyed reported that they had thought about or had attempted suicide. The mental health of correctional officers needs national attention. While mental illness in prisons often refers to the prisoners themselves, prison guards are also subjected to the same dehumanizing violence. To ensure the best care for prisoners, correctional officers must be in a place of mental stability to maintain order and justice among prisoners. By taking care of correctional officers, the government can take care of the prison population. Therefore, the federal healthcare plan already used by all federal correctional officers should include an annual mental health examination through a detailed survey administered during annual checkups; federal correctional officers can then be treated for mental illness through their federal health care plan. In addition, since there is very little research on the mental illness and suicide rate of correctional officers, the federal government should track the number of suicides that occur by federal correctional officers to help further research on this topic.

Proposal for Action:
Correctional officers who work in federal prisons must be screened for mental illnesses during their annual physical health checkup. The mental health screening must be administered by a professional psychologist. If the officer is found to have a mental illness, then they must be treated through their federal health care plan. In addition, effective immediately, the National Institute of Corrections must begin to track and record the number of suicides committed by state and federal correctional officers.

Results to be Expected:
Correctional officers will be treated for symptoms of mental illness through their federal health care plans. They will then be able to fulfill their duties without sacrificing their mental health. Prisoners will be guarded better by individuals who are being treated for any mental illness. The National Institute of Corrections can begin to collect data regarding the suicides of correctional officers and learn how to prevent these suicides.
Proposal #239
Author: Robin Park, Delegation: Model UN

Title:
Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention

Major Areas to be Affected:
States and their education programs (specifically high schools), students, psychologists, many different rural communities, LGBT people, all US citizens

Justification:
The US faces a major suicide crisis. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people 15-24 and 10th leading cause of death overall. Although the worldwide suicide rate has been declining, US rates are still increasing at an alarming pace. From 1999 to 2017, the suicide rate rose a staggering 33%. Suicide is a problem that must be solved at the national and international level because the pervasiveness of the problem. Additionally, suicide is deeply impactful not only on people who face depression and suicidal ideations, but also on the friends and family of those involved, making the impact of suicide far more widespread. In fact, according to medical daily, Committing Suicide Increases Family and Friends' Risk Of Attempting Suicide By 65%. While state programs can cater to specific nuances, a federal program must take shape in order to provide the necessary funds and incentives to tackle this growing problem.

Proposal for Action:
In order to address the complex intricacies of this growing crisis, I recommend that the federal government implement a 3-pronged plan designed to tackle such a momentous challenge. By promoting education, accessibility of mental health services, and affordability of therapy to the most vulnerable, we will finally be able to address suicide as the national crisis it is.

There are not enough professionals trained to address the suicide crisis. According to Mental Health America, there is a mental health workforce shortage, with some states with almost 4 times the number of individuals to 1 mental health provider. Additionally, to focus on the startlingly high rate of deaths from suicide amongst the 15-24 age range, the US must implement programs targeting this demographic.

Incentivize states with a federal mandate to increase psychology classes in their public school programs. This will increase the number of students who will be exposed to and potentially find an interest in psychology.

Expand the SAMHSA’s GLS State and Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention grant program which will help train community to prevent suicides amongst the youth.

According to studies between the years 2008-2011, More than 79,000 suicide attempts may have been averted.

The Federal government will ensure the expansion of this program by providing additional monetary aid to the grant.

To make psychologists and their services more accessible and affordable to people, set up a federal program that would help create clinics in rural areas without internet access.

Volunteer psychologists could be sent out to these clinics for differing time periods with the money set aside in the federal program.

In rural areas that do have access to the internet, set up an online resource for people to find a psychologist to communicate with. While this internet resource may not be as valuable as a face to face therapist, this will provide people with less severe forms of mental illness to access a therapist, while people suffering more severe illnesses may be referred to a face to face therapist.

Rural communities are specifically targeted because according to the APA, “suicides have increased most sharply in rural communities.”

In order to increase mental health care, the government must increase awareness among those with insurance that mental health care is often covered by these companies. One 2014 poll found that 40 percent of Californians did not understand that their health insurance plans offer mental health care. But many Americans don’t have access to health care to begin with. According to Mental Health America, 1/5 Americans experiencing a mental health condition still report having an unmet need.

For those who do not have insurance or people whose insurance does not cover mental health care, the government should implement a system where people are able to have free annual mental health checks if they qualify as a high risk individual (transgender, LGBT, military veteran/personnel...). Although this program would first target certain groups, it would eventually include every citizen.
Results to be Expected:

With all three aspects of this suicide prevention plan, the number of professional psychologists should increase to meet the demands of millions of mentally ill Americans. Additionally, the suicide rate of rural communities and high risk individuals should slowly decrease. As time goes on, the suicide rate amongst every group of people should begin to decrease as they get the proper diagnosis for their mental illnesses and find suitable treatment.
Title:
Funding and Implementing Improved Psychiatric Programs in Schools

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
There has been significant evidence indicating a steep rise in mental illness, specifically with adolescents. However, there is a lack of action by educational institutions to implement resources and programs for these children to navigate through their issues, which ultimately leads to issues that impact the remainder of their lives.

Adolescents have long been one of the groups suffering the most from a lack of treatment and resources, with around 80% going without any treatment. There is often a connection between untreated mental illness in adolescents, and poor academic performance, as well as violence and poor behavior. Additionally, suicide is the second leading cause of death for those aged 5-24, despite these individuals often having diagnosable and treatable mental illnesses. Children experiencing a tumultuous home life are more likely to encounter mental illness in their lives, however, do not have resources to get help at home. Adolescents spend 6-8 hours a day at a school, offering a large opportunity for a school to step in and provide help and resources for mental illness.

Many schools already provide school psychologists, student assistance counselors, and other groups to allow students to seek out help if needed. However, these programs are often underfunded, and fail to be properly integrated with the school environment. This means that despite the fact that most adolescents showcase symptoms of mental illness within a school environment, the psychiatric programs in schools cannot adequately assess them. Additionally, school officials are not sufficiently trained to address serious mental health, and there is a shortage of those who can. Consequently, students who are in dire need of help, do not, and cannot, take advantage of the resources around them.

For the aforementioned reasons, the best way to combat the rapidly worsening adolescent mental health crisis, is by increasing funding to implement more comprehensive mental health programs, with better equipped school officials. This would stop the exacerbation of these issues, and develop a more useful and effective system for the youth suffering from these issues.

Proposal for Action:
Increase funding in both the Department of Health and Department of Education for comprehensive mental health programs within schools.
Use said funding to train school staffers to appropriately address issues of adolescent mental illness, and foster a better learning environment for them.
Integrate a screening system within schools, to identify signs of mental illness and pursue a proper course of treatment.
Annual screenings by officials from the Department of Health to ensure that the comprehensive mental health system is being properly implemented, and the schools will face infractions if it is being mishandled.

Results to be Expected:
With a new system being more comprehensive, and having more funding, schools will be able to better meet the needs of mentally ill students. Furthermore, this would prevent an increasing number of suicides and hospitalization by addressing symptoms when they appear and treating illnesses before they worsen beyond help.
Proposal #273
Author: Jack McGrath, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Alteration of care methods used in mental healthcare facilities and protections outside of them

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Substance abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Justification:
Over 90% of the suicide deaths in the U.S come from people who are mentally ill. The number 1 cause of suicide in the U.S is depression. Over half of all suicides are by use of firearms. Not to put a monetary value on human life, but suicide cost the U.S government just under 70 billion dollars in 2015.

As previously stated, majority of suicide deaths are by use of firearms. A disproportionate ratio of all suicide attempts are by use of a firearm, meaning that guns have a higher mortality rate than any other suicide method. Most people who fail at suicide on their first attempt do not try again.

Most people in America don’t commit suicide, then again, most people in America don’t die. But out of the ones that do die, suicide is the 10th leading cause. Suicide is most prevalent in middle-aged white men, and most commonly occurs in the form a gun, followed in order by strangulation/suffocation, and poisoning(the most common poisoning method is overdose). Although the most “successful” demographic is middle-aged white men, women actually attempt suicide nearly twice as often as men do, however men generally use methods with higher mortality rates.

Mental illness is a complex issue, which is why it is so dangerous for media to talk about it. Shortly after the events of a mass shooting, pundits and politicians on both sides of the aisle call the shooter deranged and unhinged, demanding for mental health care reform. Although they aren’t always wrong, they aren’t always right either. Another example of media making things worse is Netflix’s hit series “13 Reasons Why”. 13 Reasons Why glorifies and romanticizes suicide and mental illness, and shortly after the release of its first season teen suicide rates had a noticeable spike, however an inability to talk to the dead kept analysts from knowing for sure if it was the cause.

Mental institutions have moderate recidivism rates. That may sound good, until you realize that a reason they are kept low isn’t because patients got better, it’s because a notable portion of them died before they could go back. Those that are treated enough to keep themselves alive, whether it be emotional treatment for suicidality, or it be rehabilitation for drug addicts, or both, most people who leave mental institutions and don’t die end up returning at least once because of some kind of relapse or increase in dangerous behaviour.

Mental institutions also cause serious trauma. In the early years of mental healthcare, when they were known as asylums, patients coming out told horror stories of the abuse, neglect, and more. Although we are far past the days of straight-jackets and padded rooms on every patient, that doesn’t mean they’re gone. Family visits and a modicum of freedoms are required however more is still there to be done.

Proposal for Action:

To further limit access of firearms for mentally diseased persons and to be much more restrictive to those who now have or may reasonably have in the future have suicidal or homicidal intent.

To limit the amount of medication that can be dispensed to a particular patient at one time. Instead having doctors prescribe the medication for shorter periods of time with more frequent refills to limit the ability to overdose on said medication.

To institute laws that encourage care facilities and therapists to focus on being more accommodating to patients. Allowing more freedoms within intensive care units can help humanize patients and foster attitudes more conducive to healing. We must recognize however that there will always be some limits based on patient safety.

Results to be Expected:

In an ideal scenario, this would lower suicide rates across america and limit the amount of institutionalized persons.
Title:

To provide a comprehensive policy proposal in combating the cause-and-effects of the opioid crisis within the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States Health and Human Services
19.7 million Americans (ages 12 and above) currently battling substance use disorder
Major private drug manufacturers (e.g. Purdue Pharma, Endo Health Solutions, Allergan, etc.)
The United States Department of Education
The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services
Licensed physicians practicing within the United States

Justification:

In June 18, 1971, former President Richard Nixon held a press conference in which he declares drug abuse “Public Enemy Number One” and has henceforth been credited for the implementation and popularization of what is now known as the War on Drugs. Nearly half a century and a series of tough-on-crime policies targeting drug abuse later, the statistics overwhelmingly show that the trend of overdoses across the nation has not waned in the slightest. According to a 2017 study performed by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose rates within the United States have skyrocketed from sixteen thousand, eight hundred and forty nine (16,849) deaths in 1999 to seventy thousand, two hundred and thirty seven (70,237) in 2017. In the meantime, governments from nearly every state have instituted increasingly tighter regulations and penalties for nonviolent drug offenses, with some states such as South Carolina exhibiting an average of almost one hundred and twenty-two (122) months of incarceration for every drug trafficking offender.

The war on drugs has also impacted communities of color and suffocated the already-inundated prison system while ignoring the demand side of the issue. According to the Substances Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, white and black citizens were almost equally likely to use controlled substances such as marijuana, cocaine, and various hallucinogens, and yet black people are seven (7) times more likely to be incarcerated without any offerings of treatment, according to a study done by the Human Rights Watch. While the US government has a legitimate interest in preventing problematic drug use, the criminal law is not the solution. Criminalizing drug use simply has not worked as a matter of practice. Rates of drug use fluctuate, but they have not declined significantly since the “war on drugs” was declared more than four decades ago. The criminalization of drug use and possession is also inherently problematic because it represents a restriction on individual rights that is neither necessary nor proportionate to the goals it seeks to accomplish. It punishes an activity that does not directly harm others.

Solving the opioid crisis will require a multi-faceted approach that does not only attempt to criminalize drug use, but to provide accessible and affordable treatment for individuals struggling to cope with addiction, preventing opioid disorders by educating the general populace, and holding pharmaceutical companies and the medical sector accountable. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American physicians prescribed 259 million prescriptions for legal opioid painkillers, which ends up being proliferated in black markets and in the hands of Americans who fall into the vortex of addiction like thousands of others.

In the raging partisanship of modern day politics, solving the opioid crisis is one issue in which legislators and Americans from both sides of the aisle can agree is an epidemic that desperately needs to be fixed. Under this proposal, communities shall be provided the resources and a comprehensive, all-hands-on-deck policy to hold those in power accountable and allow the victims of this crisis to heal.

The era of short-handed legislation is over, and the time for real change begins today.

Proposal for Action:

Prevention, Training, and Education
The Department of Education, along with the assistance of the Department’s Office of Safe and Healthy Students, shall be tasked with educating students about opioid use disorders and opioid addictions, risk factor mitigations in regards to engagement with dangerous drug use behaviors, and emergency first-aid actions when dealing with opioid overdoses, which includes, but is not limited to, prescription of Naloxone to the individual.
The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) shall, as part of the registration process, mandate that physicians be trained in opioid therapy and pain management as a core part of the requirements to be licensed.

Intervention and Accountability
The Congress of the United States shall introduce legislation which limits licensed medical practitioners in prescribing the initial supply of opioids to no more than a seven (7) day supply. This provision shall not apply to patients suffering from chronic pain, pain associated to cancer treatments, hospice, or other end-of-life care. If benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax, Valium, etc.) are being prescribed simultaneously with other opioids, the initial supply of opioids shall be limited to no more than a five (5) day supply.

Treatment and Recovery
The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) shall be tasked with ensuring that each state has an equal number and distribution of substance abuse treatment centers proportional to the population size of its respective counties. Immediately establish and fund a federal incentive to enhance access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) by granting federal waivers for the Institutes of Mental Diseases exclusion and require that all modes of MAT are offered at every licensed MAT facility and that those decisions are based on what is best for the patient. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the industry shall facilitate testing and development of new MAT treatments

Results to be Expected:
With the enactment of this proposal, the general population of the United States will receive the care they deserve with regards to opioids and opioid abuse. The nation will be able to transition from the ineffective crackdown on drugs to a prevent-and-treat approach whilst reinforcing and strengthening its addiction treatment infrastructure. The strategic placement of treatment centers will ensure that communities will receive easy access to health facilities to treat opioid use disorders in every state.
Title:

To respond to the opioid overdose mortality rates within the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States of America and rural areas within the United States of America.

Justification:

Drug overdose is one of the major causes of death in the United States and the epidemic is continuing to rise, particularly within rural communities. The growing number of overdose deaths illustrate the need for strengthened primary prevention efforts. The drug naloxone counteracts the effect of an opioid overdose, saving the life of the overdoser. Although naloxone is extremely beneficial to increasing the survival rate of drug users, naloxone regulations vary state to state, and the distribution of naloxone to first responders varies state to state. The distribution of naloxone is particularly inconsistent within first responders of rural communities. First responders are tasked with saving lives at the scene of an opioid drug overdose. The opioid drug overdose rate is 45% higher within rural communities and the drug overdose mortality rate rose 159% within nonmetropolitan rural counties between 1999 and 2004. Due to isolation, a lack of first responder services, and a lack of close rehabilitation services, transporting an overdose patient from a rural community requires longer transport times, allowing a greater chance of aspiration, hypoxia, and other health hazards associated with opioid overdose. It is essential to provide first responders with adequate services needed to prevent overdose death, especially to those who are responsible for transporting users long distances to the nearest health facility for further treatment.

Proposal for Action:

All first responders, including EMS provider, fire fighters, and police, will be required, trained, and authorized to carry and administer naloxone when responding to a potential overdose crisis. Naloxone is a drug that temporarily counteracts the effects of opioid overdose, potentially saving the life of a person who is overdosing. Standard uniform guidance on naloxone administration will be established, including at least nasal administration, expanding to IV, Intramuscular, and subcutaneous. Understanding the administration of naloxone will be a requirement within certification of becoming a first responder within all state certification programs.

Results to be Expected:

The expanded access to naloxone to first responders will potentially save the lives of numerous overdosers, allowing them to have the opportunity of rehabilitation. Those who overdose in a rural area will have an increased chance of reaching a medical facility in a for further treatment.
Proposal #307
Author: Chloe Kinderman, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
To Reclassify Psilocybin, DMT, LSD, and MDMA from Schedule I to Schedule II Drugs

Major Areas to be Affected:
the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the US Controlled Substances Act, US Research Institutions, US Scientists and Medical Researchers, Universities, Hospitals

Justification:
There are many potential medical uses for various psychedelics, but the classification of these drugs as Schedule I drugs under the US Controlled Substances Act creates barriers to research on their effectiveness as medical therapies. Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) could be used to treat addiction and terminal anxiety. Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) could be used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Parkinson’s disease, and traumatic brain injuries. Psilocybin could treat cluster headaches, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), depression, cancer related depression, tobacco addiction, and alcoholism. Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) could be used to increase the survival rate of neurons during acute hypoxia or to treat addiction, Alzheimer’s disease, and Parkinson’s disease, but for any of these drugs to be used clinically, more research must occur on their effects. Additionally, innovation in the field of psychopharmacology is slowing. Psychedelics likely require time-limited interventions, and they may prove to be more economically viable than conventional therapies. In fact, the benefit to cost ratio of investments to increase treatment rates for common mental disorders is between 2.3 and 5.7 to 1; however, the treatment gap for mental and substance use disorders is higher than for any other health sector. Advancement in psychedelic research could not only alleviate the health problems of millions of people, but these drugs could potentially mitigate the vast social and economic costs of mental illness especially addiction.

Proposal for Action:
Reclassify Psilocybin, DMT, LSD, and MDMA from Schedule I to Schedule II drugs under the US Controlled Substances Act.

Results to be Expected:
The regulatory burden on psychedelics will ease, allowing a significant increase in the amount of research on these drugs for therapeutic purposes. Should treatments be proved effective, a Schedule II classification would allow for the possibility of future legislation to legalize these drugs for medical use.
Title:

To mitigate uncompensated care costs for hospitals and lower insurance rates by introducing a mental health Telehealth pilot program.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Health care companies, insurance companies, hospitals, uninsured citizens, insured citizens, centers for medicare and medicaid services, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Justification:

After the introduction of Medicaid, uncompensated care rates have nearly halved. However, there is still a portion of the population that suffers from lack of access to adequate health care. Work obligations and transportation costs keep those living beneath the poverty line away from even scheduling appointments. Often times, those who can not afford copay will put off doctor visits until complications from their diseases send them to the emergency department, resulting in high uncompensated care costs for hospitals. Mood disorders rank as the leading cause for Emergency department visits for 18-44 year olds, raking up expensive bills that can exceed the cost of routine therapy appointments.

Proposal for Action:

Implement a five year pilot program to offer Telehealth options for patients covered by Medicaid. Patients will now have the option to communicate with certified psychologists via the internet. There will be a federal bid contract for current Telehealth companies to cooperate with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services to roll the five year pilot program out through the Medicaid website. This pilot program focuses on providing additional mental health support. The consequences of poor mental health affect the entire health care system, and providing it via the internet will make proper mental health care more accessible.

Results to be Expected:

Utilizing modern health care advancements, this pilot program is expected to decrease emergency department visits, as well as lower uncompensated care costs for hospitals. In response, Insurance rates will drop across the board and mental health treatment will be more accessible for lower income Americans.
Proposal #378
Author: Mary Tiffin, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
To make diagnosing young adults with clinical depression more accessible and effective in high schools.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, National Institute of Mental Health, high school counselors and nurses, the American youth.

Justification:
In today’s world, the social, mental, and emotional stress of young adults is greater than ever before, and in response, mental health issues such as depression and suicide have reached an all-time high. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, over three million teenagers undergo a depression-induced episode each year, and over 60% of those teenagers receive absolutely no treatment or help. Suicide is a serious issue among teens with undiagnosed depression, and suicide is the third highest cause of death for young adults in the United States. For a teen to be clinically diagnosed with depression, they must first go to a medical professional and undergo a full physical examination. Additionally, the teen must keep track of his or her symptoms to see if he or she displays at least four symptoms of depression every day for at least two weeks. From there, the doctor can decide what treatment option would be best, whether that be medication, talking with a mental health professional, or psychotherapy.

For teens who are struggling with depression, it is often hard to talk about, and there are often no signs. The current ineffective diagnosis process is causing majority of these teens to not get the help they need. Keeping track of symptoms and going to a doctor for a full physical examination is time-consuming and unsuccessful while talking to someone for any amount of time, whether that be a MD, a parent, a friend, or a school counselor, is the most effective way at identifying depression and thus leading to treatment.

Proposal for Action:
Give high school counselors and/or nurses the legal ability to clinically diagnosis their students with depression. By incorporating further mental health training to counselors and educating them about on different treatment options for students and their effects, a school counselor or nurse would be recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as someone who can clinically diagnosis depression and thus have the authority to prescribe future treatment, whether that be talking to a mental health professional, leaving the school environment and going to a rehabilitation facility, suggesting to a psychiatrist the prescription medication, etc. Current school counselors and nurses would not have the ability to diagnosis depression unless they undergo training by the National Institute of Mental Health, and this training will be financed by the U.S. Department of Education. This proposal makes it easier for teens who talk to their high school counselors about the things they are going through to immediately get help rather than being sent to a different counselor or a medical professional for further examinations.

Results to be Expected:
By giving this access and training to school counselors and nurses, it will increase the rate of teens with depression being accurately diagnosed and offered treatment. Furthermore, this will lead to the decrease of teen suicide rates because more teens will be getting help earlier and thus stopping a potential rise in suicidal thoughts or actions caused by undiagnosed depression. Mental health issues in the American youth need to be recognized, and this proposal would help all teens get as much support and help as possible.
Proposal #402
Author: Samuel Sokoloff, Delegation: Kansas

Title:
Act to Reschedule the substance of Psilocybin from a Schedule I to Schedule IV drug.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of Health, United States Department of Justice, United States Drug Enforcement Agency

Justification:
Since the Controlled Substances Act of 1971, psychoactive substances have been banned and labeled Schedule I throughout the United States. Unfortunately, this includes drugs such as psilocybin, which through a multitude of studies have been shown to help alleviate addiction, crime, end of life anxiety and depression. Psilocybin has also been found to have very little potential for abuse, with Johns Hopkins researchers recommending the drug be moved to Schedule IV. This act would allow psilocybin to be prescribed by psychiatrists for these ailments and allow for increased research into its effects.

Proposal for Action:
This would change the Controlled Substances Act by reclassifying Psilocybin as a Schedule IV drug, allowing for doctors to prescribe it to patients and further research into its effects. The Department of Health would also be tasked with writing manuals for psychiatrists to instruct them on cases in which Psilocybin should and should not be prescribed.

Results to be Expected:
Patients being prescribed Psilocybin, improving mental health and wellbeing in America. Better understanding of Psilocybin by reducing research barriers.
Title:
To require further Clinical use of LH-RH Agonist Modulates in the Amygdala

Major Areas to be Affected:
All Convicted Sex Offenders in a Class B and C Felony, and the Court of Justice.

Justification:
In 2012, Benedikt Habermeyer, et.al from the Department of Forensic Psychiatry, University of Basel, Switzerland, conducted a study in which pedophilic subjects were administered treatment with anti-androgen agents, such as a luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LH-RH) agonists, which reduce testosterone levels and thereby decrease sexual drive and arousal found to cause abnormalities in a person’s libido. The libido has direct linkage towards the amygdala; the part of your brain that develops your morals, fears, and aggressions. Furthermore, we notice that this particular study, concluded that the agonist modulate can control the specific lack of normal interactions between the libido and amygdala which has been proven by psychologists to be a derivative of pedophilia, and other heinous sexual crimes. The agonist modulate has been tested on human subjects and proven to be effective towards lessening the sexual drive.

Proposal for Action:
Further clinical studies performed by various psychologists in order to attain more information of agonists modulates. These clinical studies will be utilized to enhance the mission of ensuring a lesser deterrence of amygdala abnormalities, calling for increasing fMRI and MRI scans to process variations of amygdala reactions that contrast erotic and neutral images. The known result will be indefinite research that will conclude the origin of psychological sexual defects in the brain. The visible processing in the MRI scans of the amygdala will show such variable responses of defects from the presented images. MRI scans will be funded by the Department of Forensic Psychiatry in Sweden, the American Psychology Association, and the Social Psychology Network and placed in state’s regional locations.

Agonist Modulates (vaccine) consists of treatments with anti-androgen agents (LH-RH) which will be infused into all convicted sexual predators of a Class B and C felony to decrease the overpowering of their libido.

Class C and B felons currently serving a sentence and consensually agrees to take a frequent dosage (Once every 3 months) of the Agonist Modulate (via signed consent form) will be offered parole. Violations of such privilege will result in further detention confinement. Prisoners/ Subjects to the Modulates will be mandated in Prisons and Federal Prisons.

Results to be Expected:
The intended purpose of this proposal is to protect people from growing an abnormality of sexual malfunctions within the amygdala therefore detonating the chances of susceptibility in regards to sexual indiscretions. The abnormality is what causes a string of psychological sexual defects ranging from pedophilia to rape. The alteration of libido interactions in the amygdala will see the assured shrinkage of statistics for victims of sexual violations in America. This shift will also decrease the number of sexual predators as the agonists modulates most literally takes the psychological abnormality out of the person.
Proposal #433
Author: Lauren O'Neill, Delegation: Delaware

Title:
An act to mandate a mental illness training for teachers that is taught by school psychologists

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services

Justification:
Students spend six or more hours each day at school and see their teachers on an almost daily basis. Teachers are in a position where they see their students often, in a stimulating environment, and have the ability to notice emotional and behavioral changes. 1 in 5 teens having a serious mental health disorder, one that is severe enough to impact daily activities, and about 79% of adolescents who have mental health disorders do not receive mental health care. Mental illnesses, especially when untreated, can have long term effects in their more severe stages, such as a greater risk of chronic medical conditions or having an increased chance of having similar issues later in life. This would promote alleviating mental health problems before they become long term and severe. Teachers can help combat this issue by being taught how to create a positive and healthy atmosphere, how to recognize symptoms of mental health illnesses, and how to address a mental health concern with the proper information.

Proposal for Action:
Mandate that all public high school teachers attend a mental health training taught by a school psychologist. The training curriculum would be created and maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services and would include, but is not limited to:

I. Recognizing the symptoms and impacts of:
   Depression
   Anxiety
   Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
   Eating Disorders
   Bipolar Disorder

II. Developing a mentally and physically healthy environment

III. How to help a student in need
   How to approach a situation
   Identifying multiple resources for the student

Results to be Expected:
Teachers will be educated on encouraging a safe environment, promoting good physical health, and helping students access health resources. They will be able to recognize the symptoms of mental health illnesses and be able to refer students to helpful resources. This will decrease the number of students with severe mental health disorders, increase productivity in schools, and make teachers more aware.
Proposal #451
Author: Claire Qian, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
To reduce antipsychotic overmedication in nursing home dementia patients.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
The 2018 Human Rights Watch reports that every week in US nursing facilities, more than 179,000 people (mostly older dementia patients) are still given powerful antipsychotic drugs without a diagnosis. Antipsychotic drugs have been proven through clinical trials to not be beneficial in treating symptoms of dementia and the US Food and Drug Administration has never approved them for such usage while additionally warning against their use due to many harmful symptoms. Studies done by the National Center for Biotechnology Information find that on average antipsychotic drugs double the risk of death in older people with dementia in addition to side effects including severe nervous system problems. The “inappropriate use” of antipsychotics in people with dementia often entails use that is not a last resort, use excessive in dose or duration, use without appropriate monitoring of side effects, or use not based on an informed choice about treatment options. In the majority of the cases the nursing facilities use these drugs without obtaining or even seeking informed consent from the patient or notifying family members. Despite federal regulations requiring individuals to be fully informed about their treatment and provide the right to refuse treatment, poor enforcement and weak punishments for noncompliance have allowed for rampant misuse that is inconsistent with human rights norms.

The continued negligence towards the ongoing forced and medically inappropriate use of antipsychotic drugs that violate the rights of residents of nursing facilities will be increasingly detrimental to United States until it is addressed. The US is aging rapidly and the number of Americans with Alzheimer’s disease, the most common form of dementia, is expected to 15 million in 2050. The Nursing Home Reform Act, 42 CFR §483.75, 42 CFR §483.40, and 42 CFR §483.25 must be amended and strengthened to ensure the United States will fulfill its domestic and international legal and humanitarian obligations to protect nursing homes patients from the inappropriate use of antipsychotic drugs.

Proposal for Action:
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Services, and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions would enforce and integrate the following plans of actions:
I. Strengthen current federal regulations enforcement of punishment on nursing homes that administer antipsychotics without consent or use the drugs as a “chemical restraint” through classifying inappropriate use of antipsychotics as reported level 3 or 4 violations.
II. Amend The Nursing Home Reform Act to include express, written informed consent.
III. Amend 42 CFR §483.75 to include that clinicians must confirm with the nursing facility that they had received informed consent from the resident or their representative. Clinicians must document that other non-pharmacological methods were tried unsuccessfully before giving a prescription for patients who are getting prescribed to antipsychotics during their time at nursing homes.
IV. Amend 42 CFR §483.25 to prohibit nursing homes from giving antipsychotics to patients unless there is a diagnosis and prescription in place.
V. Implement protective measures under 42 CFR §483.40 to prevent patients from being kicked from nursing home for refusing to give consent for medication.

Results to be Expected:
Strengthened and amended federal regulation enforcements will lead to more transparency in antipsychotics usage in nursing homes. The heightened punishments for antipsychotics misuse will be an effective deterrent towards malpractice and thus a reduction in antipsychotics misuse and overmedication in nursing homes.
Proposal #453
Author: Allen Duggar, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
Appalachian Revival

Major Areas to be Affected:
Citizens of Appalachia, Current and Former Miners, Current and Former Industrial Workers, Victims of the Opioid Crisis

Justification:
Appalachia has been ripped apart by poverty for decades. From coal companies automating and leaving thousands unemployed to the ravaging effects of the opioid epidemic, the citizens of this vast region have often been unable to improve their condition due to circumstances far beyond their control. The region ranges from southern New York to Northern Mississippi and approximately 5 million people live in poverty out of the 25 million person population of Appalachia. This proposal seeks to empower those people so frequently bereft of their economic and social liberties by addressing the deep rooted problems of unemployment and opioid addiction. Where corporations have sown the seeds of helplessness, this proposal seeks to plant self-sufficiency.

Proposal for Action:
The proposal has two prongs. First, the Department of Health and Human Services will set up 50 opioid treatment clinics in major population centers in Appalachia. A special joint committee consisting of the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services staff will oversee the construction and operation of these clinics. Each clinic will offer a comprehensive treatment using methadone or other FDA approved methods. Medicare and Medicaid will cover the cost for eligible recipients, and others will pay with insurance. In the event someone does not have insurance and does not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid, they will pay a subsidized rate determined on a case by case basis.
Second, former industrial workers will be able to apply for job retraining services. Programs will retrain unemployed persons in skilled labor jobs. These include but are not necessarily limited to auto mechanics, plumbing, electrical work, appliance repair, etc. The committee will determine whether new facilities need to be constructed or existing infrastructure can be used such as in the case of preexisting community colleges or training centers. Each trainee will receive a certificate of training to present to employers. Additionally, businesses that move operations into rural Appalachia and hire these trainees will receive a tax incentive of $6,000 per worker annually.
The program will be paid for by a 0.02% tax on revenue of pharmaceutical companies annually to raise $21 billion over 10 years. After 8 years, further operational cost will be reassessed for the next 5 years after the initial 10-year period. Similarly, every 5 years, the program will be reassessed by the aforementioned committee for funding and program efficacy.

Results to be Expected:
The most important result of this proposal will be the elevation of millions of Americans from poverty. By proactively treating people for addiction, training them to be competitive in the workforce, and encouraging business growth in Appalachia, this proposal will address the deep-seated problems in the region head on. The investment put into Appalachia will increase economic productivity there. Though it will take initial action on the part of federal and state governments, eventually, these programs will become obsolete as the problems are addressed. Ultimately, the increased economic activity in the region will increase tax revenues that will make up the cost of programs. This proposal may also serve as a precedent for similar programs in other regions.
Title:
Allotting more money to Rehabilitation Centers around the US

Major Areas to be Affected:
Rehabilitation Centers, Private and Public Prisons, American Prisoners

Justification:
This year alone, 67.8% of felons were rearrested within three years of release from prison. The growing prison population is resulting in a rise of crime, drugs, and poverty for prisoners and families as well as solidifying the U.S.’ standing as number one in the world for incarceration. The programs meant for rehabilitation and integration back into current society for felons are not as easily available as one may think, as the resources needed in helping a felon are not abundantly available nor cheap. In 1997, Tulane University conducted a study called Project Return, where for 90 days, inmates received, education, counseling, and job placement assistance. For a total of $2,000 per prisoner, out of the 656 men and women who completed the program, 5.6% returned. This was a substantial improvement from the then 65% return rate. The bill for one prisoner per year could cost up to $60,000. Instead of spending money for the incarceration of a repeat offender, programs like Project Return are a great alternative, but unfortunately, the lack of funding makes it hard to create a successful program like Project Return.

Proposal for Action:
The action of this proposal is to make rehabilitation centers for recently released felons more accessible by redistributing money provided by the Federal Government in order to accept more felons into rehabilitation programs. Rehabilitation centers that pass a series of inspections and tests will receive an allotted amount based on available and needed funding. The tests will consist of the progress in substance abuse, anger management, and job and training skills. To receive funding, the rehabilitation center must meet a standard of over 40% of felons with whom they are working that do not return to prison. In addition, over 50% of felons that have successfully earned their GED through the rehabilitation and integration center’s programing. Financing will come from the 80 billion dollars already provided by the Federal Government. Instead of investing all money to the prison itself, 2% of the 80 billion dollars will go towards being redistributed to rewarding rehabilitation centers. Funding allotted to rehabilitation and integration centers is to be decided by the size and population of the felons currently in the program. The redistributed money is projected to be able to provide help to more than 533,333 felons. Any funding distributed to the rehabilitation centers is to be used for expanding the respective centers to hold or accept more felons into the program. The rehabilitation center will not need to undergo a change mandated by this proposal. The center will be allowed to continue the program that has made them successful and will be expected to keep up the standards that has allowed them to assume the money provide to them.

Results to be Expected:
The incarceration rate of the US will go down because the felons who would usually be recommitted into prison will have been acclimated back into society. Money once needed for the purpose of committing prisoners is projected to reduce and would be able to use in a more needed area. Crimes should see a significant decrease because of the rehabilitation programs and their ability to improve the lives of felons.
Mandating a national controlled substance reporting system to help combat the opioid crisis

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Conference of Pharmaceutical Organizations

The opioid crisis is one of the most urgent challenges the United States faces today. From the early 1990’s to as recent as 2018, there have been reported over 700,000 deaths in regards to both prescribed and illicit opioids. In 2009, the United States consumed 99% of the world’s hydrocodone, 60% of the world’s hydromorphone, and 81% of the world’s oxycodone; this statistic has remained strong over the following decade. As a result of these controlled medications, there is an unprecedented increase of negative side effects both mentally and physically altering the composition and structure of the human body, as well as, the alarming increase in the misused opioid dependency and retention rates that affect young adults (19-40 years), adults (40-60 years), and seniors (60+ years). Although many of these factors have also contributed to opioid-related morbidity and death, the problem stems in part of the lack of accessible treatment, and proper checks and balances. Several studies show that the most significant improvement was implemented drug intervention and rehabilitation treatment provided by franchised pharmacies. The treatment consists of interprofessional outpatient medication-assisted treatment (MAT), which consists of therapy with methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone along with appropriate psychosocial support has proven to be beneficial, in the areas it has been implemented. However, the expansion of these services became undermined by the more serious problem: identifying addicted patients in need of help. The plethora of addiction affects a wide demographic of age, gender, and ethnicity, so much so that it becomes difficult to diffuse those who are in danger of misusing opioids, are already misusing opioids, and or are in need of immediate rehabilitation. In fact, 25 percent of people who misused prescription drugs by age 13 ended up with an addiction at some point in their life (63% of senior citizens using prescribed opioids have fallen addicted to their medication). Prescription opioid drugs contribute to 40 percent of all US opioid overdose deaths, and are the only direct channel of directly stunting the crisis. Therefore, it becomes vital that there is a system that allows pharmacists to identify patient information and data to identify those at risk for prescription drug addiction, overdose and death, and instill these proper aforementioned services.

Proposal for Action:

I. Call onto the Department of Health and Human Services to expand its current technology for Controlled Dangerous Substance Reporting System to become nationally inclusive.
II. Create a digital gateway to provide pharmacists interstate access to patient information and data to identify those at risk for prescription drug addiction and overdose.
III. The Controlled Substance Reporting System is a gateway that terminates the need for manual log-ins via web portals and searching a patient name and demographics. The instant access will help pharmacists to quickly evaluate the needs of their patients. A web-based service, the gateway performs automated, multi-state queries to integrate patient controlled substance prescription history within the Electronic Health Record and Pharmacy Management System. NarxCare provides analytics and clinical resources for assessing risks as well as supporting patients.

Results to be Expected:

National increase in regards to patient safety
National increase in patient Retention rates for pharmacies
National decrease in regards to current statistic on addiction, overdose, and death
National decrease in opioid prescriptions by healthcare prescribers
Proposal #501  
Author: Laurin Potter, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
Funding to Improve Mental Health for the Homeless Population

Major Areas to be Affected:
Homeless Population Nationwide, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Local/State/Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

Justification:
Seriously mentally ill individuals, if given no treatment experience delusions and behaviors that makes living alone or with others untenable. As a result, those untreated individuals become homeless. A consensus taken in 2014 found that of the 564,708 homeless individuals in the United States, 140,000 individuals were seriously mentally ill and 250,000 individuals were found to have any mental illness at any given point in time. Current legislation provides for a $10.39M grant program for treatment assistance for homeless individuals. When addressing mental health within the homeless community, the portion of this grant dedicated to such services would barely be a drop in the bucket. This program provides only $200,000 per state, nowhere near enough money to combat the issue. The process of deinstitutionalization saves mental health system money but results in higher cost elsewhere including ultimately jails and prisons.

Proposal for Action:
This would increase the current amount of funding for mental health services for the homeless population. No more than 10% of the funding would go to federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes, Urban Indian Organizations (UIO), and consortia of tribes or tribal organization applications. Identification of homeless individuals would be carried out by local law enforcement. These individuals would then be given mental health assessments by trained law enforcement. Upon confirmation of need they would be matched with a trained therapist. Five programs specifically targeted to homeless individuals and in fourteen non-targeted or mainstream already exist in the Department of Health and Human Services will oversee the delivery of treatment and services to persons experiencing homelessness. An oversight component would require the SAMHSA to write a report to Congress every 90 days detailing what the grant programs are doing and what the effects are within the population. An ongoing training program following satisfaction with the mental health component would be developed as part of the proposal.

Results to be Expected:
This would result in a reduction in the untreated mentally ill individuals on the streets and perhaps overall homeless population. By including ongoing training following the service, the individuals will eventually not need any government service. This will save taxpayers money in the long run. This proposal also will destigmatize mental health issues and homelessness at the same time. This will reduce crime and therefore the stress on the court system.
Title:
An act to replace penitentiaries with rehabilitation centers for convicted offenders of crimes relating to mental illness or substance abuse problems.

Major Areas to be Affected:
People in the United States that are currently within some form of the prison system, law enforcement, and all other members of the criminal justice system.

Justification:
The staggering statistics of the prison systems in the U.S. are some of the most concerning around the world. Despite the fact that the United States only has about five percent of the world’s population, it holds roughly one-quarter of the world’s prison population. In 2018 alone, 2.2 million people were behind bars. Given those statistics, it is almost impossible to not admit that the United States current justice system is failing to do its job. The current agenda for our prison system is “punishment first”, causing the lack of opportunities within prisons for prisoners to better themselves and end the circle of crime. The lack of tools and programs provided for these criminals is what is arguably causing the mass incarceration in the United States. The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights reports that about 50% of inmates have a substance use disorder. In addition to that, the Department of Justice reports that 45% of inmates in Federal Prisons show signs of a “Serious Mental Illness”. Substance abuse and mental health are so prevalent in our justice system that it goes mostly unnoticed or uncorrected. Changing the purpose of a majority of prisons to rehab centers will create an atmosphere where criminals are given the opportunity to get help for their illnesses, making their reintegration back into society much easier, further preventing future crimes. The proof that rehabilitation works have been proven by the rehabs that have already been established in prisons. A study done by Emory University scholars found that “a ten percent increase in penitentiary treatment programs reduces robbery and larceny by three percent, and aggravated assault rate by four to nine percent”. This quote shows the direct correlation between rehab and lower crime rates. By creating a system that gives criminals a second chance, we are preventing future crimes. San Diego is also implementing rehab programs that are saving them 7 dollars per day, while also lowering recidivism rates. Without providing them with opportunities, we are hindering their chances and transforming into a better member of our society. By creating a system that cares about the well-being of prisoners, we are choosing the most cost-effective and socially beneficial prison system, that will change the way we look at crime for years to come.

Proposal for Action:
Half of the Federal prisons in the United States will be changed into “rehabilitation centers”. This will be done by hiring a staff of counselors that specialize in mental health, and substance abuse issues. The prisoners will be given more freedom and will be required to pick one class to take off the list that is offered, as well as going to a support group every day. This new prison model will resemble Norway’s prison system, where prisoners are not just simply locked in their cells, there will be many opportunities for inmates to find connections within the local community. The prisons main focus will no longer be punishment, it will be to rehabilitate the inmates so they can be integrated back into society. They will also have shorter sentences, still based around the crime but having a max of 10 years, anyone sentenced to more will have to spend time in a regular prison. Regular prisons will still be in place, for people who have committed a capital crime, for example, murder, sexual assault of a minor, etc. As the justice system has many extenuating circumstances, this will ultimately be a case by case basis, so if the Judge/jury feel the rehab centers will not be a good fit or vice versa then the judge has the final say. In addition to that, if prisoners refuse to cooperate with the rehab center, they will be removed and sent to a regular prison.

Results to be Expected:
The results to be expected are as follows- The United States justice system will save a huge sum, which could be then fed into other programs, as well as there will be a lower prison population, less overall violence, and substance abuse. The recidivism rates will also decrease, making our society significantly safer.
Title:
An Act to Address the Mental Health of American Farmers

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, rural communities, and farmers

Justification:
Farmers are experiencing more mental health issues and suicides than the general population. The University of Iowa conducted a study and reported that between the years of 1992 and 2010, farmers had a suicide rate that was 3.5 times the general population’s suicide rate. On top of that, according to the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), the income of farmers has been steadily lowering and farmers are now making 35% less than their income in 2013 (Ivanova). The rural communities of America depend on the wellbeing and success of their farmers and there is conclusive evidence showing that farmers are experiencing deep depression and economic adversity. It is our responsibility to work on raising the morale of farmers who are experiencing depression and develop programs that can lower the suicide rates for farmers.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will create a federal initiative to support suicide prevention efforts among farmers. The Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture must create specific prevention and intervention approaches to address the holistic needs of farmers, their families, and their communities. These efforts include promoting protective factors by educating communities on mental health issues (e.g., stress, self-harm, and symptoms) and creating mass media campaigns that share the personal stories of farmers or farm families who have experienced depression, anxiety, or have lost a loved one.

Results to be Expected:
Great, successful examples of targeted suicide prevention campaigns are campaigns specific to Native American and Alaska Native groups. The federal government funded similar initiative programs for Native American and Alaska Native groups and saw a significant reduction in suicidal acts and feelings of hopelessness. It is anticipated that with direct and holistic approaches to solving the issue of high suicide rates among the farmers and ranchers of America, there can be a reduction in suicide rates and awareness in rural communities regarding the conditions of farmers’ mental health.
Proposal #561  
Author: Lakshmi Mosquera Herrera,  
Delegation: District of Columbia

Title: 
Opioid Addiction Recovery Act (OARA)

Major Areas to be Affected: 
United States Federal Prisons

Justification: 
Nationwide, less than 1 percent of jails and prisons offer medication to treat opioid addiction. 380,000 inmates are thought to have regularly used opiates or heroin before they were incarcerated. A report from the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) founded that only 11% of all inmates addicted to drugs and similar disorders received any treatment during the time they were incarcerated. CASA also reported that compared to non-substance involved inmates, substance-involved inmates are more likely to be re-incarcerated. Three-quarters of the inmates with opioid addictions relapse within three months of their release if they’re not given help while in jail or prison.

Proposal for Action: 
This proposal will implement opioid agonist therapy in all United States Federal Prisons through the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Opioid agonist therapy (OAT) is an effective treatment for addiction to opioid drugs such as heroin, oxycodone, hydromorphone, fentanyl and Percocet. The therapy involves taking the opioid agonists methadone (Methadose) or buprenorphine (Suboxone). These medications work to prevent withdrawal and reduce cravings for opioid drugs. People who are addicted to opioid drugs can use OAT to help stabilize their lives and to reduce the harms related to their drug use. Opioid agonist therapy has proven to work. A controlled trial was published in 2016, comparing prison-initiated extended-release naltrexone (XR-NTX) treatment to standard counseling protocols for prevention of opioid relapse. The therapy proved to be much more effective than standard counseling, with 64 percent of the inmates becoming drug free, compared to 43 percent, which was the inmates that received standard counseling. Furthermore, inmates who receive buprenorphine treatment prior to release are more likely to engage in treatment after their release, than inmates who only participate in counseling. The Federal Bureau of Prisons will allocate the necessary resources and funds based on the amount of inmates addicted and the specific situations and needs of each of the prisoners. For cost, it will come from the Federal Budget, which builds upon the Administration’s continued efforts, as in 2017, the Administration declared a nationwide public health emergency and provided nearly $500 million to States to prevent and treat opioid abuse and addiction; in addition, the 2018 Budget requested another $500 million. The Budget requests $1 billion in new resources for 2019 and a total of $5 billion over the next five years to combat the opioid epidemic. The money needed for this proposal will come out of this budget, and if necessary, more money will be pulled, continuing a trend that has already been a pattern over the last few years.

Results to be Expected: 
The number of prisoners addicted to opioids will significantly decrease in the United States Federal Prisons. In addition, there is a great economic benefit to be expected. According to the CASA report, for each inmate who remained sober, employed, and crime free, the nation would reap an economic benefit of $90,953 per year. This also means that there will be a decline in prisoners in federal prisons, along with decreased crime in the areas of drug abuse and addiction.
Proposal #572
Author: Connor Kelly, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
To stop the opioid epidemic and other such drug crisis through the “Cleaning up Americans act”

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States federal government, State governments, and various municipalities. Inner cities where drugs are prevalent influences on the community as a whole. The pharmaceutical industry

Justification:
Opioid and drug addiction affect every part of the country. No state, city, or county is safe from the. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, an average of 91 people die everyday due specifically to opioid overdoses. An estimated 70,200 died of their addictions, a 68% fatality rate. Opioid addictions begin at a simple level, with most beginning when a patient becomes hooked on prescription(s) drugs prescribed by a doctor. This simple process of obtaining powerful drugs that can create a dependency, with very little regulation can easily foster addictions. These addictions can also be fostered by drugs other than opioids, such as alcohol, inhalants, tobacco, etc.

Opioid addiction often takes citizens out of the tax stream and make them burdens on society. They can also generate crime with illegal transactions for drugs that cannot be obtained legally. The White House Council of Economic Advisers recently estimated the economic burden was as high as $95 billion in 2016. In the interest of the health of the American people and the safety of our communities it is detrimental that something be done to end the opioid crisis, or at least ease the burden and pain it has created.

Proposal for Action:
The “Cleaning up Americans Act” shall...
1. Reallocate funds already in the Medicaid budget. More specifically funds listed under “fee for service long term care” would be directed to methods of addiction rehab such as rehabilitation centers, halfway homes, public awareness campaigns on drugs, etc. Allocation of these funds will be left to the discretion of the office of budget management and planning and the President to then be approved by Congress.
2. Give the Department of Health and Human services jurisdiction to create new guidelines for doctors when issuing prescriptions.
3. Allow the Department of Health to reform certain parts of a doctors curriculum in association with the American Doctors Association that regulate prescribing medications and assessing a patient's relations with drug addiction when going through medical school.
4. Task the department of Health to create a 3 tiered list of the most addictive prescribable drugs. Tier 1 would be least addictive, tier 2 would be moderately, and tier 3 would be extremely addictive drugs. Tier 3 drugs would be able to be taxed by the federal government up to 10%. The list would be made public information and be used by various agencies to monitor these drugs.
5. Increase federal taxes on various other non-opioid drugs that have potential gateway properties:
   a. Federal alcohol tax increased from $0.25 to $0.33 per ounce
   b. Raise federal tobacco tax from $1.0066 to $1.50
   C. Levy 17% federal tax on all marijuana purchases of a gram or greater
Results to be Expected:

Decrease in overdose and death rates all across the nation. Increase in tax revenue and economic boost, as citizens that were previously out of the economic loop are reintroduced when they get clean. Decrease in crime rates due to an overall decrease in people willing to illegally buy drugs.
Proposal #013
Author: Ethan Collins, Delegation: Arizona
Committee: B

Title:
Restoring the Right to Vote to Felons Who Have Completed a Prison Sentence

Major Areas to be Affected:
Voting Rights, Rehabilitation, Prison Reform

Justification:
Citizens convicted of a felony, after they have served their prison sentence, ought to have the right to vote restored to them automatically because they have undergone reformation and are suitable to re-enter society. Since released felons are tax-paying members of society subject to the same laws as others upon their release, they must be granted the right to vote in order to be properly represented. Not only this, but citizens convicted of a felon are given the opportunity to positively contribute to society through their votes; as such, restoring them the right to vote is further aiding them in their reformation.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal restores the right to vote to citizens convicted of a felony who have been released from a prison sentence, either through their service of the entire sentence or their permanent release on parole. The restoration of their right to vote will be done automatically—they need not re-register to vote or petition the government. Released felons will be restored the right to vote in state elections and propositions and federal elections as though they were a citizen without a felony.

Results to be Expected:
With the number of released felons being approximately five million, the voting populace will increase significantly as a result of this proposal. Prisons will also place more of an emphasis on the reformation of prisoners, seeing as their votes will be equally significant as everyone else's upon their release. Overall, justice will be restored to the released felons in society, who have undergone reformation and must become subject to the same taxes and legislation as all other civilians.
Proposal #016
Author: Emma Malinasky, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
Electoral College Proposal

Major Areas to be Affected:
American voters, presidential candidates, and the Electoral College

Justification:
There is clear evidence of a problem for our nation when nearly $1 billion worth of campaign finance spending in presidential elections focuses on just five or six states. The design of the Electoral College voting system encourages this targeted strategy to the detriment of a majority of citizens outside these few swing states. This structure has created a fundamental flaw in our democracy. The Electoral College gives vastly more power to voters depending on the state they live in. For example, Wyoming has one electoral vote for every 135 thousand voters, whereas California has one vote for every 411 thousand voters. This means it takes three times as many Californians to earn one electoral vote, giving voters in Wyoming three times the power in the Electoral College. In 2012, over 3 million Texans voted Democrat and almost 5 million Californians voted Republican. If electoral votes were awarded proportionately, in 2012, 16 of Texas’s electoral votes would have gone to Obama and 20 of California’s would have gone to Romney. With the current “winner-takes-all” system, those voting for the state’s losing party are dismissed.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal calls for all electoral votes to be tallied by congressional district. In all but two states, electoral votes are “winner-take-all.” The candidate winning the popular vote normally receives all of that state’s votes. Maine and Nebraska have adopted a different approach. Using the “congressional district method,” these states allocate two electoral votes to the state popular vote winner, and then one electoral vote to the popular vote winner in each Congressional district (2 in Maine, 3 in Nebraska). This system more accurately reflects the popular vote of these states, which allows for a split electoral vote.

Results to be Expected:
Since the 1830s, a “winner-takes-all” electoral vote system has been the standard of the Electoral College. Today, 48 states and the District of Columbia award all of their electoral college votes to the winner of the state. However, Nebraska and Maine have set up a system that makes it possible for both the Democrat and the Republican candidate to receive electoral votes. Even if a candidate does not win the statewide popular vote in those states, the candidate could still pick up some electoral votes if they win in congressional districts. This system will restore each state’s relevance on the national stage. Presidential candidates would come to states other than “swing states” to campaign. Not until 2008 did this method prove effective. All five of Nebraska’s electoral votes have gone to the Republican presidential candidate from 1992 until 2008. That year, Barack Obama got one electoral vote from deep red Nebraska from the Omaha area. In the 2016 election, Trump campaigned in Maine, a traditionally blue state in presidential years. There, he reserved $47,000 in campaign ad time. Clinton, on the other hand, paid attention to Nebraska, a traditionally red state in presidential years. She held an event with billionaire investor Warren Buffett in Omaha in early August and spent more than $500,000 on ads in the Omaha market. She had more than $120,000 reserved there through Election Day. Presidential elections are a state-by-state battle. In a close election, it could be district by district. In an increasingly close election, both Republicans and Democrats see an opportunity to add purple to the map.
Proposal #031
Author: Carsten Sondergaard, Delegation: California

Title:
A proposal to reinstate section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Voting population of the United States, United States Department of Justice, state and county policymakers.

Justification:
In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was passed on the grounds that countless lawmakers were purposely making policies that directly disobeyed the 14th and 15th amendments: the right to equal protection under the law and the right for citizens of color to vote. The Voting Rights Act called for ensured enforcement of the 15th amendment. Additionally, it set up a system called “preclearance,” in which new voting regulations in states notorious for voting discrimination had to be approved by the federal government before being enacted. This was originally listed as a temporary provision, but has been renewed 4 times by both houses of congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down section 5 in a 5-4 decision. Since then, countless voting restrictions have been passed that have violated the constitution and worked to disenfranchise voters, ultimately shrinking the number of people eligible to vote and disproportionately affecting minority populations. Without being pre-checked by the federal government, state and county governments have the power to decrease turnout and discriminate against certain voting groups immediately before elections, and then wait for individuals to pursue lawsuits long after elections have been decided. By reinstating section 5, we can stop these discriminatory, unconstitutional laws from being created in the first place.

Proposal for Action:
The practice of federal preclearance as it existed before 2013 is to be immediately reimplemented, using the same processes that have been successful in preventing voter discrimination for 48 years (1965-2013). No new changes to the process itself are being made by this proposal; future legislation/Department of Justice management will continue to refine and improve the process of preclearance as necessary. The Department of Justice will also be able to strike down regulations from between the decision in Shelby County v. Holder in 2013 until now that have, by the Department of Justice’s standards, been discriminatory or unjust.

Results to be Expected:
The thousands of voters who have been wrongfully excluded from elections since 2013 will regain their voting eligibility and significantly fewer voters will be wrongfully excluded from participating in our democracy in the future.
Title:
To establish Election day as a federal holiday to increase voter turnout.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The American people, United States politics, American school systems, and the businesses of America.

Justification:
Free voting is a staple of the American life. Being able to have your voice heard and contribute to the decision of the next leader of this great country is a right and an honor for all American citizens. However, some citizens find themselves unable to make times to cast their ballots at the polls, often due to conflicts with work or school. By creating a federal holiday for elections, this would allow businesses and schools to be closed so their employees or students can freely be able to go out and vote.

Proposal for Action:
General election days and Primary election days shall be established and observed as a national federal holiday, representing Election day. This will allow for federal buildings and schools to be closed, as well as give incentive for other businesses to be closed as well. For businesses that are not closed on the holiday, they must allow employees to take a paid break during the day to vote. At least one week before scheduling is done for a person’s work establishment, they must put in a request to opt in to taking a voting leave. When that leave is taken will be up to the discretion of the employer to avoid understaffing.

Results to be Expected:
By creating a federal holiday for election day, more Americans can go to their local voting station. Work and school will no longer stand in the way of someone who wishes to vote. The holiday will increase voter awareness of elections, increase the incentive to vote, and decrease the amount of obstacles the average American citizen faces when voting. Citizens will become more aware of election day and realize there is no excuse to not vote. This will increase the voter turnout throughout the country, and allow the true voice of the American people to be heard.
Proposal #137
Author: Lauren Ziegler, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:

Make General Election Day a federal holiday

Major Areas to be Affected:
American voters, politicians, and employers

Justification:
Starting from 2000 to 2019 the average amount of eligible voters voting in presidential elections is 59.16%, according to 270 to Win, (52.4% in 2000; 60.4% in 2004; 62.3% in 2008; 57.5% in 2012 and 61.4% in 2016). The 1980-1996 presidential election voter count is extremely similar; these numbers are far to low for an almost forty year difference. And only 50% of the eligible youth (18-29 years of age) voted in the 2016 presidential election. During midterm elections the percentage of eligible voters has been a steady 40% from 1982-2014, although in 2018 midterms staggered to 50%. Still these numbers need to increase. In primary elections the percentage per state has barley reached an average of 40% since 2000. Local elections throughout many counties have reached an average of a 30% voter turnout per election. If election day is considered a federal holiday, this will encourage more of the voting population to cast their vote. Whether it be a presidential, midterm, primary or local election, American voters will have a better opportunity to voice their opinion through voting.

Proposal for Action:
Private sectors may not be observed, but federal; state and local business (15.2% of the working American population) will be affected, increasing voting percentages.

The following are guidelines from the current federal holiday laws
- Employers will not be required to pay their employees for the day if they do not come into work, as this follows current federal holiday laws.
- If employers chose to pay their employees, they are permitted to do so.
- Any emergency or twenty-four hour workplace will be required to pay their employees their normal pay plus half

Results to be Expected:
- Increase in youth votes
- Increase in middle-age votes
- Increase in the commonwealth's governmental/political knowledge and interest
Proposal #142
Author: Zachary Donaldson, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
To allow all ex-felons and incarcerated prisoners to vote in all local, national, state, and federal elections.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United states prison system, all local and state legislatures, the United States congress.

Justification:
The right to vote is the cornerstone of American democracy. The tool which allows all citizens to pave their own pathway and construct a government by the people and for the people. Yet in this country, 6.1 million citizens are unable to represent themselves in government. Enfranchising prisoners and ex-felons will not only better encompass our constitution but open-up a solution to some of the most glaring issues in our criminal justice system.

When prisoners enter jail, they still retain religious freedom, free speech, and most importantly, their citizenship. The government should not take away the most basic right attributed with citizenship: the right to vote. Felons both pay taxes and are often counted as part of the population in the legislative district of their prison yet have no say in government, a notion eerily similar to the Three-Fifths compromise of the slavery era.

Most advanced democracies around the world recognize this right too, as countries including Croatia, Canada, Ireland, Latvia, Serbia, Switzerland, South Africa, Ukraine, and even the states of Vermont and Maine allow ballots to be cast behind bars.

Allowing prisoners to vote could also be an important step in rehabilitation, criminal justice reform, and lowering the astronomical recidivism and incarceration rates in the United States. The United states currently has the highest incarceration rate, the most prisoners in the world, and a 68% recidivism rate. Germany and Norway, two countries which both embrace felon voting, have drastically lower recidivism rates than the United States which is often attributed to their different approach to justice reform: rehabilitation over retribution. A study published by the Columbia Human Rights Review in 2004 runs consistent with these beliefs. It showed that among those who had been arrested in the past, about 27% of non-voters are re-arrested as opposed to 12% of voters. Encouraging civic participation in prison opens a path of re-integration into society. Prisoners are the most directly affected citizens of criminal justice reform efforts. Inmates are subject to publicly shamed issues like prisoner abuse solitary confinement yet do not possess the right to be their own defenders. Opening up voting to prisoners could drastically improve the prison system itself.

No significant studies show that disenfranchisement of felons serve as a deterrent of crime. In no way does restoring suffrage defend the actions of prisoners. Prison already serves as punishment and deprivation of liberty by prolonging social contact with loved ones, limiting everyday interaction, and restraining the control over one’s life. Prisoners are sufficiently punished without civic exile. The right to vote should remain true to its wording: a right, not a privilege.

Proposal for Action:

Restore the voting rights of all ex-felons residing in the United States of America. Grant full voting rights to all inmates residing in county, state, private, and federal prisons. Currently incarcerated inmates will be distributed absentee ballots to vote. Inmates will be counted in the voting population of their last legal residence. Adequate information on public affairs and candidates will also be provided to prisoners through already in-place resources in the prison, such as newspapers, televisions etc.

Results to be Expected:
The restoration of voting rights to prisoners will reduce recidivism and incarceration rates in the United States, lead to the more successful re-integration of inmates in society, and help advocate for more criminal justice reform legislation.
Proposal #153

Title:
Antitrust Reform

Major Areas to be Affected:
Corporations, Antitrust Laws

Justification:
The gilded age of economics was a time riddled with the build-up of extreme economic concentration, known as the formation of trusts. Under the hands of a few men such as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and J.P. Morgan, industries were consumed whole. With US Standard Oil owning 90% of oil market shares and other industries facing the same domination, there was a need for market remedy. This was Antitrust laws, namely first and foremost, the Sherman Antitrust Act. Being the pinnacle piece of legislation followed by The Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914 which created the Federal Trade Commission, and a host of other pieces of influential legislation. These standards led to the dissolving of major trusts, resulting in fairer treatment of consumers and healthier market competition.

However, since the time of the gilded age, the merit of antitrust and its intentions to protect the public from behemoth concentrations of power has fallen to the wayside. Yet this is not a result of perfect competition flourishing in the 21st century. Rather this can be attributed to the silent acquisitions and mergers which have been occurring at a seemingly exponential rate over the past few decades. In just the last decade the companies Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Microsoft have made over 431 acquisitions worth over $155.7 billion dollars. Additionally, since 2000 the Herfindahl-Hirschman index, which measures market concentration, has increased by over 75 percent of US industries. These incredible concentrations of economic power seem to be “a kingly prerogative, inconsistent form with our government” in the words of Senator John Sherman, author of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

It’s not merely the legislation however which hasn’t caught up to the speed of technology, but also the school of thought which guides our review and prosecution of trust cases. Originating from the Chicago School of Antitrust, Aaron Director, a man of neither degrees in the law of economics lead the forefront of thought in the area of antitrust. His brilliant idea was that the intent of Antitrust legislation at its core was the protection of consumer welfare. This idea was expounded upon and publicized by a man named Robert Bork. In his paper The Antitrust Paradox, the most commonly cited piece of work in judicial review of antitrust cases, he stated, “The legislative history… contains no colorable support for the application by courts of any value premise or policy other than the maximization of consumer welfare.” Instead, Bork insisted, “courts should be guided exclusively by consumer welfare and the economic criteria which that value premise applies.” More simply put, when prosecuted or put under judicial review, the criteria to now define monopolistic behavior came down to one variable. Did this merger effect prices? And quite obviously with this persisting school of thought, corporations are able to exploit this loophole and remain unscathed. Modern problems require modern solutions.

Proposal for Action:

I. Reform the merger review process to take into consideration the factors of industry dynamics, innovation, and elimination of future/potential competitors. Furthermore, a merger or acquisition cannot result in less than four major firms within one industry.

II. Additionally, in the case of the agency deciding to approve the merger in the format of a consent agreement, the proposed plan will be made open to public comment.

III. The DOJ will be encouraged to review previous mergers which have been approved for monopolistic practices.

IV. Congress will create a Market Investigation law to be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission. The law would investigate markets which have held persistent dominance of at least ten years or longer. The Bureau of Economics will conduct these investigations and will strongly recommend a market remedy to be put into action by the dominating company.

Results to be Expected:
From the enactment of this proposal, we should expect to see a dissolving of large corporations, specifically Big Tech, and the blocking of more mergers and acquisitions as more factors will now be considered in the review process. Furthermore, Americans can begin to reap the benefits of competition and the innovations which will ensue.
Title:

An Act to Create a Maximum Presidential and Vice Presidential Age of 70

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Presidential Candidates, Productivity of Executive Branch

Justification:

As we age, our mind starts to deteriorate, and does so at faster rates when under high stress or when consistently sleep deprived. A Harvard study followed a group of 73 year olds without dementia for 10 years, and over that time period, 1/6 developed Dementia and 80% reported memory changes. Another study found that roughly half of people in their 80s have dementia. Common symptoms of Dementia include memory loss, difficulty communicating, difficulty problem solving, difficulty handling complex tasks, difficulty planning and organizing, confusion, inappropriate behavior, and agitation. With this condition being so prevalent, there should be a cap on the presidential and vice presidential age. Since these two positions have to make imperative decisions that affect the country domestically and internationally along with needing to appropriately represent the United States, yet are some of the most at risk due to their high stress jobs with busy schedules leaving them sleep deprived, the country needs to take preventative measures to lower the probability that dementia and other degenerative diseases will develop while they’re in office. Our stamina also decreases as we age, limiting the productivity of the presidential office, which would greatly impact the country considering the high work load of a president and would contribute to an already bureaucratic system. Not only should we cap the presidential age at 70 to protect against degenerative diseases, but the cap also promotes the idea that the President will be alive to view the effects of his/ her policy during office. While some policy, like the legalization of gay marriage, is immediate, the effect of most policy, for example economics or climate change, are more gradual. The average life expectancy in the United States in 2016 was 78.7 years, so this cap would ensure that presidents experience the effects of their policy and encourage them to make more responsible decisions, along with considering the long term ramifications of their policy since they’ll have to live through it.

Proposal for Action:

I propose that the US sets a maximum Presidential and Vice Presidential age limit at 70. When inaugurated, the people serving in these two positions have to be under the age of 70, but can turn 70 during this term. If one of these positions turns 70 in office, that person becomes ineligible for reelection, even if only one term was served.

Results to be Expected:

A President and Vice President with a higher mental capacity and stamina will serve in office, increasing the executive branch’s efficiency and productivity. Policy with the best long term results will be enacted since the President and Vice President will have to live through their effects.
Title:

To establish a series of requirements for employer protocol on Election Day to make voting as accessible as possible for workers.

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States workers, United States voters, businesses, employers, United States elected politicians

Justification:

Voting rights and representation in the government have been the cornerstone of American values since its establishment; yet, low voter turnout persists in the U.S. While the 2018 midterm elections reached the highest percentage point of midterm voter turnout in American history, it was still lower than 50%: a glowingly positive figure compared to the dismal lows of the past 25 years. The lowest of these was reached in the 1998 midterm election, falling to 38.1%. Even presidential elections have been facing low turnout rates, hardly ever breaking 60%. A variety of factors contribute to this injustice, but one of the most prevalent ones is socioeconomic disparity. Statistics show that those who make more money vote more frequently. Indeed, during the 2008 presidential election, only 41% of eligible voters making less than $15,000 a year voted, compared to 78% of those making $150,000 a year or more. Not only does this demonstrate an imbalance in socioeconomic political representation, it can lead to political campaigns and leaders focusing strongly on wealthy Americans and ignoring the needs of others. Additionally, an extreme lack of convenience in the voting process presents an obstacle for the young workers of the United States. Of young voters (18-29 years), 86% agree that voting is important, but only 50% say it is convenient. It is hardly surprising that workers find this to be the case—both voter registration and election day voting can be made difficult by lack of online resources and no paid time off of work across certain states. In 13 states, voter registration is not available online, and in 14 states, paid time off of work is not guaranteed. Even potential alternatives to this issue, such as mail in ballots, are not made accessible to all Americans. Only 39 states provide the option of early in person or mail in voting, while only 31 provide absentee ballots without a required excuse or reason. It is absolutely essential that regulations be put in place to ensure that all Americans, workers included, are given access to the voting booth.

Proposal for Action:

The United States federal government will establish a federal holiday on Election Day each year. Employers will be required to abide by the following regulations on this federal holiday:

Grant three hours of paid time off to any employee that requests it, regardless of age, sex, race, salary, or any other characteristics

Employers may ask for proof that employees were using this time off to attend the polls. Employees must have been informed of this expectation at least two weeks prior to Election Day, and will request an “Election Participation Form” from a poll worker.

“Election Participation Forms” will include basic information about the voter (i.e. name, date of birth, workplace), as well as a section for the poll worker to denote time of voting and a poll worker signature.

In the case that an employer fails to provide an employee these three hours of paid time off, the employee can submit an online report to the United States voting website. A local law enforcement officer will be contacted and sent to investigate the report. Employers found guilty in violation of this law will be fined $5,000 (small businesses)-$100,000 (large conglomerates) or sentenced to a maximum of six months in prison.

These three hours must be granted at any time throughout the work day that the employee sees fit. The employee must inform their employer of this time at least two weeks prior to Election Day.

If the employee requires more than three hours to vote in the election, they must explain their extenuating circumstances to their employer. The employer may only deny this request if they suspect that the employee will be using this time for other activities, in which case the employer must allow the worker unpaid time off until the employee presents his or her “Election Participation Form.” Once this signed document has been presented, the time must be paid.

Any additional time to be used for election activities, specifically on Election Day, outside of voting (i.e. canvassing) must be granted but payment is up to the employer’s discretion. Employers may ask for any form of proof of such participation.
Results to be Expected:

Working Americans will feel more comfortable and be able to participate in federal elections, leading to increased voter turnout rates. U.S. politicians will value the opinions and needs of all American people, no matter their socioeconomic status. Most importantly, the foundational system of democracy that the United States values will be preserved.
Proposal #234  Author: Eileen Cunha, Delegation: Model UN

Title:
Standardization of voting devices and tabulation to an Optical Scanning device.

Major Areas to be Affected:
State and federal elections

Justification:
Adopting a standardized system of optical scanning voting devices is paramount to the prolonged success of American elections. Optical scanning devices are devices which utilize light beams in order to scan a paper document into a computerized system without the use of internet. The electronic devices used to record and tabulate votes throughout the nation vary based on state currently, resulting in blatant miscalculation of votes, while also presenting detriments to federal and state economies. While a strict paper ballot system provides slight relief from electronic complications, paper-only systems not only harm the environment but demand far too long for vote tabulation, prolonging the announcement of results. As demonstrated in both the 2018 midterm election and 2016 presidential elections, Direct Recording Electronic voting devices (DRE) are increasingly and blatantly inaccurate. Reports of flawed vote counts due to both hardware and software malfunctions in DREs have increased rapidly in recent years, as such machines are used at a higher rate. Such complications in the operation of the devices greatly hinder their effectiveness. In conjunction with the device’s malfunctions, DREs operate at a much higher cost than Optical Scanning voting systems. A 2018 study of Florida elections conducted by the United States Election Project revealed that Direct Recording Electronic devices increased annual election expenditures by 40.4% in comparison to Optical Scanning systems, placing a monumental burden on the state’s economy. Not only do DREs present vast complications monetarily, the devices tend to discriminate against senior citizens. A 2016 study by the Brennan Center for Justice dictated that a majority of senior citizens had trouble utilizing the devices due the difficulty reading the screens as well as the vagueness of voting directions. In order to ensure the unbiased nature of elections, it is imperative that Optical Scanning is adopted. Whereas DREs present complications, Optical Scanning devices are mature technology which has been proven to perform successfully and efficiently in state and federal elections. With the recent foreign interest in American elections, it has become overwhelmingly clear that an electronic voting system is at an increased risk for hacking. DREs diminish the voice of the American people, leaving their votes vulnerable to interference and impairments. With Optical Scanning machines, each vote would be protected, ensuring that all individuals get a voice in democracy. The devices would operate as a tabulating device, allowing votes to be counted far quicker than paper ballots, but would leave a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail, ensuring a verifiable option in the event of a recount or election mishap. The government has a responsibility to ensure the equality and safety of federal and state elections through the reform of voting devices and the adoption of a nationally standardized Optical Scanning System.

Proposal for Action:
Require that all local, state and federal elections utilize solely Optical Scanning voting devices beginning with the 2022 U.S midterm elections. Funding for the replacement of the elections devices will come from the US Department of Homeland Security.

Results to be Expected:
State and federal voting will be monumentally safer from risk of hacking both foreign and domestic. Elections costs will be reduced by 50%, allowing for better use of taxpayer funds and improved state and federal economies. Voting machines will effectively count and record votes, without risk of malfunction and miscalculation. Each vote will be verified by the voter for accuracy prior to insertion into the optical scanning device and produce a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail to ensure reliability in the event of a recount or election mishap. Votes will be counted efficiently, resulting in faster notification of results. Elections will become unbiased and better account for the needs of senior citizens.
To amend Article II Section I of the United States of America Constitution to allow for foreign-born citizens who have received full citizenship and have resided in the United States for at least 18 years to be eligible to hold the position of President.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Presidential Elections

Justification:

The United States of America is a nation that has been built on positive immigration ideology. As it is now, the U.S. Constitution is in direct conflict with these historical precedents, seeing as foreign-born citizens are deemed ineligible for the role of President. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has reported that in the past decade, 7.4 million naturalized citizens have been introduced into the United States, and part of the naturalization process is demonstrating “knowledge of U.S. government and history” and “good moral character” (USCIS). Eligibility for positions, such as Congress, do include foreign-born citizens, and this has proved to be prosperous and bring forward devoted individuals into these positions. By allowing dedicated individuals the opportunity to be a presidential candidate, regardless of their birthplace, we are vocalizing the belief that patriotism isn’t a matter of birthplace, but a matter of one’s commitment to serving their country.

Proposal for Action:

Article II Section I of the U.S. Constitution will be revised to replace “No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President” with “No Person except a naturalized Citizen, natural or foreign-born, shall be eligible to the Office of President”. Of Article II Section I, “attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States” will be replaced with “A natural born Citizen shall have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been eighteen Years a Resident within the United States; a foreign-born naturalized Citizen shall have attained the Age of thirty-five Years, and been eighteen Years a Resident within the United States”. In order to address concerns of a national security threat, extensive background checks, within reason, will be required for all candidates, regardless of national origin.

Results to be Expected:

By amending Constitutional requirements for a presidential candidate to recognize a larger population of Americans, it can be expected to see a more diverse array of candidates for said position, encourage immigrants to become naturalized citizens, encourage naturalized immigrants to seek further education and experience, and develop a welcoming image of American government. It will also be expected that background checks into candidates’ histories will be extended within reason in order to ensure a candidate’s perspective favorable, regardless of the candidate’s national origin.
Title:

To allow convicted felons in all 50 states to be able to vote in all elections after their release and the entirety of their sentence has been served.

Major Areas to be Affected:

All U.S. citizens; especially the African American population of the United States, elected positions in the federal government, elected positions in state governments, and elected positions in local governments.

Justification:

Currently, it is estimated that 8 percent of the population of the United States, including 33 percent of the African American male population has a felony conviction. This means that 6.1 million U.S. citizens are incapable of voting in many states and out of that 6.1 million, a disproportionate number of these citizens, 2 million, are African American males. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia currently do not allow felons to vote after their release. Even in the other 36 states where their rights have been restored, the majority of felons who are released from prison are unaware that their voting rights have been restored.

Making released felons aware that their right to vote has been restored is paramount to the reintegratiion of prisoners into society. This also will provide a more accurate representation of the American public's political concerns and opinions. This restoration of rights is necessary for the rehabilitation of felons, which is the principal purpose of prison.

Proposal for Action:

Require all U.S. states to reinstate the right to vote to all former felons, regardless of their crime. This right will be restored to felons after the entirety of their sentence has been served, incuding parole. Prisoners should be informed that their voting rights have been restored after the entirety of their sentence has been served.

Results to be Expected:

After these rights are reinstated, the country will receive a large boost in the amount of registered voters. There also should be an increase in the number of citizens exercising their right to vote, which will give the United States a better outlook on the political state of the country. Prisons should also see a decrease in the recidivism rate among felons due to the incentive of the resoration of the felons' rights as American citizens.
Proposal #394
Author: Claire Heggie, Delegation: Missouri

Title: Voting Reform

Major Areas to be Affected:

voters, public polling sites, government agencies, felons, Federal Election Committee

Justification:

This proposal will extend the constitutional right to vote to all Americans, so that our democracy can function how it was intended to. One in four eligible voters are not registered to vote- this means that our elected official is not an accurate representation of who they are supposed to be represented. One in eight voter registration is inaccurate or invalid. Too many people, looking to exercise their basic rights as a citizen, show up to the polling place to come to find out that their information is outdated or inaccurate due to fails in our aged voting system. Additionally, many American workers are unable to take off work to go and stand in line for multiple hours to vote thus decreasing voter participation. Finally, over 6.1 million felons, who are American citizens, are routinely denied the right to vote due to felon disenfranchisement.

Proposal for Action:

1. Automatic voter registration
   a. This would automatically register those who obtain have an interact with a government agency, with an option to opt out of registration. For example, obtaining a driver’s license, registering for welfare programs, registering for the draft. If those registering are not 18, then their registration will rollover until they turn 18. Paper and online registration will still be available.

2. Mail in ballots
   a. This will allow all people to vote through a mail in ballot in federal elections. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible and registered voters three weeks before elections. Voters can choose to mail in their ballots or drop them off at a drop box at polling locations.

3. Felons all allowed to vote immediately upon release
   a. All felons, regardless of conviction, will be allowing to vote in federal elections upon successful completion of their sentence. They do not have to re-register to vote, if they have previously been registered.

Results to be Expected:

Voter turnout will increase. Felons will no longer experience discrimination at the voting polls. Voter registration will be more accurate and available for every American citizen. Other states will eventually institute similar policies. Finally, elected officials would be more representative of the American population.
Title:

To Reform the Congressional Budget Process

Major Areas to be Affected:

Congress, Budget Committees, the CBO, the Presidency, the Executive Branch, the OMB

Justification:

Per the journal National Affairs, “the budget process exacerbates [daunting fiscal] problems and contributes to Washington's larger paralysis and to voters’ justified frustration with their elected officials.” This frustration is more than justified. Not only is the government spending too much money; the government can’t agree on where to spend the money. According to the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, FY2018’s deficit was $779 billion and FY2019 is on track to be even larger. The brinkmanship that ensues whenever it’s time for new appropriations means that there’s no real chance to sensibly draft a budget. Merely passing a budget at all has become a major accomplishment. Per the Pew Research Center, the whole budget has been passed on time only four times since the modern budgetary process was established in the 1974 Budget Act.

It should be more than clear that the budget must be reformed. Per the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, there are five primary reasons this reform is needed:

1. Lack of transparency—Many parts of the process are opaque and confusing.
2. Lack of accountability—Deadlines are often missed and budget rules are often waived without penalty or repercussion.
3. Lack of focus on the long term—The process emphasizes heated debates over short term issues, focusing primarily on just 30 percent of spending and 0 percent of revenue.
4. Lends itself to crisis moments—Crisis moments undermine the public trust and can lead to worse outcomes.
5. Increasingly terrible fiscal outcomes—Our debt is at the highest level as a share of the economy since World War II, and in recent months lawmakers have passed large deficit-financed tax and spending bills that only worsen the situation.

With these problems in mind, the following Proposal for Action was written based upon recommendations by Alice M. Rivlin and Pete Domenici from the Bipartisan Policy Center and recommendations from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

Proposal for Action:

1. Enact legislation to establish a biennial budgeting cycle where each budget lasts for two years. This legislation would ensure that Congress adopts a budget and all appropriations bills in the first session of every Congress during off-numbered years. This would allow for more time in the second session for other legislation. Supplemental and emergency appropriations could occur as needed in either session.
2. If Congress fails to reach a conference agreement on a biennial budget resolution by April 15th in the first session, require the cancellation of all congressional recesses.
3. Failure to adopt the appropriations bills by October 1st of the first session of the biennial budget cycle would result in automatic funding of government programs and agencies at the previous year's level instead of a government shutdown.
4. Change the budget resolution from a concurrent resolution to a joint resolution so that the President must agree to the overarching budget before Congress writes and passes specific appropriations bills.
5. Modify membership of budget committees to include chairs and ranking members of the major fiscal, tax, and economic committees (or their designees).
6. Adopt a standing rule that whenever the joint budget resolution is passed, it is automatically considered to include legislation raising the debt limit to accommodate any deficit in the budget. This is similar to the House's Gephardt Rule.

Results to be Expected:

While this proposal isn’t a perfect solution to the budget process, it addresses many major concerns in common sense ways. This proposal would allow Congress to more effectively legislate and give a longer-term scope to the budget by requiring them to enact a budget once every two years instead of every year. This proposal would make Congress more accountable for completing the budget
on time by canceling all recesses if they fail to pass the appropriations bills on time. This proposal would remove brinkmanship from the
budget process by removing the option of a government shutdown if appropriations don’t happen on time and by proactively passing
legislation to avoid defaulting on our debt.

In addition, and perhaps most importantly, this proposal gives more consideration to the initial drafting of the budget resolution. This
requires Congress and the President to agree to the budget resolution before it is used by committees to draft the appropriations bills.
Currently, the President is only given the chance to show his or her disagreement with the budget by vetoing it after Congress has spent
a year drafting and passing its appropriations bills. This would force Congress and the President to make an agreement before going
through this process.

This proposal would allow Congress to effectively draft a budget. In doing so, Congress would finally be able to effectively address
what’s in the budget and begin to address the issues of our debt and deficit.
Title:
To restructure the current U.S. voting system into a Liquid Democracy supported by modern technology

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Despite being one of the most developed countries in the world, the United States has a significantly low voter turnout. According to a Pew Research study on voter participation amongst leading democratic nations, “The United States ranks 26th out of 32 countries” and “had a 55.7% voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election” lagging starkly behind Belgium’s 87.2%.

U.S. Citizens face numerous restrictive barriers when it comes to voting including difficult voter registration, mass disinterest, and an inability to get to the polls. Therefore, the current electoral voting system of the U.S. is neither reflective of a true democracy, nor is it conventional per modern technology standards.

Instating a Liquid Democracy provides citizens a fluid array of options to make voting both easier and empowering. As the most inclusive form of democracy, a Liquid Democracy combines aspects of a Direct Democracy and a Representative Democracy. Each eligible voter may choose to vote directly in any election, or delegate their vote to a trusted person of their choosing. Liquid Representatives may then pass their consolidated votes to another person of their choosing, presumably a person of greater political knowledge of the issue at hand, thus forming chains of delegated votes. In order to maintain these chains, it will require transitioning to technological voting assisted by Blockchain technology, a secure, cryptographic method of conducting elections at this scale. Additionally, delegation may be domain-specific which means voters may delegate their vote to different experts depending on different issues. This creates more informed voters and better outcomes in elections.

In essence, a Liquid Democracy would ensure each person their individual representation and work towards a true democratic society.

Proposal for Action:
Create a constitutional amendment transitioning from our current democracy to a Liquid Democracy based upon the following principles:
1. Eligibility
   a. Maintain the current voting requirements: citizens above the age of eighteen will be entitled to one vote per election.

2. Voter Registration Record
   a. Upon reaching the age of eligibility, each citizen will be automatically registered as a voter. However, their vote will be inactive until they vote at least once. This will give citizens the option to opt-out of voting and decrease the number of absentee voters.
   b. Citizens who do not vote for ten years consecutively must re-register.
   c. Deceased citizens will be updated accordingly.

3. Delegation
   a. Voters have the choice of delegation, and delegates may continuously pass on consolidated votes. All voters will have the option of publicizing their vote per election; if they choose to keep it private, then they will waive rights to be delegated votes for that election. If a voter is unsatisfied with their delegate’s decision, they may overturn their delegate’s vote within a twenty-four hour period or entirely withdraw future delegation.
   b. All voters may delegate to different experts depending on the legislation topic. Additionally, voters may direct delegation to different members of Congress (state independent) per issue, or delegate fully (for all issues) to an individual member.

4. Congress Members
   a. The current age requirements and election process for Senators and Representatives will remain the same. Furthermore, the
A Liquid Democracy will decentralize political power in the US by providing equal representation for all voters. It will increase voting accessibility, thus increase voter turnout without enforcing compulsory voting (requiring all citizens to vote). Political party competition will be eliminated as there will no longer be a need to choose between either of the two majority parties; minority voices will have an equal opportunity to be heard. Each citizen will be held accountable for honest yet accessible participation in the democratic process. This structure encourages cooperation and trust within the government while effectively using the capacity of modern technology and providing the necessary transition to a future of innovation.
Title:
The Election Lottery

Major Areas to be Affected:
Registered voters, Political Action Committees, Federal Election Commission

Justification:
The foundations of American democracy lie in the principles of popular sovereignty. Despite this, though, our elections each year are
decided each year by the small percentage of registered voters who actually show up to the polls. In the 2016 presidential election, only
55.7% of registered voters cast a ballot, and midterm elections draw an even lower rate. The 2018 midterm elections saw an
exceptionally high turnout of 49.3%. Regardless of why voters choose to abstain to vote, Americans who take pride in our country’s
democracy are not showing up to participate in it themselves. According to the Sanders Institute, the United States ranks twenty-
seventh in voter turnout among the world’s thirty-four developed democracies. As the nation that prides itself on being the global
protector of democracy, it is imperative that we encourage voter turnout in some way.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will establish a federal lottery system in which voters who participate in federal elections (presidential and midterm) can
choose to put their name in the pool for the lottery for free. Furthermore, it will include the following provisions:
Create a Federal Election Lottery Commission (FELC) under the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to regulate and administer the
lottery. (Name collection/drawing, cheating investigations, etc.)
The FEC will oversee the levying of a 0.375% tax on all PAC donations to fund the lottery.
All money generated from the tax goes directly to the lottery pot, and the pot will be divided among the winners as follows:
- 40% of the pot allotted to a single jackpot winner
- The remaining 60% divided into $5000 prizes and distributed to as many winners as possible

Results to be Expected:
Based on the $4 billion raised in PAC donations in the 2016 election cycle, the lottery would be expected to have a pot of around $15
million. Under the election lottery system, this means that one winner would take home $6 million, and 1800 other winners would each
take home a prize of $5000. Since it will cost voters nothing to be entered for a chance to win the lottery, this will highly incentivize
voters to go out to the polls, increasing voter participation.
Title:  
To Make The Presidential Election Day A National Holiday

Major Areas to be Affected:
All citizens who are eligible to vote, all businesses eligible to provide employees time off.

Justification:
From 2012 to 2016, 19 states saw a decrease in voter turnout rates. Voter turnout in 2012 went from 61.6% to 59.7% in 2016. This has been happening between many presidential elections. Presidential elections only take place every four years. Given the significant power the President wields over the make-up of the Supreme Court, the role of the U.S. military, and overall status of social issues in our Nation, we must find ways to make voting more accessible to all potential voters. One of the barriers to getting out to vote is getting the time off work on voting day. Eligible voters should have a say in who this person is but due to work, they lack the ability to let their voices be heard.

Proposal for Action:
Make the Presidential Election Day a national holiday, requiring employers to give employees either partial or full time off in order to guarantee they have allocated time to vote. Employers who are unable to give time off, like hospitals and airports, must pay holiday pay to their employees on the National Holiday.

Results to be Expected:
Voter turnout in the Presidential Election would increase.
Proposal #476
Author: Jayden Mignot, Delegation: New York

Title:
To create The Fund for Electronic Ballots Act (FEBA), which will provide funding to update and modernize electronic voting ballots across the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
The American voter, The American tax payer, the American non-voter, the voting process/ procedure, voter turnout.

Justification:
Since the introduction of the first personal computer in 1977, the US has passed only one initiative to upgrade electronic voting machines called the Help America Voting Act. This program has been bottlenecked due to lack of government funding. These computers, due to their older hardware and dated software, are susceptible of miscounting votes and even becoming hacked."America’s Voting Machines at Risk" by two political science professors, stated that “Older machines can also have serious security and reliability flaws that are unacceptable today. For example, Virginia recently decertified a voting system used in 24 percent of precincts after finding that an external party could access the machine’s wireless features to “record voting data or inject malicious data.” Despite this issue, Virginia is one of the better states for voting machines. In more than half of our states, voting machines have reached an age of 10 years old, exceeding the minimum of the machines 8-15 year expiration date. Some state’s machines have surpassed that age, being that 30 percent of the United States has voting machines that are older than 15 years (sourced from the Brennan Center for Justice).

Because these systems are so old, their software is also falling behind the curve. For example at an event called defcon, an annual hacking conference, it took hackers only 90 minutes to find ways to alter votes and have complete control over 3 different softwares. Once figured out, could hack the voting machines in the same time one would cast their vote. As machines grow older and older, their compatibility with different security options would be limited, seeing as the software that makes up more than half of all voting machines (windows xp/windows 7) are losing full support from microsoft (windows xp is already expired, and windows seven will lose full support in the April of 2020). With a lack of security options that could be purchased for each machine, every single machine with these softwares can be susceptible to hacking (also because that machines over 10 years of age cannot keep up with the new software due to compatibility issues).

The role of FEBA in all of this is to take the initiative to collect a bi-annual tax for every person in the united states biannually based on a tax system similar to our current tax bracket. Not only would this system tax prove to be very miniscule for the common citizen, with the lowest tax bracket taking about .01% of their funds and the highest taxing around .025%, but it would also be a biannual tax, making it an easier load on the taxpayer.

Proposal for Action:
A biannual tax will be established by the year 2025. This tax, collected by the IRS, will tax each tax bracket, starting at .01% at the lowest tax bracket, with a max of .025%, incrementally increasing by .0025% per tax bracket. The max amount of money that can be collected at one time is 2 billion dollars. If overflow if received, the irs will then hold the remainder of the money until the act has reached its maximum capacity of 2 billion dollars. If the IRS has more than 2 billion dollars for the act, the agency will then withhold the tax issued by The Fund for Electronic Ballots Act for the next tax collecting season for such act. The organization will then start updating old voting units with new electronic voting units (direct-recording electronic voting machines), starting with the least economically sound state and ending at the most economically sound state. States can opt-out of this program, but such states will not receive any funds from FEBA. Such machines will be replaced every 8 years. The funds of such act will go strictly towards the purchasing, installation, and maintenance for voting machines for states that cooperate with such act.

Results to be Expected:
Voting machines across the United States would be updated allowing a smoother voting process. This may encourage more people to
go to the polls due to a reduced time and increased confidentiality, which could lead to a higher voter turnout. This could also encourage
ing voting equality, as communities in poorer communities will be able to dodge events such as the 2008 voting crisis, where voters in a
poorer community in Georgia stood in line for almost 12 hours trying to vote. This would mean a higher voter turnout and a more
accurate election, whether it be a federal election or a local election.
Proposal #493
Author: Francesca Fornuto, Delegation: New York

Title:
To change the requirement of being a natural born citizen to being a citizen before or at the age of 5 for at least 35 years to run for President of the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
This proposal will affect all citizens considering running as a presidential candidate. It will indirectly affect all the citizens of our country.

Justification:
An action like this needs to be implemented in our country as 13.7% of our population is made up of foreign-born citizens. Many of these people consider America their home and consider themselves American. The phrase “natural born citizen” is not defined in the constitution which leaves many doors open for a legal dispute on who can run for president. According to the legislative attorney, John Maskell, in his congressional research the original reason for the “natural born citizen” law was because “there were fears at that time about wealthy European aristocracy or royalty coming to America, gaining citizenship, and then buying and scheming their way to the presidency without long-standing loyalty to the nation.”
The age of 5 is when children begin to go from having an “I” mentality to having an “us” mentality according to Susan A Miller, a writer for Scholastic. Therefore children below the age of 5 have very little concept of anything going on around them that doesn't directly affect them. With the requirement of becoming a citizen before the age of 5, it minimizes the chance of a foreign-born citizen running for president without the loyalty to the country.

There are very little fiscal implications of this proposal. As of 2019, we have 1 immigrant in our Senate and 13 in the House of Representatives. Within our other branches of government, there is no requirement of being a natural born citizen, therefore the same should apply to our executive branch. Currently, in our country, it is legal for a convicted felon to run, win and serve his presidential term in jail, yet those not born in the United States, but have citizenship, can not. Our foreign-born citizens deserve the right to run for executive office as this right has been withheld for centuries.

Proposal for Action:

Article 2 of the constitution would say “No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a citizen at or before the age of 5 who has had citizenship for over 35 years, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States”. Currently, you must be a natural born citizen to run for president. This would change the requirement of being a citizen before or at the age of 5 for at least 35 years.

Results to be Expected:
We will have a larger percentage of foreign-born citizens participating in our government. As a country with many different cultures represented it will lead to the possibility of a president who can relate and help the percentage of our citizens who have been ignored.
Proposal #504
Author: Matthew Lord, Delegation: Washington

Title:
Electoral Equity Act

Major Areas to be Affected:
Electoral College

Justification:
Currently, all but two states use the winner-takes-all system of allocating Electoral College votes entirely towards whichever candidate wins the statewide popular vote. This system goes against the initial intent of the Electoral College, which was to prevent tyranny of the majority by giving a voice to states that would otherwise be overshadowed. When states do not recognize the votes of congressional districts that do not vote the same as the majority in that state, as is the case with the winner-takes-all system, they are effectively depriving them of their voice in American democracy.

Proposal for Action:
Mandate that each congressional district within a given state must have a corresponding member of that state’s electoral college who is responsible for voting for the same candidate as their corresponding congressional district.

Results to be Expected:
Reduce voter apathy in states where the majority consistently votes one way. Give underrepresented congressional districts a greater voice in national elections.
Amending the US Constitution to allow foreign-born, naturalized American citizens to be eligible for the Office of President

Major Areas to be Affected:
Foreign-born naturalized American citizens, presidential eligibility, the US Constitution

Justification:
America is more diverse and immigrant-filled than ever before. And while the Founding Fathers did a remarkable job ensuring that the Constitution would remain justified as years passed, there is one instance where they fell short. As it currently stands, people who were born in a different country and moved to the United States can never run for president. This excludes a lot of patriotic Americans from being able to run for the office of president regardless of how long they have lived in the country or where their loyalty lies. People like Arnold Schwarzenegger and other influential contributors to our nation deserve the right to be able to run for president if they chose. The reason behind why the Founding Fathers included this clause is irrelevant in today’s society, and it currently serves no valid purpose.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal would amend Article II, Section 1 of the US Constitution to read as follows: “No Person except a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.”

Results to be Expected:
Should they choose to do so, foreign-born naturalized American citizens will have the option to run for the office of President. While there isn’t likely to be a drastic change in the numbers, this proposal would grant these people an important right.
Proposal #524
Author: Mandeep Kaleka, Delegation: Wisconsin

Title:
To reduce political polarization and increase voter turnout in the United States through election reform.

Major Areas to be Affected:
All eligible U.S. voters, state legislatures, members of the House of Representatives, political parties in the U.S., government agencies.

Justification:
Our political climate in the United States has become increasingly polarized in the last decades, which is leading to extreme right and left political goals of the Democratic and Republican parties in Congress being prioritized over productive discussion and working together to find solutions to the country’s issues. If polarization prevents the federal government from taking effective action on numerous critical issues, from climate change, to the opioid crisis, to financial regulation, our policies will fail to address the critical concerns of the American people. As of April 2019, only about 20% of the public approves of the way that Congress is handling its job, which is an alarmingly low amount. This shows that we must find a way to get our lawmakers to be open to compromise again and decrease hostilities between political parties.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal would change the system to elect members of the House of Representatives by

Having a non-partisan committee or individual, organized by each state’s legislature redraw district lines (for states with more than one member in the House of Representatives) to have larger districts in correspondence with the pre-existing federal criteria on redistricting.

The amount of representatives in the House of Representatives will remain the same; however, there will be 3, 4, or 5 representatives elected from each district.

Voting for representatives would be according to the proportional representation method of having a single transferable vote (STV) where each voter will rank the individual candidates depending on how many are to be elected in their respective districts for 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice, etc.

In a single winner district, if a candidate receives a majority, or over 50% of the 1st place votes, they are elected; however, in a multi-winner district, the percentage of votes needed is lower. It is over \( \frac{1}{2} \) of the 1st place vote for 2 members, \( \frac{1}{4} \) for 3, \( \frac{1}{5} \) for 4, and \( \frac{1}{6} \) for 5.

If someone exceeds the amount of votes needed to be elected, then they are elected and any part of the votes for them which didn’t help elect them will count for the 2nd place choice of the voter.

If no one gets the percentage of votes needed to be elected, the candidate who gets the least votes is eliminated.

This process happens until all spots are filled.

This proposal would also increase voter turnout by mandating Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) policies across America so that our elections will be a more accurate representation of the people’s voices. This policy makes eligible voters who interact with government agencies have to “opt out” for voter registration instead of having to “opt in”. The said government agency then sends the voter’s information to election officials electronically if the eligible voter does not opt out.
Results to be Expected:

By making it easier for eligible citizens to vote, and changing the process by which the House of Representatives gets elected to more equally represent voters, there will be an increase in voter turnout for elections, especially among politically moderate citizens. A greater number of third party representatives will be elected, and this will provide more opinions and opportunities for compromise on policy issues, therefore decreasing political polarization and increasing the level of productivity and tolerance for other political perspectives in the House of Representatives.
Proposal #528  
Author: Griffin Johnson, Delegation: Wisconsin  

Title:  
A proposal to lower the voting age for 18 years old to 16 years old.  

Major Areas to be Affected:  
US citizens of ages 16 and 17 years will be granted the right to vote in US federal elections.  

Justification:  
Youth of age 16 can legally be employed which means they have to pay income tax. They should have the right to have a say in what the government does with their tax dollars through voting. Citizens of age 16 also attend school, this age group should be allowed to contribute to the decisions made by the government associated with education.  

Proposal for Action:  
The 26th amendment currently states the minimum voting age is 18 years old. This proposal would repeal and replace the 26th amendment with a new amendment stating the minimum voting age would be 16 years old.  

Results to be Expected:  
Voter turnout would be expected to increase. Lowering the voting age would set better habits of getting out and voting starting at an earlier age.
Proposal #533
Author: Matthew Weinsheimer, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
The Fair Voting Act

Major Areas to be Affected:
The 6 Million people currently disenfranchised both in the correctional system and out of it

Justification:
The right to vote has become fundamental to American government. It is a right guaranteed to all adult citizens, with one condition; the laws of the land are followed. The only group of citizens that can currently lose the right to vote are felons. However, given the gravity of such a loss, it is imperative to consider what merits loss of voting rights, what historical context disenfranchisement falls under, and what means it serves. Maintaining justice in voter regulation is important; important enough for the federal government to step in.

First, retribution. Supporters of disenfranchisement often claim that breaking laws warrants the loss of the right to elect lawmakers. Setting aside that the National Criminal Justice Reference Service claims false conviction rates as high as 5%, it is important to remember that the majority of those currently kept from voting are out of jail and have served their sentence, yet are still facing punishment. This punishment is unamerican and unjust due its severity. While being deprived the right to vote is a form of incapacitation, its effect on society as a whole is negative. According to the sentencing project, voting prisoners in Vermont have a significantly lower recidivism rate than those who don’t. While this form of incapacitation may be effective punishment, it comes at far too high a cost. Next, criminal justice is intended to serve as a deterrent from crime. Given the greater fear of imprisonment over losing the right to vote, disenfranchisement is not an effective deterrent. Additionally, most of the population is not cognizant of voter disenfranchisement. A form of criminal justice can only be a deterrent, of course, if it is widely known. Lastly, the ever deprived rehabilitation is theoretically the primary goal of criminal justice. Disenfranchisement however, is more an obstacle to rehabilitation than a tool for it.

Given the inability for disenfranchisement to satisfy a single goal of criminal justice, it is imperative to look at the origin of felon disenfranchisement and what purpose it serves. Felon disenfranchisement was introduced at the same time as the War on Drugs. This means that as African-Americans were being directly targeted for incarceration, as corroborated by a Nixon aide, they were also losing the right to vote. Today, the demographics of voter disenfranchisement are alarming. Over 6 million people are currently disenfranchised, and over 3.5 million of that 6 million are out of prison. 40 percent of those incarcerated are black, despite African Americans comprising less than 15% of the US population. In Kentucky, where convicted felons permanently lose the right to vote, 25% of African-Americans are unable to vote. Given the historic manifestation of these incarceration policies and the agenda it serves, US citizens must be granted the right to vote to promote the principles of democracy the nation was founded on.

Proposal for Action:
Congress shall require states to amend their voting regulations such that:
1. All citizens who are no longer incarcerated, even those on parole or probation for felonies, are able to register to vote and are notified by mail of their rights. This notification system will be the same as is currently in place for fines and court summons.
2. Convicted felons found guilty of a non-violent offense fully regain the right to vote regardless of incarceration status.
3. Convicted felons found guilty of a violent offense do not automatically lose the right to vote. Instead, their voting restriction is decided in the sentencing of the individual. For this group, sentencing may range from no voting restriction to the complete disenfranchisement while incarcerated.
Results to be Expected:

Higher rates of voting among those previously disenfranchised and a decrease in recidivism due to the natural return to society. Ideally, the American people will also recognize this as a step towards purifying the election process and creating a fair and transparent system.
Proposal #536
Author: Kiran Kochar McCabe, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
The Young Voters Act

Major Areas to be Affected:
Citizens of the United States aged 16 and 17, statewide voter registration systems, the United States Bill of Rights

Justification:
Lowering the voting age to 16 is the right choice to make in our ever-evolving democratic republic. At 16 years old, citizens can drive and pay taxes. At 17, they can even enlist in the military. With the recent rise in student activism concerning issues such as gun control and climate action, it is increasingly important to allow these citizens a voice at our government’s decision-making table.

Taking this action is not unprecedented, as Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, and the United Kingdom have all extended voting rights to 16-year-olds in some level of elections. A study done in Austria has shown that lowering the voting age has a “trickle up” effect on civic participation. When 16 and 17 year olds engage in civics, conversations about politics and local issues are brought to the dinner table. Parents and family members are engaged in civic life through the 16 and 17 year olds in their household, leading to a positive impact on voter turnout for people of all ages.

Additionally, lowering the voting age to 16 helps to create lifelong voters. Voting is a civic duty in the United States, but unfortunately young people have the lowest voting rates of any age group in this country. According to the New York Times, less than 20 percent of people aged 18 - 24 voted in 2014, compared with roughly 40 percent of the general population. Lowering the voting age would potentially increase voter turnout for this age group in the long run and establish the habit of voting earlier on. When young people are given this responsibility at age 18, they are in a transitory place between being a child and a fully fledged adult. They’re either transitioning from high school to college or into the job market, leaving little time for new habits to be established. On the other hand, 16 and 17 year olds are most often still living at home and going to school, providing them with a stable environment to establish this new habit of voting.

Proposal for Action:
Congress shall pass an amendment to the Bill of Rights that will read as follows:
Section 1. The right to vote of citizens of the United States, who are sixteen years of age or older, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age. Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Once Congress passes this amendment, states will ratify it, creating the 28th amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Results to be Expected:
Higher voter turnout rates and increased political participation by all age groups in the short and long term.
Two out of three federal workers describe themselves as “living paycheck-to-paycheck”. Recently, over 800,000 federal employees endured a month-long government shutdown that endangered their livelihoods. Government shutdowns force many low-income federal employees to turn to predatory lending in the absence of their paychecks, and countless workers will face the consequences of these loans for the rest of their lives. Congress consistently approves backpay measures during shutdowns, but the workers only receive that money after they have been left for days or weeks without any income. This proposal would act similarly as the WARN act, which applies to private businesses that fire employees, however it would be on a temporary basis only in the event of shutdowns.

Proposal for Action:

In the event of a government shutdown, all federal agencies must continue to pay a salary to their employees for two weeks.

Results to be Expected:

Federal employees and lawmakers will still feel the pressure of a government shutdown, however the employees will have a steady income that will keep them from falling victim to loaning scams or poverty.
Title:
To create a federal jobs program for environmental and climate change related projects

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), unemployed workers, the environment

Justification:
While employment has risen in recent years, there are still many people who are working underpaid or not working at all. This issue becomes even worse in the face of all the jobs that need to be done. Environmental projects and maintenance have been left unattended and climate change is becoming a more serious problem every day. Buildings can be made out of sustainable materials, cities can have more green places, and there can be more green energy being used. These are simple jobs but they aren’t being done in every city and every state. By creating a federal program where people can enroll for jobs, not only will we be able to offer jobs to more people, we can make our country a better place to live.

Proposal for Action:
This program would create government jobs available for unemployed workers with a cap at 500,000 jobs. Workers can apply and will be evaluated on the basis of certain criteria such as their physical health and ability to work. Participants will be given jobs in sustainable building or urban gardening, among other fields. Training will be provided for jobs for which it is required. Workers shall be paid minimum wage (either the federal minimum wage or the state minimum wage, whichever is higher) for their work and are able to leave the program at any time they choose. The program will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor and the department will receive advice from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding environmental issues and projects that need to be addressed.

Results to be Expected:
If people enroll in the program, the unemployment rate will be lowered as more people will have jobs and access to jobs. Also, delayed construction and environmental government projects can finally be dealt with as there will be more workers. The ultimate goal of this project is to simultaneously aid in the fight against climate change and to offer more jobs to Americans.
Proposal #103
Author: Corinne Miller, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
To redefine the legal definition of “independent contractor” such that a company may not maintain exclusive rights to the professional’s services and may not employ the professional full time for upwards of a year.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Current professionals registered as independent contractors, employers of independent contractors.

Justification:
In 2017, the US Labor Department released a report stating that 10% of Americans are working as independent contractors. Legally, independent contractors are considered vastly different than employees and are thusly not provided the same protections and benefits, including minimum wage and health insurance. The vague definition for qualifying contractors, however, has allowed employers to use this work status as a loophole for denying workers fair compensation and benefits for their services. In 2017, the American Bar Association published a newsletter in which it estimated 3.4 million workers are considered independent contractors when they should actually be employees. The consequences of these misqualifications can be exemplified by the experiences of professional wrestlers employed by World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. (WWE). All wrestlers hired by WWE are hired as independent contractors, denying them protections which would be considered expectations for most workers, including protection from occupational safety laws. Without safety laws in place, wrestlers are repeatedly exposed to dangers which are unnecessary, even within a sport defined by physicality and showmanship, all while working for a company which pushes wrestlers to work through injuries sustained from tasks required by the employer by threatening to reduce their annual income significantly. And without health insurance or retirement pensions provided, wrestlers who decide to take the pay cut for medical reasons may not be able to afford the necessary treatment. For these reasons, 10% of professional wrestlers die between the ages of 35 and 40. By creating a more specific and strict definition of an independent contractor, companies will no longer be allowed to mistreat workers to a potentially fatal degree.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will redefine independent contractor as “an individual (1) whose service(s) are available to the public for contractual employment but maintains freedom over how to complete the result mandated by the employer, (2) whose service(s) is outside the normal functioning of the employer, (3) who may not work full time for 9 months under any one employer, and (4) whose service(s) may not be exclusively held by any one employer for longer than 6 months.” Violations of criteria 1, 2, or 4 require the contractor to be hired as an employee, part-time or full-time. A violation of criteria 3 requires the contractor to be hired as a full-time employee. The current requirements of a company to provide certain benefits for employees will remain intact unless changed by Congress.

Results to be Expected:
The employment status of millions of Americans will change from independent contractor to employee, providing them better benefits and compensation. It may be more expensive for employers, as they would be required to pay for these benefits.
Title:
Reforming the Public Healthcare System in the U.S.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Medicare Program, Department of Health, Health Insurance Market

Justification:
Millions of Americans struggle to pay for and/or find health insurance and since the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, the number of uninsured Americans has significantly increased. When coupled with extremely high cost of medical procedures, equipment, and medication, uninsured persons can receive a lifetime’s worth of debt from a single medical emergency.

The United States is fortunate to have an effective healthcare system for older Americans. However, this system is beginning to run low on funding and is predicted to run dry in the next decade. This would leave our most delicate Americans without access to their doctors, medications, or other medical treatments.

This proposal aims to provide a solution to both of these issues by creating a public health insurance program that would function similarly to a private plan. This program would be an expansion of Medicare to an opt-in system for people under 65 with all profits from these plans going directly to the medicare fund.

Proposal for Action:
The Medicare program will allow citizens under 65 to purchase a plan as they would from a private provider with rates determined by a formula that takes into account financial need and estimated cost to insure.
No person can be refused service due to previous medical conditions or family history.
All profits from these plans will go directly into the medicare program.

Results to be Expected:
More Americans will have access to affordable health care either directly through the program or as a result of increased competition lowering rates elsewhere. The medicare program will receive increased funds and be able to function further into the future allowing for future generations of elderly americans to be insured during their retirement.
Improving Formal Labor Market Access for Refugees

Refugees, UNHCR, National Governments, and the New York Refugee and Migrant Declaration (2016)

Justification:

In June of 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), projected resettlement needs for 2019, identifying 1.4 million refugees needing access to resettlement. This conclusion arose after resettlement requests increased 17% from 2018 to 2019, refugees were increasingly seeking a long-term solution. Refugees, faced a daunting task after they had been promised resettlement, gaining access to the Formal Labor Market. Host societies, often block refugees from the possibility of formal employment due to regulation and biases that hinder the refugees from moving on with their lives. Formal Labor Market Access (FLMA) is defined as the right to seek employment and start a business (with some degree of freedom of movement).

The lack of worldwide FLMA has caused significant negative consequences that have inhibited growth and development for refugees and their communities. Especially in developing nations, the lack of universal access to even the informal labor market often contributes to the long term deterioration of skills and motivation for refugees and host populations. Limited access to formal employment in many countries is due to prejudicial laws that proport the perspective that, refugees will cause economic harms to the host society. While these beliefs may be substantiated in the short-term, data on the complex long-term effects of FLMA suggests the opposite conclusion. In developed nations that allow access to formal employment, administrative and practical barriers still limit access to the formal labor market. With fewer legal restrictions and greater economic liberties for refugees, financial benefits can be accrued by the host society. Furthermore, economic policies that restrict the labor market can exacerbate potential negative externalities rather than resolve them.

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the New York Refugee and Migrant Declaration in 2016. The New York Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international refugee regime and contains a wide range of commitments: to express profound solidarity, to fully respect human rights, to protect refugees and support the countries that shelter them, to acknowledge that these are shared international responsibilities, to pledge support for nations affected by mass migration, to develop the core elements of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, and to work towards the adoption of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. These commitments sought to address global resettlement needs and encouraged the idea of FLMA through the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The CRRF aims to ease the pressure on host countries through increased support while increasing employment opportunities for refugees. The Declaration focuses on half of the issue of the international refugee crisis, resettlement, and fails to address the problems that refugees face when they seek to be an employed member in the host society. The Declaration spearheads half the international crisis and offers negligible routes to improve FLMA for refugees, who currently lack the opportunity to grow and develop within their host nations. Through an amendment to the New York Declaration, we could solve problems that are associated with the lack of current FLMA worldwide and extend the utility of the CRRF to expand the labor market to refugees as International Law formally.

Proposal for Action:

The U.S. proposes to amend the New York Refugee and Migrant Declaration to include Increasing Labor Market Access for Refugees
- Amending refugee acceptance commitments to include Formal Labor Market Access
- Amending CRRF objectives to include Formal Labor Market Access

Policies and Objectives: to increase Formal Labor Market Access to Refugees
- Allowing refugees complementary rights.
- Supporting hosts displaced from their jobs by helping them find new employment opportunities.
- Helping refugees integrate into the labor market.
- Offsetting the short-term increases in government spending through financial support from donors.
- Recognizing formal workplace protections for refugees and vulnerable host populations.

**Results to be Expected:**

- Host nations receive international economic support
- Host nations increase in government revenue
- Host nations increase productivity as measured by GDP
- Host nations increase investment in human capital
- Host nations increase employment rates the general and refugee populations
Proposal #143
Author: Olivia D'Angelo, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
To reform collective bargaining practices such that labor organizations are required to represent only those employees voting for representation.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Labor unions and their membership, non-union workers, the National Labor Relations Board.

Justification:
In Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 31 of June 2018, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that no public sector employee, having refused membership in a trade union, may be compelled to pay union dues to said union because of the benefits he or she may receive from their collective bargaining. While this decision applies specifically to public-sector unions, its ramifications are bound to affect union membership and collective bargaining power.

Under current law, if the simple majority of a workplace votes to unionize then the designated labor organization is required to represent all of the workplace for the purpose of collective bargaining. Employees that do not choose to join the union may still be required to pay a “fair share fee” to finance collective bargaining on behalf of their unit. However, under the Janus v. AFSCME decision, public sector employees have no obligation to pay these fees for the collective bargaining from which they will benefit.

To affirm the rights of workers in both the public and private sector to choose whether they will join a labor organization but also to protect trade unions with hundreds of years of history advocating for American workers, labor organizations should only be required to bargain on behalf of employees who either join the union or pay a fee which legally can only be used for collective bargaining and any relevant litigation and may not be used for political purposes.

Proposal for Action:
The National Labor Relations Act of 1935 shall be amended to achieve the following:

I. Representatives designated or selected for the purposes of collective bargaining by a group of the employees in a unit appropriate for such purposes shall represent only that group for the purposes of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of employment provided that any individual employee or a group of employees shall have the right at any time to present grievances to their employer.

II. Employees choosing to be represented for the purposes of collective bargaining may elect to pay a fee for collective bargaining rather than joining the representing labor organization. This fee shall not exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the representing labor organization’s membership dues.

III. A fair share fee paid by an employee opting not to join the representative labor organization shall not be used for activities of the labor organization not expressly relating to collective bargaining for that employee’s unit or litigation as a result of collective bargaining for that employee’s unit.

Results to be Expected:
An amendment of the National Labor Relations Act will serve to protect the rights of workers without crippling the membership and abilities of American labor organizations.
Proposal #149

Author: Anna Duncan, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
Work For Your Rights Act

Major Areas to be Affected:

All U.S. Citizens currently collecting welfare, taxpayers, American Bureau of Labor

Justification:
The United States spends $445 billion annually on government assistance programs, which is 5.6% of our annual budget. 43% of people who signed up for welfare have been in the system for more than 3 years which costed the federal government over $1 trillion. Mandating that welfare recipients perform community service hours to be eligible for welfare is not an uncommon system and has been seen to lower welfare recipients. This system is seen in Germany and over the past ten years German citizens requiring welfare aid fell by 9.2%. The American Bureau of Labor reports that there are 6.7 million open jobs and 6.4 million unemployed Americans to fill them. The American economy has a hole that can be filled with American labor to restore the economy. With effectiveness in the German population, the United States can adopt a similar system to lower its current 42% of welfare receiving citizens to a number that saves tax dollars and furthers the American economy.

Proposal for Action:
The following actions will occur:
Citizens currently collecting welfare will still be provided with benefits that they already receive such as their monthly check and compensated child care. This will be added to the drafted legislation
The federal government will create a system for welfare recipients to sign up for community service tasks. Welfare recipients will have to complete eight (8) hours of service a day for five (5) days a week with a normal lunch break of one (1) hour to mimic a work setting. This will be specifically added in the legislation as appears in the above sentence.
The federal government will set up a system for hours to be reported and verified at the end of every month. This will be added to the drafted legislation.
Failure to complete and report the required number of hours will result in the recipient not receive welfare aid.

Results to be Expected:
Less welfare recipients, less tax dollars spent on welfare, lowered taxes, positive impact from community service, jobs to be filled, less economic strain and disparity
Proposal #183
Author: Chase Patterson, Delegation: Texas

Title:
To protect the rights and safety of the American people by securing funding for trade unions.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. citizens, employees, employers and Trade Unions

Justification:
Trade unions, also known as work unions, are unified groups of workers within a specific profession with the goal of improving the working conditions of each person, both in their workplace and in the community. These organizations have secured a number of rights, such as overtime pay, minimum wage, improved treatment of immigrant workers, health coverage, retirement pension, unemployment insurance and maternity leave, as well as numerous other rights that uphold the dignity and efficiency of the American worker. Trade unions derive their funding from a mix of worker donations and government subsidies. Union funding and the rights that unions protect, however, are under attack by a collection of policies known as Right To Work (RTW) laws. RTW laws are in place in 27 states across America and limit the amount of funding that goes to trade unions making donations to unions optional. While this may seem altruistic, it actually has disastrous results. RTW laws not only cripple the good work that can be achieved by unions, but they are also a leading factor in the gender pay gap. The states with RTW laws have a 36% higher average number cases of discrimination. On a practical level, the arguments for RTW laws consistently fail under examination. Allowing workers to choose whether or not they want to support the unions that advocate for their rights and safety greatly minimizes the worker’s ability to perform efficiently.

Before RTW laws, unions were immensely powerful forces for good. In the 1940s, union efforts led to a 45% increase in wages, per capita. This percentage was dwarfed a decade later when unions increased wages by 56%. These great successes were met by similarly great amounts of membership. During this period, one in every three workers belonged to a union. Today the ratio of union workers to non union workers is one in every twenty. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the decline of unionization has affected men by leading to a decrease of $100 billion a year in lost wages in the private sector, and it has afflicted women with a loss of $24 billion a year. The lack of union jobs also accounts for 1/5 of the wage inequality women that in the work place are forced to deal with. Through comprehensive action, unions can and will be as great as they once were.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal seeks to accomplish the following crucial goals:
1. Federally abolish Right To Work laws in every state
2. Secure taxpayer subsidies for unions
3. Overturn Supreme Court ruling Janus v AFSCME

Results to be Expected:
The expected result of this proposal is massive empowerment of workers both politically, by giving them a voice to fight for themselves, and economically, because unionization is followed by a rise in the economic power of workers in the unionized area. By allowing unions to freely advocate and increase the number of members within their organizations, an immediate impact will be an average weekly rise of more than $200 a week to the wages of newly unionized workers as well as an average $225 rise monthly to all workers.
Title:
This proposal will remove Medicare, the federal program that provides health care to United States citizens over the age of 65.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States citizens over the age of 65 who are currently receiving health care through Medicare and taxpayers will be affected.

Justification:
Medicare is counterproductive as taxpayers are paying for every senior citizen—whether they are rich or poor. By taxing citizens who need every penny of their money, Medicare is putting them at risk for needing financial assistance, which continues the cycle of government-funded health care. Medicare also eliminates incentives to save money for healthcare during retirement, because informed citizens know that the government will ensure them through Medicare. In 2018, Medicare cost $582 billion (14 percent of total federal spending) whereas Medicaid spending was $557 billion in 2017. More money is spent on healthcare for the old rather than health care on the impoverished, who really need it.

Also, a citizen earning around $45,000 annually is estimated to pay $316,000 in total towards Medicare taxes. Average spending on a Medicare recipient annually is $16,043. If this middle-class citizen did not have to pay the Medicare income tax, they would have a secure amount of money for their retirement, and Medicare would not be needed.

Proposal for Action:
To remove Medicare, a federal health care for United States citizens over the age of 65.

Results to be Expected:
United States’ citizens over the age of 65 who are currently receiving health care through Medicare will no longer do so. Although, if a citizen over the age of 65 needs financial assistance paying for their healthcare, they may qualify for Medicaid, a mean based health care program for those below the poverty line. Furthermore, taxpayers will have lower taxes as less of their money is needed to fund government health care.
Proposal #253  
Author: Arushi Mandal, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Federal Paid Sick-Leave Program for Victims of Physical and/or Sexual Abuse

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Human Services, U.S. Department of Health, Individual state workers (with the exception of employees in the construction industry employed under a collective bargaining agreement, per diem healthcare employees, and public employees who already have sick leave benefits.

Justification:
Physical and/or Sexual abuse is not a gender issue. It is not a socioeconomic issue (although often times it can be more prevalent among those with lower socioeconomic statuses). It is does not discriminate. And it is most definitely not a party issue. Anyone can be affected by physical and/or sexual abuse.
And people are affected daily. They say every 92 seconds an American is sexually assaulted. That means every 92 seconds, someone faces extreme horror that they should never have to experience at all in their lifetime. That means every 92 someone carries an experience with them that they will live with for their entire lives. That means there are victims from our everyday lives that walk amongst us, while we remain blissfully unaware.

But being blissfully unaware is not enough. It is time we aid the victims around us in more ways than are currently existing. Today, a paid sick leave programs do exist but only in, New Jersey, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Washington D.C., and each state law has different provisions, because there is not a Federally mandated system. (Paid Sick leave within these states can range anywhere from 5 days to 2 weeks).
By implementing a Federal Paid Sick Leave program, we are ensuring that all workers have the access to medical, mental, and financial assistance, so that they will not have to worry about constantly suffering with the burden of physical and/or sexual abuse.

Proposal for Action:
New legislation shall be implemented at the Federal level such that a Paid Sick Leave Program for victims of physical and/or sexual abuse:

Potential receivers of the paid sick leave policy must qualify for this program by fulfilling one of 2 requests: 1.) Showing paperwork (restraining orders, divorce papers, etc.) or any other legal documents that indicate evidence of physical/sexual abuse and action taken to remedy abusive situations. 2.) Or by undergoing a physical/psychological evaluation administered by medical professionals licensed in the country. 3.) Or by undergoing a “rape kit” also known as a Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) in order to provide authorities and businesses with evidence, if needed. In which if a victim is seen to have experienced trauma of both a physical or mental nature, they can be granted two months of earned sick leave (the amount of pension will vary from person-to-person).

Receivers of the two-month paid sick leave program must show efforts to remedy their situations in ways such as: 1.) Showing paperwork (restraining orders, divorce papers, etc.) or any other legal documents that indicate evidence of physical/sexual abuse and action taken to remedy abusive situations. 2.) Or, showing signs of professional medical help including: i.) Physical help, or medical check-ups that ensure the safety and the wellness of physical health through a series of treatments. ii) Psychiatric help, or medical visits that ensure the safety and wellness of mental health through group therapy, counseling, and other meetings authorized by a licensed and practicing individual.
Certain penalties will be granted towards companies who are seen to have not upheld the standard of paid sick leave for victims of physical and sexual abuse. (Not “upholding the standard of paid sick leave” includes failure to provide paid sick leave to individuals who qualify for it [see Section III.] or failure to provide necessary compensation to individuals who are on paid sick leave.) The companies’ penalties include: 1.) A fine that will not only cover the cost for the victim(s) who did not receive compensation during their paid sick leave, but an additional cost for the U.S. Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Labor (for the costs of the psychiatric/physical evaluations). Or 2.) Potential jail time for employers within the company.
Certain penalties will be given to individuals who fake their said abuse and take advantage of the two-month earned sick leave benefit.
These penalties will include: 1.) A fine that will not only cover the cost of the paid sick leave but an additional fee for trickery and manipulation of people administering a policy within a workplace. (i.) For every year that the fine is not provided to the proper recipient, interest will be added on top of the original fine each month until the fine is paid (ii.) If the fine is not paid within a year then it will result in the manipulator receiving jail time determined by a state court of law.

Results to be Expected:

If this program were to be implemented across the country, the results would include but not be limited to: better mental/physical health state of workers, improved worker efficiency, increased trust between employees and employers, and increased access to counseling, legal services, or medical treatments.
Title:

A proposal to increase employment opportunities for ex-convict re-integration into society.

Major Areas to be Affected:

1) Ex-Convicts - individuals who have committed criminal offenses or misdemeanors
2) Public & Private Prisons - public prisons: prisons owned and operated by the local, state, and federal government, funded by tax payers, and required to make certain information public; private prisons: prisons maintained/operated by a third party contracted by a government agency (ultimately funded by tax payers as well).
3) Local, State, Federal Government & Corporations - whose hiring procedures/forms will be modified to eliminate disclosure of non-violent criminal offense history for all applicants and to eliminate blanket occupational license bans that automatically disqualify ex-convicts.

Justification:

To offer perspective, the USA enjoys the largest criminal incarceration rate worldwide. Moreover, according to a 2018 Bureau of Justice report, about 68% of ex-convicts are re-arrested within three years of release. This degree of recidivism - the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend - is caused by a host of factors, arguably the most important being the lack of economic stability stemming from persistent unemployment. When employed, ex-convicts will be less likely to resort to illegal activity because they will be able to pay for food, shelter, and personal amenities and will have less idle time. In fact, systematic rejection of ex-convicts by employers decreases the USA’s gross national product by $80 billion annually, and the Pew Research Center has intimated that decreasing recidivism by a mere 10% could save states about $635 million per year.

This proposal strives to address two key economic barriers that impede ex-convicts’ re-integration into society: 1) disclosure of non-violent criminal offense history on job applications and 2) blanket occupational license bans that automatically disqualify ex-convicts. In the USA, only about 12.5% of employers will even accept job applications from ex-convicts, regardless of their crimes. However, there is evidence to suggest that employers hurt themselves by passing over applicants with criminal backgrounds, as a National Retail Federation study found that ex-convict hires save an average of $746 in lower turnover costs while are virtually no more likely to be fired for misconduct. By the same token, there are about 30,000 licensing restrictions for ex-convicts nationwide, thousands of which allow licensing boards to reject ex-convicts outright due to their history. Most ex-convicts pose no legitimate threat to public safety and eliminating blanket-bans on occupational licenses will force licensing boards to examine every applicant on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, the USA, in the best interest of the country and its citizens, must strive to help ex-convicts become productive members of society.

Proposal for Action:

I. Eliminate disclosure of non-violent criminal offense history on public and private sector job applications. (violent crimes: homicide, domestic violence, rape, battery, sexual assault, robbery, arson, false imprisonment, and assault; nonviolent crimes: theft, embezzlement, fraud, tax crimes, drug-related crimes, alcohol-related crimes, prostitution, racketeering, gambling, bribery)
II. Eliminate state and federal occupational license bans that automatically disqualify all, a certain number, a certain percentage, or certain subset of ex-convicts.

Results to be Expected:

After implementing this proposal, the USA should experience the following benefits nationwide:

1) Decreased recidivism.
2) Decreased state and federal prison spending as a result of decreased recidivism.
3) Reduction in number of total inmates and public & private prisons due to less incarceration.
4) Increased economic productivity for the USA’s public and private sector.
Proposal #288

Author: Bishop Elisoff, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:

whistleblower protection enhancement act of 2019

Major Areas to be Affected:

The FBI, DOJ, CIA, and Congress.

Justification:

Whistleblowers are vital to democracy. Without whistleblowers, the world would be a much less transparent place.

Yet we as a country offer little to no protection to those who fight for transparency in our government. Despite the good intentions behind The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, and it's enhancement in 2012, both acts were far too confusing to follow and committed set up to interpret the laws are under federal investigation for not doing their job.

My proposal aims to fix major flaws that were seen in these previous acts through creating a system where whistleblowers would be able to report their concerns directly to congress. Creating a safe and secure system for said whistleblowers to report Misuse of funds, ethical violations, etc.

Proposal for Action:

1: intelligence committees will be tasked with creating a classified, secure intake system for whistleblowers to reach Congress directly and confidentially with their concerns.

   a: If a whistleblower can prove the system to be ineffective, they will be protected if they use the media as a channel.

2: Whistleblowers acting in the best interest of the public will be immune to civil lawsuits, in order to prevent financial retaliation.

3: Congress will be tasked with releasing annual unclassified reports of what it has done with whistleblower complaints. Due the topic, many of these complaints would be classified, so the committees would only be tasked with including the total number of complaints, the number the committee found merited further action, and the number of retaliation complaints that the committee received.

4: Auditing the committee will be tasked to the Government Accountability Office

5: In addition to any rights provided under section 17 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, section 8H of the Inspector General Act of 1978, or any other provision of law, an employee or former employee of a covered agency may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against (including by denying, suspending, or revoking a security clearance, or by otherwise restricting access to classified or sensitive information) as a reprisal for making a disclosure.

Results to be Expected:

Whistleblowers will be able to better and more safely shed light onto various aggressions committed by the US Govt. Allowing for the government to function in a higher and more ethically secure manner.
Proposal #309  
Committee: C  
Author: Pavel Shirley, Delegation: Alabama

Title:

Medicare Part E

Major Areas to be Affected:

Insurance Corporations, Medicare, State Medicaid Agencies, the Uninsured, Employers, Medicaid, CHIP

Justification:

At this point, it is almost cliché to point out that the United States stands virtually alone in the developed world by not guaranteeing access to Healthcare. The current American system is uniquely privatized leading to unacceptably high costs for incredibly poor outcomes. The US spends the most per capita on healthcare in the developed world but ranks far from the top in terms of outcomes or accessibility. Even among those that are covered, 41 million Americans are underinsured, meaning their out-of-pocket costs exceed 10% of income. Additionally, 28.8 million Americans have absolutely no insurance.

At much the same time the debate over healthcare has never been more convoluted. Proponents of universal coverage often ignore the fact that, internationally, healthcare is almost never a single-payer system, and essentially no country has gone so far as to abolish private insurance. Additionally, most Americans who receive healthcare from their employer are satisfied with their care. For these reasons, and simply out of a desire to help more Americans, a comprehensive, Medicare-based approach that focuses on giving Americans choices is the best approach. This proposal does exactly that by guaranteeing high quality, universal healthcare without forcing Americans off their plans or destroying industries that provide thousands of jobs.

Proposal for Action:

All lawful permanent residents in the United States will be eligible to register for a “Medicare E” plan. All newborns and people above 65 will automatically be enrolled in a Medicare E plan. Anyone lacking health insurance will also be automatically enrolled in a Medicare E plan. Premiums would be paid through tax withholding or on tax returns. Anyone who is not required to file taxes will pay no premiums. Families with income up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) would pay $0 in premiums. Between 150% and 500% of the FPL would pay premiums ranging from 0% to 10% of their income, those with income above 500% of the FPL would have their premiums capped at 10% of income. Deductibles will be capped at $350 for an individual, $500 for a family, out-of-pocket costs are capped at $3,500 for one person and $5,000 for a family.

Anyone without healthcare will be automatically enrolled when they file taxes, collect public benefits, or attempt to receive care without insurance. They will then remain indefinitely enrolled until they provide proof that they have acquired a healthcare plan.

Medicare E would provide the following benefits: primary and preventive services, hospital services (including emergency services), ambulatory services, prescription drugs and medical devices, laboratory services, maternity, newborn, and reproductive health care, mental health and substance use disorder services, habilitative and rehabilitative services, dental, vision, and hearing services, early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services for children. Medicaid and CHIP will be integrated into Medicare E.

Employers will be required to provide healthcare that meets the same standards as the Medicare E plan, or they will be required to pay the costs of the Federal Government’s coverage of those workers. Employers will also have the option to transfer their workers to Medicare E. Small employers, defined as employers with fewer than 100 full-time employees, would not make any payments. They will have the option to provide no coverage, qualified private coverage, or Medicare E.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be renamed the Center for Medicare (CM). Beneath this organization, a new one called the Center for Medicare E (CME) will be created to administer this program. This center will have the same protections from partisan influence that the current CMS and future CM enjoy.

Medicare E would be funded by the following steps. Repealing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts of 2017, raising the rate on earned income
over $400,000 to 60%, raising the tax on capital income to 35%, raising the gas tax by 12¢ over two years and indexing that increase to inflation, raising the top estate tax to 45% and closing the Grantor Retained Annuity Trust loophole, limiting deductions to 28% for incomes above $250,000, creating a 19% tax on multinational earnings that those companies could then repatriate without any further taxation, create a .1% Financial Transaction Tax on Securities trading, raising an excise tax on cigarettes by 50¢ per pack and a tax on sugared drinks equivalent to 1¢ per oz. States would also be required to make payments to Medicare E equal to the amounts they currently spend on Medicaid and CHIP. These payments would adjust annually by the growth in GDP per person plus .7%. States that refuse these maintenance of service payments will not receive funding from the Mental Health Services Block Grant program, Social Services Block grant program, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant program (Federal Health Centers Program), State Targeted Response to Opioid Crisis Grants, Community Services Block grants, Section 330 grants, and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grant program.

Additionally, by choosing an option that does not abolish private insurance and that imposes Medicare rates on doctors and hospitals costs would be significantly curtailed. The inclusion of what would formerly have been Medicaid plans into Medicare E additionally means that states will not pay any more than they are currently paying for Medicaid.

Results to be Expected:

Simply put, this proposal will guarantee high quality, affordable healthcare to all Americans. It would do this while also eliminating underinsurance, providing protections for chronic disease and expanding access to life-saving drugs and treatments. The costs the Federal Government pays would be significantly constrained by the use of federal bargaining power to set prices on services and drugs.

Universalizing healthcare would allow the United States, its workers, and its businesses to focus more on other issues. Currently, healthcare costs place significant strains on the abilities of corporations and people to provide investment for their communities and the country. Perhaps more than any other single policy proposal, Medicare E would help level the playing field between the United States and economic and political competitors around the world.

Either through encouraging Americans to have regular screenings or simply allowing them to afford insulin, Medicare E would save lives. Additionally, Medicare E would put an end to denial of care which kills between 44,000 and 80,000 Americans a year.
Title:
Amending the Family Medical Leave Act to Support Parental Bereavement

Major Areas to be Affected:
Family Medical Leave Act; United States Department of Labor; United States employers; United States employees; parents who have experienced the loss of a son or daughter

Justification:
As it stands, the Family Medical Leave Act allows eligible employees to take up to twelve weeks of leave per year to address serious health conditions, care for a newborn child, recover from illness, or care for an ill family member. However, the Family Medical Leave Act provides no protection for people who are facing one of the worst experiences that anyone can endure—parents who are grieving the loss of a child. Discretion to allow parental leave in the United States is left to the employer, and the average bereavement time allotted to grieving parents by employers is three days. Because of this, grieving parents in the United States, who have already experienced the unthinkable, are often forced to choose between taking time off to grieve and keeping their job.

Proposal for Action:
Amend the Family Medical Leave Act so that it extends protection to employees who are grieving the death of a son or daughter.

Results to be Expected:
Although increased bereavement time will in no way allow a parent to fully recover from the death of their child, it will allow parents who have lost a child adequate time to grieve. Giving these parents actual time to spend grieving will help them grieve their losses and return to work, thus creating a far more productive work environment for all.
Title:

Single Payer Healthcare

Major Areas to be Affected:

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the medical/pharmaceutical industry, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Justification:

There has been equivocation, backtracking, and false information for decades. It’s time to cut to the chase: the United States of America needs universal, single-payer healthcare. Desperately. Every developed nation on earth has implemented universal healthcare, and the results speak for themselves. The United States has the highest infant and maternal mortality, highest rate of HIV/AIDS, the lowest cancer survival rate, and the lowest life expectancy of the entire Western world. Additionally, Americans pay more for healthcare than anyone else on the planet, even when you factor in the taxes citizens of other Western countries pay for their healthcare. Additionally, pharmaceutical companies charge massively inflated prices for drugs that are cheap to manufacture without fear of repercussion. All these forms of sickness within the American Healthcare system can be traced to a common cause: the lack of universal, single-payer coverage.

The most fundamental truth that has become evident under the American healthcare system is that the market does not work in a system where optimal results are mutually exclusive with profit. What this means is that healthcare is an industry that has proven itself to fail when presented as a free market. Similar to guaranteed education, first responders, and defense attorneys; healthcare is such a vital service and universal need that who receives it should not be determined by income.

Insulin prices have risen 200% over the last 20 years. EpiPen prices have risen 500% in the last 10 years. Private insurance premiums continue to rise, becoming unaffordable for many Americans. A car accident, broken arm, or appendicitis can be enough to devastate future plans. America is the only developed nation on Earth where this is the case. Barack Obama’s ACA, a plan that forces uninsured Americans to buy into subsidized private markets, has been wholly ineffective at reducing the expense and terror of the American health system. The only answer is to adopt what the rest of the world already has: a healthcare system that prioritizes citizens’ health over their dollars.

Universal healthcare would make Americans more financially free. Americans would be free to get sick or injured without putting their lives on hold, free to live without fear of succumbing to a preventable disease due to inability to pay. Americans would pay less for healthcare, our tax dollars going to a fairly negotiated, nonprofit system instead of a for-profit free-for-all. With 56% of Americans relying on employers for coverage in the status quo, more people would have the opportunity to start their own businesses, take an internship needed to advance their careers, or engage in passion projects. Employers would no longer feel an obligation to spend money on employee health plans, and thus would be able to invest more into their business and our economy. In a country that has always encouraged an entrepreneurial spirit, universal healthcare is what America needs to show its citizens they are still free to pursue their dreams. Ultimately, universal healthcare is not just good for our physical health, but our wallets and our freedom.

Proposal for Action:

The DHHS will implement and supervise a universal healthcare system. The Affordable Care Act will be scrapped, and private insurance and pharmaceutical companies will negotiate with the government as a single payer rather than millions of small payers that exist on the current exchanges. All private insurance plans will immediately be replaced with universal coverage, meaning any American can receive all vaccinations, yearly checkups, and treatments to medical issues listed as “common” by the CDC for free. Speciality treatments and medications for less common conditions will be subsidized up to 75% of the new cost negotiated by the federal government following adoption of universal coverage.

This plan would be paid for in part through a progressive tax that scales with income and is taken out of paychecks, identical to how social security payments are made. This plan would also receive funding by returning to a pre-1980s tax structure on the ultra-wealthy, with income over $10 million being taxed at 70%, and income over $1 billion being taxed at 90%.
Results to be Expected:

Americans will be closer to the same standard of living as citizens of every other developed country on Earth. Americans will have higher life expectancies, higher disease survival rates, lower infant and maternal mortality rates, and greater access to healthcare. Americans will be free to pursue economic opportunities without feeling tethered to their employee health plans, while employers will be better able to invest in the economy. Americans will be healthier and freer.
Proposal #462
Author: Carter Nugent, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
Increasing Transparency of Billing in Hospitals

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Medical System; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Hospital Patients and Their Families; Health Insurance Companies; County, State, and Federal Hospitals; Private For-Profit and Non-Profit Hospitals.

Justification:
Since 2001, exorbitant hospital bills have contributed to two thirds of all bankruptcies in the United States. Additionally, detrimentally high medical bills in America are such a pervasive issue that more than 30% of American families experience financial burdens due to medical bills at any given time. Mainly, hospitals charge such high prices due to the frugal nature of insurance companies. According to Medicare cost report data, hospitals billed patients $3.14 trillion in 2015, however they only collected $897 billion in revenue, about 29.7% of what they billed. Most private insurance companies will refuse to pay for procedures they consider unnecessary, leading to a lower cost for both the insurance company and the patient through what is referred to as an “adjustment fee”. This fee is never paid for by either the insurance company or the patient, rather the cost of unnecessary procedures outlined in this fee is simply deducted from the amount of money that a private insurance company must pay, and is thus written off as an “adjustment fee”. For citizens without insurance, however, additional costs written off as adjustment fees are paid in full. This is because people without insurance are not aware of their ability to negotiate with hospitals privately in order to lower total charges due to some procedures being unnecessary. By simply being unaware as to their rights and abilities, families without insurance often pay over $10 billion a year in supplemental costs that patients with insurance would never have to pay. This issue is extremely important considering one third of all Americans have no health insurance or very little health insurance, and thus are susceptible to being charged an unreasonable hospital bill at any given time if an accident were to occur.

Furthermore, hospitals increase prices for non-medicinal goods used during procedures and recovery to cut losses accumulated due to “adjustment fees”. For example, the average price of a pair of latex gloves at a private or public hospital is $53, despite the wholesale cost of that same pair being three cents. Price inflations such as this one, only raise the wildly over-inflated cost paid by Americans not covered by insurance. In order to solve the price gouging of the average family’s wallet, everyday Americans must become aware of what exactly they’re paying for.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will redefine the means by which hospitals must be transparent with their patients and will also mandate that hospitals hold insured and uninsured patients to the same standards. Under the purview of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHS), the following provisions will be implemented:
1. Hospitals must provide a comprehensive report of all goods and services for which they charge their patients during procedures and recovery: this report must be attached to the final bill patients receive, allowing them access to a detailed account as to what exactly they are paying for.
2. Hospitals must hold independent patients to the same standards to which they hold insurance companies, so as to encourage equal opportunity for Americans with and without insurance when it comes to the negotiation of medical pricing and payment. Under this proposal, holding all patients to the same standards will also outlaw hospitals from charging patients without insurance more than 10% what they charge insured patients after adjustments.
3. A committee will be established under the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee the unfair pricing in hospitals. This committee will establish and run a website with information as to what normal prices are for certain products and procedures, and will also create a ‘complaint form’ that all people will be able to fill out if they believe their bill is an unjust amount. If any concerns are raised about the predatory pricing style of specific hospitals, the committee established under the DHS will have full authority to enact a withdrawal of federal funding or a revocation of such an institution’s general hospital license, however all consequences will be decided on a case by case basis, and will only be relative to possible allegations.
Results to be Expected:

By increasing awareness regarding how to negotiate on pricing, everyday Americans will gain the ability to pay smaller premiums while still receiving the best possible medical care. Holding insurance companies and patients to the same standards will eliminate the ability for uninsured Americans to get taken advantage of. While this proposal will limit revenue provided to hospitals, it will not lead to a definite profit, as hospitals have, on average, a profit margin of 8%. In a nation very much divided by socio-economic status, this equal opportunity proposal will pave the way for all Americans to have access to standard medical care for a reasonable price.
Title:
To Promote Unions and Simplify Worker Organization

Major Areas to be Affected:
Unions, Private Business, Individual Workers Rights, Wages

Justification:
At a time when corporations frequently set aside the needs of workers to pursue more profit, unions are needed now more than ever. The pursuit of more profit has led to employers depressing wages, disregarding worker safety, and implementing unfair and sometimes discriminatory policies. Unions have been proven to be one of the best ways to fight against this.

Union membership peaked in the 1970s and has steadily declined since. This decline is correlated with the decline of middle-class real earnings and the dramatic rise in wealth inequality. Since the 1970s wages have also been stagnant for much of America, in part due to the declining membership of unions. Workers in unions make on average 30% more than their non-unionized counterparts and have better benefits including better healthcare and more paid time off.

When trying to form a union, the largest obstacle for workers will always be the employer. Since the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, companies have been able to actively oppose efforts to unionize. Corporations like Walmart, McDonalds, and Amazon, just to name a few, constantly run aggressive anti-union campaigns in an attempt to suppress any effort to organize.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will include the following provisions:

1. Employers are forbidden from waging an anti-union campaign of any kind whether workers are in the process of forming a union or not, including the following:
   a. disseminating anti-union material of any kind
   b. attempting to dissuade workers from voting for a union
   c. directing or paying anyone to oppose unionization efforts

2. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) will certify a union without a vote if a majority of employees have signed authorization cards.

3. The NLRB shall hold a union vote if 20% or more of workers, but no more than half sign union authorization cards.

4. The NLRB shall conduct random audits of workplaces to ensure that the employer has not broken any law regarding union or anti-union activity.

5. When a workplace is in the process of unionizing the NLRB shall conduct interviews with employees to ensure that the employer has not broken any law regarding union or anti-union activity.

6. If the NLRB finds any employer in violation of any of these provisions, it shall issue a penalty of no more than $100,000 per violation. If an employer continues actions that the NLRB finds to be in violation of these provisions, the NLRB may refer the case to the Department of Justice for a contempt of court charge.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal would make unionizing easier, providing workers better ways to voice their concerns and to fight for themselves. With more unions, we can expect to see wages rise, benefits increase, and workplace safety violations and accidents drop. The unions will create a fairer and more inclusive workplace that can fight against unfair and unjust practices by their employers.
Title:
To prohibit prior criminal convictions unrelated to the conduct of employment from being considered in the seeking of employment.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Employers, individuals convicted of a crime.

Justification:
Despite representing only approximately 5% of the global population, the United States hosts approximately 21% of the global inmate count, with our total incarcerated count having increased from roughly 500,000 to over 2.3 million over the past 40 years, as per the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). In addition, the Marshall Project reported that of the individuals released from prison within the past eight years, 32% were convicted of another crime and 25% were re-incarcerated. Factoring this into the annual release rate from federal and state prisons of approximately 600,000 inmates (National Institute of Health), approximately 150,000 released inmates are re-incarcerated in a given year. With an average inmate housing cost of $33,000 annually, this recidivism costs the American taxpayer $4.95 billion dollars annually.

The causes of this re-incarceration are rooted in the quality of inmate life post-release. Since nearly every employer runs a criminal background check before hiring, a conviction stands as grounds for discrimination and a further obstacle for minority employment. In a study conducted by the Prison Policy Initiative, over 27% of formerly incarcerated people were found to be unemployed, with individuals of color facing a rate of 39.4%, a stark comparison to the national rate of 3.8% (as of March 2019). The study also found offenders to be actively discriminated against as much as 50% of time, leaving little options for work post-release. Seeing as long-term unemployment is found to cause symptoms of depression and detachment (as reported by the NIH) and the prevalence of mental illness is 1 in 5 inmates (BJS), unemployment serves as a stressor for recidivism.

While the presence of a criminal background serves as a testament to an individual’s character, it certainly should not define who they may become and where their future lies. In a study of military enlists conducted by Social Forces, a journal corroborated by Oxford University, it was found that those with criminal records were promoted more quickly and to higher ranks than other enlists. Another study by Johns Hopkins Hospital reported a lower turnover rate for applicants evaluated strictly on merit and criminal relevance. The results of these studies show that despite their criminal record, formerly convicted individuals have value in both merit and the performance of their employment.

To effectively rehabilitate the lives our formerly convicted and dampen the likelihood of a return to crime, we cannot obstruct the path to a more reformed life. Thus, our fight for overall equality must extend to the lives of offenders.

Proposal for Action:
For each the 32 offense groupings categorized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and each of the 23 major occupational groupings categorized by the Federal Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, the U.S. Department of Labor shall determine whether a particular offense grouping is occupationally relevant to a particular occupational grouping. Employers employing in a particular occupational grouping may not inquire about or consider offenses deemed irrelevant to their occupational grouping.

Results to be Expected:
While crimes deemed relevant will still be considered in the employment process, unemployed former offenders would no longer be discriminated against for crimes unrelated to the employment they seek. Studies outlining the benefits of employment, being a sense of purpose, attachment, and responsibility (NIH), point towards improved inmate integration. As a result, reduced recidivism and lower taxes are expected.
Proposal #481
Author: Katie Lindley, Delegation: New York
Committee: C

Title:
Mandatory Paid Parental Leave

Major Areas to be Affected:
Family and Medical Leave Act, employers, working parents, children of working parents

Justification:
When discussing the wage gap between men and women the phrase “equal pay for equal work” often comes up. While this form of discrimination is evident, strictly sex based differences in pay aren’t the largest cause for the pay gap. Previous causes for the pay gap included a lack of education in women, a lack of women in the workforce, and a lack of access to higher paying jobs. Now that women have increased access to higher education, are working in greater numbers, and are taking jobs that pay far more than assembly line workers or secretaries the main limitation on a woman’s salary is the societal expectation that the women bear and must raise children. The pay gap doesn’t necessarily target women as much as it affects mothers. The modern pay gap is a pay gap made from choices. Iceland has come very close to closing their pay gap in recent decades. They did this by making parental leave easily accessible with a law guaranteeing three months of non-transferable maternity and paternity leave and allowed an additional three months to be split between the couple.

An unexpected benefit of paid parental leave is that it actually benefits the health of the child. According to the University of Washington, in other countries, women have had more time and opportunity to breastfeed, leading to a lower infant mortality rate, as well as lower risk of diabetes, obesity, respiratory issues and asthma. Other health benefits include a higher immunization rate and overall maternal health improves with paid leave.

Proposal for Action:
The Family and Medical Leave Act will be expanded to include 12 weeks of paid parental leave. This leave will be granted to all legally recognized parents after the birth or adoption of a child prior to their sixth birthday.

Results to be Expected:
The use of paid parental leave has seemingly limitless benefits. First, the health of mother and child increases when paid leave is used. However, the largest benefit of paid parental leave would be the gradual close of the pay gap between the sexes. If both men and women are expected to take the same amount of time off, women will be less left behind when it comes to time and work and promotions. When the same paid leave is presented to all parents, there is an equal playing field in the workplace, as well as socially.
Title:

To mandate transparency in wage/salary allocation from employers to employees.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Businesses, employees, employers, the American people.

Justification:

The equal pay gap is an issue that appears to be intrinsic to the American labor force despite being outlawed. As a result, necessary legislation must be brought forth to further decrease the disparity between employees of different genders performing the same job. Though the removal of attitudinal barriers pushes the disparity closer to zero each coming year, policy refinement and development is an empirical - and often overlooked solution - to a nationally persistent problem. At face value, the federal outlawing of unequal pay between employees performing the same job seems sufficient enough to rectify the equal pay gap issue; however, it is more than obvious that more legislative change is necessary and current laws are largely ineffective when put into practice. Certain problems that various past federal and state legislation have not addressed in relation to the causes of the equal pay gap are employee expectation of wage based on gender and the lack of salary/wage transparency. While much research has contributed to explaining the many concrete factors that cause this disparity, 62% remains wholly unanswerered, but policy experts believe that, relating to the question of salary history, forcing the question of salary history keeps pay inequality in its place by allowing pay discrimination to follow women to their various places of employment; this is due to the fact that women are generally paid less than men, according to a University of Chicago study. Additionally, the equal pay gap thrives in secrecy. While there are no laws banning discussing salaries in the workplace, seeking out the salaries of coworkers puts employees in the vulnerable position of reaping the consequences of inquiring a coworkers’ salary, without even the guarantee of them obtaining it. Without transparency, women often do not even realize they are being underpaid as they do not have the means or information to fight it. While the pay gap pervades for reasons known to us, action must be taken towards closing it by means already proven to be effective and feasible.

Proposal for Action:

The United States will adopt legislation that bans the prohibition of employees discussing salaries and allows the sharing of salary history by aspiring employees to employers in the hiring application process - and throughout the tenure of their employment - to be made optional.

Results to be Expected:

The results will compel more workers that feel they are being paid unfairly - often based on race, ethnicity, gender, etc. - to be unafraid in the workplace to come forward with their claims. This proposal will also inhibit unequal pay through the secrecy of salary to thrive. Transparency will increase the rights of workers nationwide and ensure that the workplace is a comfortable setting, rather than one that causes grief by exacerbating issues of inequality.
**Title:**
An Act to Maintain the Standard of Living

**Major Areas to be Affected:**

**Justification:**
A typical US family (2 adults, 2 children) need to work 4 full time minimum wage jobs to have an income that is considered liveable, this is about 76 hours per week per adult. This is causing a lot of American families to have problems making ends meet. In 2017 the poverty rate was 12.3%, with many Americans living just above what is considered poverty in the US. Minimum wage has not been raised since 2009 where federally it currently resides at $7.25. The living wage in the United States in 2017 was at $16.07.

**Proposal for Action:**
Every year minimum wage for the US would be raised the same amount as the reported consumer price index (CPI). (For example, if the reported CPI was 3%, then minimum wage be raised 3%.) The CPI as reported by The Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the December 12 month review will be the baseline for the minimum wage. All businesses would have to raise their minimum wage workers to the federal level, 90 days following the release of the December CPI for the previous year from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Any employer/business not following these standards will be subject to normal minimum wage violation penalties.

Minimum wage for the first 10 years after the first year this proposal goes into effect would be raised 2% more than the reported CPI due to years of not raising the minimum wage. If after 10 years the minimum wage is not at a livable wage, the 2% will continue for 5 more years. After that time the minimum wage will return to just going up at the rate of the CPI.

If the CPI for a year is negative the minimum wage will not be risen or will not be lowered in order to maintain the standard of living and economic stability.

Minors under the age of 18 would be exempt from the federal minimum wage, instead the minimum wage for this group of people would be 75% of the federal minimum wage.

**Results to be Expected:**
Lowered amount of poverty, increased economic spending, larger middle class, better standard of living, long run economic stability and growth.
Proposal #545
Author: Isabela Baghdady, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
Minimum wage requirement for H-1B foreign workers.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public and private American businesses, foreign workers, and American workers.

Justification:
Under the H-1B visa program, American businesses can obtain visas that allow them to employ highly-skilled foreign workers in positions where there is a shortage of American workers. These foreign workers enter and work in the United States for a maximum six-year stay. However, in recent decades some companies have abused the H-1B visa program by replacing American workers with foreign workers who are subsequently underpaid and exploited. An effective way to protect both the American worker and foreign worker would be to establish a minimum wage that would both deter displacement of American workers and protect the rights of foreign workers.

Proposal for Action:
Amend the Immigration Act of 1990 to include a $90,000 yearly minimum wage for all H-1B workers.

Results to be Expected:
More highly-skilled positions will be filled by American workers. Foreign workers will be employed only where there are actual shortages of American workers and will receive just compensation for their work.
Proposal #554

Author: Brandon Witbrod, Delegation: Wyoming

Title:
Medical Expenditures Overhaul

Major Areas to be Affected:
Hospital spending, Health Insurance Rates, General United States Populace

Justification:
The administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, estimate that 30 to 50 percent of all health care spending can be described as waste-activity that provides no benefit to patients.

Pharmaceutical companies, despite supposed monopolies, are not capturing exceedingly high profits. There is no doubt that the high cost of new drugs is an important issue, although arguments can be made that the prices charged for life-saving medicines can be more than justified. However, pharma profits are not greatly increasing as a result.

The average return on equity for key industries from 2014-2016 shows that biopharma’s profits stand at 16.2%, significantly lower than Computer Sciences (31.6%), Beverages (27.4%), Aerospace/Defense (23.0%), and Trucking (19.1%).

Proposal for Action:
All Hospitals and Pharmaceutical Industries in the United States must decrease their expenditures OR rates charged to their clients or research by a minimum of 25%. This decrease will be given a year upon passage to reach the financial mandate by the proposal. To coincide with the decrease in medical costs, all Health Insurance organizations must decrease their premiums and deductibles for all clients by a minimum of 15%. Health Insurance organizations will have one extra year following the hospitals to meet the financial mandate through the proposal.

Results to be Expected:
All Medicinal actions or drugs can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars for the Average person. Even though there is health insurance for most people, premiums and deductibles have to be astronomical to meet the financial needs for all parties involved. By forcing all health care professionals to cut the costs that are easily considered a completely wasteful portion, more people will have better access to the most effective health care available.
Title:
Incentivizing Health Classes in Grades 9-12 in Public School Districts

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Department of Education, Department of Treasury, I.R.S.

Justification:
According to a study conducted from 1990-2015, the United States has maintained the highest teen pregnancy rate in the industrial world. Nearly 750,000 teen pregnancies take place nationwide every year. Young, sexually active individuals frequently find themselves without the resources or information to uphold healthy sex lives due to socioeconomic inequalities or societal pressure. Currently, only 24 states and the District of Columbia mandate sexual education.

Along with having the highest teen pregnancy rates in the industrial world, the United States also holds the highest teen STD rates. According to a study in 2012, 1 in 4 teenagers contract an STD before they reach the age of 20. This same study showed that the highest Gonorrhea rate was found in women between the ages of 20 and 24, while the second highest was found in women between the ages of 15 and 19. Adolescents ages 15 to 24 account for nearly half of the 20 million new cases of STDs each year. STDs frequently have no obvious symptoms, meaning that until action is taken to ensure the safety of sexually active teenagers, they will continue to be exposed to these commonly life-threatening dangers.

In 2015, there were 788,000 suicides worldwide. The United States accounted for 45,000 of these deaths. A 2016 study showed that 8.6% of youths in grades 9-12 had made a suicide attempt in the past 12 months. A study by the World Health Organization showed that for every 100,000 people in the U.S., 19 commit suicide. 20% of adolescents in the U.S. have a diagnosable mental health disorder, while an estimated 67%-70% of youth in the juvenile justice system may have a diagnosable mental health disorder. Suicide was found to be the third leading cause of death among adolescents in America in a study conducted in 2014.

Proposal for Action:
Grant incentives (incentive model: Dept of Edu. Teacher Incentive Fund. CFDA#: 84.374A and 84.374B) will be provided to the public school districts which teach a 9-12 health class with the following curriculum requirements:
- Semesterly comprehensive sex ed classes taught to all students in grades 9-12. Parents will have the option to opt their children out of the class
- Non-abstinence only sexual education including information on various methods of birth control, how birth control functions, accessing birth control methods, safe sex practices for the LGBTQ+ community, and anatomical education
- Education on HIV, HPV, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, herpes, Hepatitis, and Scabies
- Mental health education: Signs of depression, anxiety, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, treating mental illnesses, common warning signs, affordable and accessible resources for minors, abusive relationships, sexual abuse, and consent.

The amount given in the grant will be determined according to the income of the school district and the teen pregnancy rates and STI rates in the district. (E.G. A low income school district that has a high teen pregnancy rate will recieve more funding than a high income district with a low teen pregnancy rate. This does not mean that the curriculum or the frequency of the class varies between districts, it simply means that districts with higher rates or lower income will be given an easy way to conduct the class without economic strain.)

Results to be Expected:
With installment of this proposal, the adolescents of the United States will be properly educated in order to to engage in safe sex, lowering teen pregnancy rates along with STD rates, and similarly be educated about mental health disorders so as to reduce the risk of suicide, depression and anxiety rates in the U.S., as well as aid students who are seeking accessible care.
This proposal also aims to address a prominent socio-economic issue among minority and low income families. By providing a grant to incentivize comprehensive sexual education for all students in grades 9-12, low income school districts will receive the proper funding to conduct sexual education classes without being forced to redirect money going to other programs within the district.
Proposal #053
Author: Bailey Vanderwalle, Delegation: Florida

Title:
To remove Department of Education funding for For Profit Charter schools within the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public Schools, For Profit Charter Schools, the Department of Education, K-12 Teachers, K-12 Students, Parents of K-12 Students.

Justification:
For Profit Charter schools open schools with the business model of taking federal and state money and using it for purposes other than funding schools. For Profit Charter schools take advantage of federal and state money and turns those funds into profits. These For Profit Charter schools have a Profit Managing company that oversees the financial aspects of the schools and serves to attain as much federal and state money as possible, and then turn that money for a profit. The presence of For Profit Charter Schools drives up the federal and state cost of education due to necessary staff duplications based on an increased number of district funded schools, which in turn leads to higher tax rates. $253.35 million dollars in grants have been awarded to Charter schools across the nation in the past year alone. Charter schools are exempt from certain regulations and requirements that public schools are subject to, simply based on the school’s charter (contract), which only the school and the local school district have input on, which also affects funding. Not only do For Profit Charter schools use federal and state dollars to turn a profit, they use money that could be spent on lower budget schools within their respective school systems.

Proposal for Action:
The Department of Education will no longer provide grants to For Profit Charter schools or allocate funding for For Profit Charter schools. The money that was previously allocated for these schools and these grants is going to be reallocated into grants supporting low income schools by the Department of Education budget.

Results to be Expected:
The presence of publicly funded For Profit Charter schools will decrease which should lead to an increase in the populations of local Public schools and Private schools over the three to five years after the removal of funds as For Profit Charter schools close or convert to Private Schools. Local and state education budgets will see increases due to the reallocation of Department of Education funding for For Profit Charter schools.
Proposal #077
Author: Nicholas Wilcox, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
To create a program to provide musical and instrumental education and opportunities to underprivileged children in urban areas in order to provide a safe an educational environment for the children.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Department of Education, urban area residents and their children

Justification:
In today's America it is all too easy for a child, particularly in dense urban areas, to fall down a path that leads to drugs, crime, and worse. It is important that we provide these children an opportunity to advance their life in a positive way. In most public schools, the music education departments lack the resources and means necessary to provide a full educational opportunity to the students. Music can be an outlet for anyone to express themselves, and oftentimes children never realize the power of this outlet. To make a safe space something that children want to stay involved in, then you must create a way for them to stay invested in the program. Music can be that reason for children to keep coming back, as music is a medium where anybody can express who they are and what they are feeling.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal is to create programs in urban areas with more than 5000 people per square mile and an average annual family income of $55,000 or lower that provide music and instrumental education and opportunities for children. These places can act as a safe haven for children and as a place of education. They would be able to learn about playing and making music in these facilities.

Results to be Expected:
The purpose of these programs is to provide a safe space for children to express themselves and learn in urban areas. It will also help with bringing back music education to children, as many schools do not provide adequate education in that field. With children having a safe place to develop without the negative influences surrounding them on the streets they can become better and more productive members of society.
Title:
An Addition to the Clery Act

Major Areas to be Affected:
This will affect K-12 Schools that receive federal funding, grade school age students, and K-12 teachers and administrators.

Justification:
Prevention of sexual assault on campus has been a main topic in recent years. The debate is usually centered around specifically college campuses. The issue of sexual assault in k-12 institutions is rarely talked about. According to a 2011 study by the American Association of University Women, in a given school year, 58 percent of 7th-12th graders experience sexual harassment. The Clery Act passed in 1990 after Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old Lehigh University student, was raped and murdered in her campus hall of residence in 1986 by Joseph Henry. The Clery Act requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses. Under the Clery Act, a bill of rights for survivors of campus sexual assault, requires colleges and universities — but not K-12 — to do the following: notify survivors of counseling resources, notify survivors of the option to report a case to either the school, law enforcement, or both, and provide academic or living accommodations, such as changing dorms, classes, etc. Institutions are required to report crimes such as murder (including nonnegligent and negligent manslaughter), sex offenses (forcible/nonforcible, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking), robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, and arrest.

Proposal for Action:
The Clery Act will be completely revised to now include all K-12 institutions that receive federal funding. K-12 teacher and administrators will receive Clery Act training under the already established Clery Center Membership program. Compliance will continue to be monitored by the United States Department of Education, which can impose civil penalties, up to $54,789 per violation, against institutions for each infraction and can suspend institutions from receiving federal funding. All remaining requirements of the existing Clery Act will remain the same.

Results to be Expected:
The Clery Act has been the driving force to protect victims and make campuses safer since colleges first published annual security reports 25 years ago, this will only continue. The addition to this act will now make K-12 schools a part of this statistic. This will not only educate teachers and administrators on how to properly deal with these issues, but it will add resources and security for the students.
Proposal #132
Author: Aastha Singh, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
To educate teenagers about the dangers of vapor product usage and cut down on the number of teenagers using vapor products.

Major Areas to be Affected:
All vapor product users, US teenaged public school children, US school districts, US public high schools, Department of Education, Department of Health & Human Services (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), Food and Drug Administration, distributors of vapor products (companies, LLCs, websites, and individuals).

Justification:
Teenage vaping has become a huge problem in our country. It has become so big that US Surgeon General Jerome Adams declared it an epidemic in December 2018, and can grow even worse if not addressed promptly. 37.3% of high school seniors admitted to using vapor products in 2018, a startling increase compared to 27.8% in 2017. The grasp of this epidemic, however, stretches beyond high schoolers. 10.9% of eighth graders admitted to using vapor products in 2018. The surge of teenage vaping can be attributed to a number of factors: appealing packaging, interesting flavors, peer pressure, ease of concealment, accessibility, and misleadingly reduced health concerns.

The effects of vaping on teens can be incredibly detrimental. The prime ingredient in most vapor products is nicotine, an addictive chemical. One vapor juice pack can have nicotine levels equivalent to that of one pack of cigarettes. Nicotine has been shown to increase adrenaline levels and blood pressure, making the user more prone to having potentially fatal heart problems. Other ingredients include propylene glycol, glycerol, and diacetyl, which are all linked to various diseases in the respiratory and circulatory systems, including cancer. The flavoring components used have been found to harm, inflame, and even kill cells in blood and lymph vessels.

Proposal for Action:
The US Government will work to create a committee of trained professionals to oversee steps taken to end the teenage vaping epidemic. These steps will include the following:
1) Offering incentives to school districts to add units on the risks of underage vaping in their high school biology or health curriculums
2) Requiring all online vapor product vendors to verify consumers’ ages with an approved database before proceeding with transactions
3) Airing television commercials, creating billboards, and placing advertisements in various online social media platforms (such as YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter) that describe the various risks of underage vaping
4) Informational booklets and pamphlets will be provided online and in the offices of medical professionals that detail the risks of underage vaping and how to stop
5) A website, Instagram page, Twitter page, YouTube page, and Facebook page will be created and will be dedicated to educating people on teenage vaping
6) Require all online vapor product vendors to clearly detail the ingredients in their products and the risks associated with them

Results to be Expected:
The general US public, especially teenagers, will be more educated about teenage vaping and the risks that come with it. The number of teenage vapor product users will decrease, and by default, so will the number of people with respiratory and circulatory diseases, and nicotine addictions.
To mandate a computer science course in K-12 education.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The US Department of Education, teachers teaching in US schools, curriculum writers for each state, State Education Departments, the American people

Justification:

Despite the projected growth of 15-20% between 2012 and 2022, the vast majority of computer science jobs will be pursued and filled by men. In the US girls account for more than half of all Advanced Placement (AP) test-takers, yet boys outnumber girls 4:1 in computer science exams. Women make up 57% of all undergraduate degrees, 42% of all undergraduate math and statistics degrees, 40% of all undergraduate physical sciences degrees, but only 18% of all undergraduate computer and information sciences degrees. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that by 2020 there will be more than 1.4 million computing-related job openings. At current rates, however, women will only fill about 30% of those jobs with U.S. computing bachelor’s graduates. Without women adding their own ideas and thoughts America loses 50% of their populations contribution. Mandating computer science classes could change that. However, currently only 34 states and the District Of Columbia allow computer science to count as a math or science graduation requirement, and the number of high schools offering AP Computer Science is down 35% since 2005.

Proposal for Action:

The following shall be instituted:

1. The US Department of Education shall require that a computer science course be offered in K-12 education.
2. State Departments of Education shall pick a curriculum for the computer science course.
3. State Departments for Education will enforce the institution of a computer science course in all schools in the state.
4. The schools will mandate the course and hire new teachers to teach the course if deemed necessary.

Results to be Expected:

The enactment of this act will increase the amount of females working in computer science jobs.
Title:
A Proposal to Federalize the Education System

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal and State Departments of Education, Local School Boards, Schools, Teachers, Students

Justification:
The US consistently ranks lowest among developed nations for standards of education. For science and language comprehension the US is considered average. For mathematics, the US is considered below average. Additionally, the overall quality of education varies from state to state depending on the importance of education to the legislators within that state. The 14th amendment guarantees equal treatment under the law for all citizens of the US, regardless of where they live. Inequity in funding and quality of education is a clear violation of this principle. Inequities in funding stem directly from a lack of centralization in the education system. Differences in overall quality of education vary from state to state because the states are allowed to determine what is important to teach. Using the powers set forth in the "Necessary and Proper" clause of the Constitution, an act of Congress could federalize the education system and remedy the basic inequities that plague our schools.

Proposal for Action:
Congress shall pass a law stating that the federal government will take over as the main provider of education in the country. State Departments of Education and local School Boards will be reduced in their role but not completely eliminated. The federal government will now control funding, standard setting, and other basic functions of the school system in the US. Employees of the state and local entities whose jobs have become obsolete due to the new centralization will be hired as employees for the federal Department of Education (DOE). Teachers will now be considered federal employees. The new major focus of state and local educational entities will be to administer regulations and standards passed down from the federal government. Additionally, state and local educational entities will be asked to assist the federal DOE in the following ways:
- Monitor salaries of teachers and administrators and report the need for any change in salary due to an increased cost of living
- Help determine standards that are specific to that state (ie: state history requirement)
- Provide additional administrative staff when needed
- Run all local career preparation programs (ie: career centers)
In order to properly fund the new school system, all revenues currently being used for education will be transferred to the federal government. Additionally, several other funding mechanisms will be implemented to ensure each school is given adequate resources to educate students. Initially, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 will be completely reversed. This should generate an additional $4 billion per year. Capital gains will no longer be taxed at a different rate than income. Capital gains will be taxed at the exact same rate as standard income (tax brackets apply). In 2018, more than 60 Fortune 500 companies completely avoided paying taxes to the federal government. Exploits in the tax code that were used to make this happen will be amended or eliminated to prevent this from happening again. It is unknown how this will affect revenue.
Higher education will also be affected by this plan. This proposal will more adequately subsidize public higher education, including trade and tech schools, by using current state-level funding for public schools to eliminate the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. Every student in America will pay the price of in-state tuition. This will be additionally funded by changing the Department of Defense budget from zero-sum to rolling. Additionally, all payments made towards tuition, room, board, and textbooks for college will be 100% tax deductible. This is expected to decrease revenues generated by the federal government by around $80 million. To make up for the gap seen here, a cap of $1 million will be placed on the deductions from incentive-based bonuses. This is expected to generate an average of $100 million annually. Any gaps in revenue generation will be covered by the gradual rollback of subsidies for fossil fuels and the creation of a 45% marginal tax bracket for those making more than $10 million per year.
The plan will be implemented over a four year period to allow state and the federal government to determine how to transfer the responsibility of education to a more central government. The centralized system will distribute funds to each public school equitably to ensure that no school is left behind in access to resources. Each school will teach to the same standards so that no student is disadvantaged by location. This overhaul of education is costly, but the measures in this proposal ensure that it is at least revenue
Results to be Expected:

- As a result of the centralization of the education system, schools across America should see both equitable levels of funding and quality of education.
- Average teacher salaries should increase. Average funding per student should increase.
- The US should score higher on its adequacy of education.
- Higher education should become more accessible to the general public.
- Student loan debt should decrease drastically.
- The economy should overall be more productive and efficient.
Proposal #216  
Author: Sonja Tesdahl, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
Providing comprehensive and inclusive sexual education in all secondary schools.

Major Areas to be Affected:
This will affect companies that design and sell classroom curriculum, schools, teachers, and students.

Justification:
Hundreds of studies have shown that well-designed and well-implemented sex education can reduce risk behavior and support positive sexual health outcomes among teens, such as reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates. It has also been proven that by addressing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ+) related stigma and discrimination, including differences in sexual experiences and variations between the different variables that determine biological sex and gender, will improve health outcomes and the development of LGBTQ+ youth.

Proposal for Action:
Schools across the United States will institute sexual education curriculum that is representative of the experiences of all people. This will include information on sexual relationships for all identities and orientations, beyond the straight and cisgendered ones. In addition to LGBTQ+ inclusive sexual education, this new curriculum will inform students about the variety of contraceptives and the different kinds of sexually transmittable diseases and infections, replacing the “abstinence only” curriculum used in much of the country. This practice will be implemented in classrooms that currently teach sexual education and reproductive anatomy in 6-12 settings. Teachers in these classrooms will be trained on how to effectively teach these new topics, so they can properly educate their students.

Results to be Expected:
Increasing the general knowledge of the LGBTQ+ community will build tolerance and acceptance of one another. Improving the next generation’s knowledge of sexual health will reduce the likelihood of teen pregnancies, the spread of STDs, and misinformation about sexual activity.
Proposal #224
Author: Sadhika Prabhu, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
Extending Public School Days

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public schools, pre-k through 12th grade.

Justification:
There are four main reasons that our education system would benefit from an extension in required school hours: students view school as their safe space, more time to learn leads to better comprehension, it creates more opportunities for students to explore their interests and gives new teachers opportunities and allows parents to better balance their time.

For the population of homeless students extending the school day also extends the opportunity to help themselves and receive help from the school environment. Additionally school is a safe space for any student that facing abuse at home. By elongating the time these students have in school, its saving them from more time spent in an unsafe environment. It also gives all students more teacher interaction time and it is proven and logical that more class time gives more opportunity to understand what’s being taught and which can be used towards improving academically also helping close the achievement gap. Education is the stepping stone to improvement so it’s important to make that stone as big as possible. Many students also don’t even know what they want to pursue because they have filled all their class slots with required classes. Alongside the youth, adults will have opportunities greet them as well. As space opens up new electives can be offered and the teachers who are hired to teach during these new class slots are given a new job and community to get involved in. Parents who work have to worry less about getting back in time for the kids or finding a sitter for them.

Proposal for Action:
Extend required normal school times later into the day by eight hours at any school that is defined as a public school or a free tax-supported school controlled by a local governmental authority. The definition of “normal” school days means days that don't include staff collaboration, homeroom or special event times. These eight hours include the required thirty minute lunch break as well as any hallway time and any recess time that may be offered at elementary schools.

Results to be Expected:
Students will perform better academically, will feel safer and will feel more confident in general about after school plans.
Proposal #227

Committee: D

Author: Dane Germany, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:

A proposal to protect the Nation's High School student's by securing them in State Public Boarding Schools.

Major Areas to be Affected:

National Guard, Teachers, High School Students, High Schools, and individual state's Board of Education.

Justification:

Since 2009, 288 school shootings have taken place in the United States. This number is over 57 times as high as all other industrialized nations combined. Also, the number of homeless youth in America has increased by 70% in the over the past decade. Every day more and more student's die due to school shootings and problems with alcohol and drugs. 80% of High Schoolers say they have access to illegal substances if they desire. We need to protect High school students across the nation by securing them with the force an entire state has to offer. Countless students live in abusive homes or are homeless. These schools would offer sancturay for millions of youth across the nation. Student's who live without fear of school shootings or dying by overdose can better experience high school and be further set up for life to come.

Proposal for Action:

All 50 United States as well as Guam and Puerto Rico will eliminate public high schools. Each indiviual state will set up a state-wide public boarding high school. Each compound will be divide into several smaller schools to maintain student individuality. Students in grades 9-12 will be required to attend unless they are not a part of the public school system. The schools will be walled and guarded by a sub-section of each state's National Gaurd. Student's will be subjected to search upon entry, but no further inspection will take place on school grounds. Teacher's will remain unarmed. Students will be allowed to leave campus in the afternoons, weekends, major U.S. holiday's, and term breaks. However, they will be searched upon re-entry. Ciriculum and Educational material will be provided and overseen by individual Boards of Education.

Results to be Expected:

There will be an expected lower instance of school shootings/bombings. As well, a lower instance of drug and alcohol abuse among the student population. Also, an increase in student poverty success (such as those who are currently homeless).
Title:
To require all residents of the U.S. to pass a bilingual target language proficiency test in order to graduate high school or obtain a GED.

Major Areas to be Affected:
All future students to be enrolled in United States schools.

Justification:
A constantly rising number of Hispanic immigrants from Mexico into the U.S. has established Spanish as a contender for the most valuable language to know in the world. However, despite foreign language requirements being enforced to graduate, few people actually learn a language well enough in high school to use it fluently. As the number of bilingual Spanish as a first language individuals is on the rise. Bilingual English as first language numbers slowly decline. In Europe, monolingual individuals are in the minority to bilinguals (19%) trilinguals (25%), and people who know four or more languages (10%). In contrast, the U.S. only boasts 27% of its population as bilingual. Increasing the number of bilingual students in the U.S. will work in two ways by ensuring all incoming immigrants will be learning English fluently while also creating better communication avenues for people who already know English.

Proposal for Action:
My proposal will force education systems across the country to implement long term integration of bilingual studies into the early, medial, and ladder years of every student's education by requiring each student to pass a Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLP) while attending any year of high school in order to guarantee widespread bilingualism of young Americans in the next few decades. The student will be administered a BTLP by the state which will consist of English and Spanish. If the student knows another language fluently or has a first language which is not Spanish or English, they may request a BTLP which consists of English and the language which they choose.

Results to be Expected:
If conducted and enforced properly, taking widespread action to guarantee a future of cultured, educated, and bilingual Americans will increase the success yield of our education systems and increase the efficiency of our labor force. Socially speaking, bilingualism has the potential to generate connectivity in communities where language barriers currently exist.
Proposal #305  
Author: Harvey McGuinness, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
To Expand the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act such that Being Gifted is a Qualifier for an Individualized Education Plan

Major Areas to be Affected:
- U.S. Public School Students
- The Department of Education
- United States Public Schools

Justification:
Across the United States, only a handful of states recognize being academically gifted as constituting a need for an individualized education plan. This is because, pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, only thirteen disabilities are recognized under national requirements. This is stifling the potential for an estimated 3.2 million public school students who are currently considered to be gifted and/or talented. These students require an individualized education plan in order to maximize their involvement in public education. While special gifted education programs as well as traditional 504 plans exist for students, gifted students are not mandated to have an individualized education component. Seven states have already passed extended gifted I.D.E.A. legislation, and twelve states already have a mandate for gifted I.E.P. programs, which together display not only the successes as well as the precedent of this proposal, but also how vast the education disparity is across the bulk of the United States. Millions of students with what are currently considered to be behavioral problems are actually students that are under stimulated in traditional classroom environments, and as such this proposal seeks to address those issues as well.

Proposal for Action:
The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act shall be expanded such that the criteria for mandating the implementation of an individualized education plan will now include being gifted, as opposed to the current federal law which only necessitates I.E.P’s for a student diagnosed with at least one of the current thirteen disabilities listed under I.D.E.A. For the purposes of the newly expanded Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (Pub.L. 101-476), being gifted shall be defined as “students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities,” per 20 USCS § 7801(22). Students meeting such criteria will henceforth have legal footing for initiating all procedures related to the convening of an I.E.P meeting and the creation of an I.E.P. This shall not change the age limitations of the original I.D.E.A. legislation; i.e. students in primary (elementary, middle, as well as high school) education will be able to qualify for such education plans. An I.E.P may consist of materials from preexisting gifted programs offered by the school the child is attending, and as such may include state-based provisions, but this proposal will not create a “generalized” gifted I.E.P mandate: rather, schools must abide by the preexisting I.D.E.A. legislation now with respect to accommodations deemed necessary for gifted students. A student may qualify as gifted per state assessment, provided that assessment is in line with the definitions herein stated with respect to advancement.

Results to be Expected:
Upon the expansion of the possible qualifications for an I.E.P. under I.D.E.A, gifted I.E.P.‘s will become a mandated aspect of national gifted student programs. This will lead to both an increase in the demand for teachers and the demand for administrators who comprise special education departments. Consequently, the new national gifted I.E.P. program will also lead to a more comprehensive educational system, as students previously off of I.E.P’s which they now qualify for will be advanced within their traditional curriculums, and behavioral issues from a lack of educational stimulus will also diminish.
Title:
To create a constitutional right to guarantee every citizen an education that is fair and equal

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States Constitution, state constitutions, public schools, state laws, state and local governments, citizens and residents of the United States

Justification:
As stated in Article 28 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, “States Parties recognize the right of the child to education”. Although the United States has signed the UNCR, it is not a party to the document and is the only UN member to not do so. Not only is education recognized as a right by most of the international community, nearly all of the world’s countries include the term “education” in their constitutions. Every country that bests us in the education rankings either has a constitutional guarantee to education or has ensured the right through an independent status. The United States has yet to recognize education as a constitutional right. With the current system, the 10th amendment shifts the control of education to the states and the 14th amendment is supposedly deemed as sufficient to guarantee an equal education. Yet, educational inequalities have persisted.

In the 1973 case San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez, the plaintiffs filed under protection of the equal protection clause under the 14th Amendment. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the method of funding public education through taxes in Texas does not operate to the peculiar disadvantage of any suspect class and that education is not among the rights afforded explicit protection under our Federal Constitution. It held that education was not a fundamental right under the Constitution. Of the few cases that have made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, not a single one has managed to secure a majority ruling in favor of an argument that there is an implied right to an education in the Constitution. Since this case, federal litigation over educational rights practically vanished in the past half century and has since shifted towards the states.

As of current, the disparities in our public schools have continued. Public school funding has shrunk over the past decade. Data shows that 31 states spend less, as much as 23 percent, on education now than before the recession. Large achievement gaps have failed to substantially shrink, and our overall performance falls well below our international counterparts. According to the 2017 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), he current national achievement gap ranges from 0.6-0.8 standard deviations. This means that many of our students are 1-3 years behind in their schooling. These disparities tend to vary by region, state, and county, allowing for students from marginalized groups to suffer the most. Many states don’t even guarantee the same type of education for its students, thus allowing for many students to fall through the cracks and propelling the rampant inequality that persists.

Proposal for Action:
In order for reform to be enacted, a Constitutional amendment shall be created. This amendment will state the following:
No citizen of compulsory education age shall be denied the right to an education of equal high quality. Compulsory education defined as schooling between the ages of 5 and 17. Educational opportunities shall not be denied to any citizen, irrespective of their ethnic origin, age, wealth, or place of residence. All citizens shall receive a full-time education, either in a traditional school or by any other means that is appropriate for their age, ability, and aptitude, taking into account any special needs they may have.

Results to be Expected:
If a true right is established, soft forces and hard law can begin to fundamentally alter the immense flaws of the education system nationwide. We have seen this exact phenomenon play out time and time again, especially with countries with an education system ranked higher than the United States. The absence of a constitutional right to an education has been the main reason many of these cases on equal educational opportunities have failed in the Supreme Court. When a firm right is established, the disparities, such as funding, achievement gaps, and resources, can be solved on a federal level.
A proposal to require every public school board in the United States to have at least one high school student representative.

School boards across the country

Students can spend up to six hours or more a day at school, allowing them to develop a valuable perspective on what goes on at their school. Significant issues can develop in our schools and be unseen by parents, teachers, and even the administration but students know first hand what happens at their school. This act does not replace adults, their input, or their authority on a school board, rather it allows us as students to have a voice as well. It is simply giving students a spot at the table where decisions are made that directly affect our experience in high school and provides a voice to students that previously may not have been there. Principals, teachers, and school board members each see the school system in a different light. Students are often dismissed as passive consumers very often in the education system. But students have the potential to be co-creators and contributing members of our school systems. The student representative(s) should represent the school body with integrity, intelligence, and the desire to better their school district and in turn improving our educational system as a whole.

Each high school in the district will have the opportunity to elect one student representative and the student representative will be chosen by the student body so the students choose the candidate that will represent them best. How the election is organized is up to the schools discretion. Through that election a student representative will be chosen and put onto the school board to vote and give input on issues within the school district and other items related to the school board. The student representative(s) will not need to run for a school board seat in a distract wide race but rather the election at their school.

The results of this proposal will allow students across the country to successfully contribute in the discussions that affect us directly. For districts where this is not already in place it will finally allow students valuable and unique perspective to combat problems and solve them with thorough solutions. This proposal will positively impact school districts all around the country for years to come.
Title:
To abolish abstinence-only and fear-based sexual education and increase nationwide awareness of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Education, National Education Association, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, Education Resources Information Center, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, National Health Information Center

Justification:
The frequency of sexually transmitted diseases and infections (STDs and STIs) as well as unwanted pregnancies are increasing at an alarming rate. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that nearly 20 million new STIs occur every year in this country, half of those among young people aged 15–24 and the total estimated direct cost of STIs annually in the U.S. about $16 billion. In 2011, nearly half (45%, or 2.8 million) of the 6.1 million pregnancies in the United States were unintended. Specifically, 27% of all pregnancies were “wanted later” and 18% of pregnancies were “unwanted. The unintended pregnancy rate is significantly higher in the United States than in many other developed countries.

In other countries such as Italy, Germany, and Switzerland there were fewer than 4 teen births per thousand babies born. Experts point to the generally progressive approach to sexual education in the countries listed above as well as Sweden, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Belgium, all of which reported between 5 and 6 teen births per thousand people. This is due to the in depth and comprehensive sexual education taught in these countries. For example, in Germany, sexual education is mandatory and taught at a young age. Teachers put less emphasis on the dangers of sex. Instead, they focus the curriculum on teaching sex as a normal, healthy, positive act. It covers all subjects concerning the process of growing up, bodily changes during puberty, emotions involved, the biological process of reproduction, sexual activity, partnership, homosexuality, unwanted pregnancies and the complications of abortion, the dangers of sexual violence, child abuse, and sex-transmitted diseases. However, the U.S. reported around 30 teen births per thousand. The curriculum drastically varies state by state making the education inconsistent. 38 states don’t require STD education to be medically accurate and 19 states only allow abstinence education. This inconsistency is because sex ed programs are primarily funded by state and local governments whereas in the case of Germany and other countries, the programs are funded by the federal government. The lack of regulation within the educational system leads to not only inaccurate and inconsistent knowledge, but causes an increase of STDs and unwanted pregnancies due to ignorance of contraceptive means and how to maintain a healthy sexual relationship.

The social stigma around these topics has lead to misinformation as students remain uneducated. There is a taboo around talking about sex, contraceptives, and other topics that would lead to Americans living a healthier life. This inability of people to talk about these topics is leading to the hesitance of schools to teach a comprehensive course on sexual education. The failure to provide students with a thorough sexual education not only leads to a national health crisis, but also raises a generation of ignorance and stigma.

Proposal for Action:
The Department of Health will establish a nationwide sexual education curriculum
Funding for sexual education will be changed from local and state government to federal government
Implement a united standard for sexual education
This will include a comprehensive education on the topics of STDs/STIs, contraceptive methods, same-sex relationships (safe sex/contraceptives), and social stigma around these said topics
This will be taught in all high schools that receive government funding
This will be based off of the curriculum taught in Germany
The standard will be created by the Department of Health as well as a board of doctors
The board will be made up of 20 doctors
Primarily consisting of OB/GYNs (obstetrician/gynecologist), but will also have doctors of various other specialties
These doctors will be chosen by the Department of Health and undergo a rigorous screening process.
The standards will be reviewed every 10 years in order to keep the material medically up to date.
Schools are required to provide condoms and pregnancy tests in nurse’s offices for free.
This will include all high schools and colleges/universities that receive government funding.
This initiative will be funded by the Department of Health as well as donations from organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Center for Reproductive Rights, and other similar groups.
This will be under a no questions asked and anonymous policy to maintain as much privacy for students as possible.
If a student is pregnant, she must be informed of all of her options (abortion, adoption, keeping the baby, etc).
The school is not allowed to pressure the student into any decision. For example, they aren’t allowed to show false statistics or use fear tactics.
The school will only inform the parents at the student’s discretion.
Schools are required to assist their students in finding resources and information for STD testing, abortions, etc.
Information will be provided in nurse’s and guidance counselor offices.
This information will consist of different clinics and OBGYN practices in the area.
This information will also inform students how to get in contact with these places and the services they provide.

Results to be Expected:

Teenagers will receive a comprehensive and thorough sexual education in schools and this will not only decrease social stigma around these topics, but also raise social awareness of the issues of STDs/STIs and unwanted pregnancies. This will overall decrease the spread of STDs/STIs and unwanted pregnancies throughout the country.
Proposal #407  Committee: D  
**Author:** Christian Robles, **Delegation:** District of Columbia  

**Title:**

Making American schools more diverse and representative of the communities they serve  

**Major Areas to be Affected:**

- U.S. Department of Education  
- U.S. Department of Justice  
- Office for Civil Rights  
- States  
- School Districts  

**Justification:**

In 1954, the decision in Brown v. Board of Education held that the doctrine of “separate, but equal” has no place in the American education system. In the following decades, both the federal government and courts tried to uphold Brown’s promise but have been stymied by bad laws and unfavorable rulings. For example, in the early 70s, Congress passed an amendment that prohibited states and school districts from using federal funds to implement busing. More recently, in the 2007 Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that race cannot be the only factor involved when any level of government creates desegregation plans. Through these unfortunate legislative and judicial acts, school segregation is at an all-time high in the US.

Today, according to a 2019 report by the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, white students make up 48.4 percent of the public school student population. Latinos made up 26.3 percent; blacks, 15.2 percent; and Asian, 5.5 percent. Despite an increase in diversity, by 2016, 40 percent of all black students were in schools with 90 percent or more students of color which are known as “apartheid schools.” Similarly, white students continue to attend schools in which 7 out of 10 classmates are also white, a percentage that is much higher than their share of public school enrollment. Overall, more than half of all American students go to school in districts where over 75 percent of students are white or nonwhite.

The adverse effects of having majority white and black school districts is clear. In 2016, majority white school districts received $23 billion more in funding than majority minority school districts. These nonwhite districts received about $2,200 less per student than districts that were majority white. Beyond funding, studies, including one from UNC-Chapel Hill, have found that minority students in majority-minority schools tend to perform worse on standardized math and reading tests than do their counterparts in integrated schools. In a similar vein, minority students at integrated schools are 68% more likely to enroll in a four-year college than their counterparts at segregated schools. Finally, students who attend racially diverse schools are less likely to display discriminatory attitudes and more likely to work in integrated environments later on in life.

**Proposal for Action:**

Identifying and Holding School-Segregated States and School Districts Accountable:  
Tasks the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights to identify states and school districts that are extremely segregated both racially and socioeconomically. States and school districts that have already received federal court orders will automatically be considered extremely segregated.

Mandates that aforementioned states and school districts come up with desegregation plans which may include redistricting, busing, building magnet schools, managing student transfer programs, and other activities that will be approved by the U.S. Department of Education. States and school districts that are already under federal courts to desegregate will be expected to develop desegregation plans. States and school districts that do not comply with this mandate will lose Title I Compensatory Education funding.

Asks the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights to approve of drafted desegregation plans and to actively monitor its implementation.

Supporting Desegregation Plan Implementation:  
Orders Congress to appropriate funds for a desegregation grant program that will be managed by the U.S. Department of Education.
States and school districts that create desegregation plans will receive federal funds (based on factors such as degree of income inequality, student population, number of minority students, and others) to implement its approved programs.

Eliminates a federal provision that bans schools districts from using federal transportation funds “to overcome racial imbalance” or to “carry out a plan of racial desegregation.”

Reinstates the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division’s “Guidance on the Voluntary Use of Race to Achieve Diversity and Avoid Racial Isolation in Elementary and Secondary Schools,” and tasks the U.S. Department of Education with the creation of new federal guidelines that aim to diversify schools.

Results to be Expected:

Schools around America will be more diverse in terms of race and socio-economic experiences, producing more dynamic learning environments. For minority students, the achievement gap will begin to close, they will receive access to equitable resources, they will be more likely to attend college, and they will be less likely to dropout of high school. For white students, racial bias will be reduced, cultural awareness will increase, and academic achievement/critical thinking skills will improve.
Proposal #429
Author: John Bailey, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
Creating the 21st Century Education System

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Department of Education, American Students, and every member of the American workforce at risk of automation.

Justification:
America faces two incredible challenging problems that, left unaddressed, have the potential to cripple our nation to the point of no return: automation and our education system.

Automation is not on the rise, it is already here. Nearly half of all current workers have the potential to be displaced within the next few decades. At least the 15 highest volume jobs are at high risk for automation.

Our education system is crumbling. School satisfaction ratings are at all time lows. Students feel as if they are wasting their time in school, and to a large extent they are. The education system is full of perverse incentives which have led to shocking amounts of student debt and a myriad of admissions scandals as spots in colleges have become increasingly limited. Our system was modeled after the Prussian System, a factory-like model designed to create subordinate citizens and maximize productivity will diminishing creativity and student autonomy.

In a 21st century world we can no longer afford 16th century education policy. The American of tomorrow needs to be equipped for a non-linear career path, able to transition in a robust economy that will see the fruits and toils of automation. The only way to ensure a future where the positive aspects of automation are realized is through an educated population.

Proposal for Action:
My proposal is to begin a systematic change toward the education system of the 21st century.

Although education is under the jurisdiction of primarily local municipalities and the state, the Federal Government historically has been able to implement changes through directing a national narrative as well as offering different types of grants and funding methods. This can be done in several ways:

- Begin to transition the high school education model off of the Prussian Model.
- Offer rewards to public high schools that successfully employ and demonstrate success with methods that encourage mastery and discovery learning.
- For high schools that receive grants, a minimum of 45% of that funding will be allocated to teachers who adopted non-traditional learning models.
- Incentivize year-round public high schools. Traditional summers are an ineffective use of infrastructure and set students back several months upon return.
- Incentivize jobs at high risk for automation to begin the necessary retraining, allow for expanded re-education.
- Through appropriate grant funding, make vocational schools and community colleges radically more affordable. The goal would be essentially free for those below the Federal poverty line, and approximately half of the current national average for tuition ($4,834 per year for in-state students and $8,593 for out-of-state students (2018-19)) overall.
- Require proof of need for those requesting financial aid specifically from Federal funds to the community college.
- Require all those accessing funds to complete a MOOC (massively open online course) of at least 3 weeks in a subject area related to the class they are applying to, as approved by the Dept. of Education in conjunction with prominent MOOC companies.

Funding can come from a variety of sources.

The primary source will come from removing over $114 million dollars of government funded programs that are objectively less important than educating our citizens. These include the State Department allocating more than $76 million to provide stipends to the
nearly non-existent Somali army, the Agriculture Department spending more than $13 million to promote the already overcrowded farmers’ market industry the U.S. embassy in Rwanda spending more than $250,000 to teach citizens how to lobby, and the National Endowment for the Arts spent $15,000 on “theatrical research” to combat poverty, and the NIH’s $800,000 dollar study entitled, “Cocaine induces state-dependent learning of sexual conditioning in male Japanese quail.” Ventures such as these and other similar ones can be excluded from the budget, allowing over a hundred million dollars of funds available for this proposal.

The secondary source will come from the 2020 FY requested budget for the Department of Education. The outlined budget is $9.1 billion dollars under-budget due to a combination of removing and consolidating 29 redundant departments as well as further bureaucratic shrinkage. This would allow a minimum of $6.7 billion dollars to be allocated to this proposal.

**Results to be Expected:**

The American education system will finally take steps to ensuring that people of all ages have the necessary tools to flourish in a 21st century economy as well as become lifelong learners.
Title:
To ensure students receive comprehensive, medically accurate HIV and sex education

Major Areas to be Affected:
Students, teachers, the Department of Education, state education agencies, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health and Human Services, and state health agencies.

Justification:
Currently, just 24 states and the District of Columbia mandate sex education, and 34 mandate education on HIV. Only 13 states require that the information taught be medically and factually accurate. The United States has significantly higher rates of STIs and teen pregnancy, as well as lower average ages of sexual debut than other Western countries with more stringent and comprehensive sex education. By exposing students to technical information on sexual health, contraceptives, and responsibility, they are able to make better choices and have more positive sexual health outcomes.

Proposal for Action:
The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services will develop standards for sexual education. These standards will encompass the 19 critical sexual education topics identified by the Centers for Disease Control in its School Health Profiles report, such as an emphasis on communication and negotiation skills, contraceptive methods, sustaining respectful and healthy relationships, and information on how STIs and HIV are transmitted among other related topics. After adoption, state health and education agencies will develop curricula designed to enable students to meet those standards. Information included in the curricula must be medically and factually accurate, according to published authorities upon which medical professionals generally rely. As an incentive for adoption, these states will be eligible to apply for categorical grants awarded for educational programs.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal will result in students’ greater understanding of their bodies, their safety, and their choices. They will have more responsibility and awareness regarding sexuality, experiencing less shame and making fully informed and better decisions. A continued decline in STIs and teen pregnancy rates and a higher age of first sexual contact are also anticipated.
Title: Educational Equality and Equity Act -

Major Areas to be Affected:

Areas to be Affected: Corporations, IRS, Department of Education, Universities, Trade Schools, Students and Workforce.

Justification:

Justification: Although the US spends more on education than most countries our students and workforce are being outperformed by other nations. While K-12 education is funded in part from the government and taxpayers in local jurisdictions, there is still inequality for students from lower social and economic levels. Not only are we seeing students displaced due to a lack of equity and equality, but American workers is also finding themselves left behind too. Corporations are the beneficiaries the intellectual property from a pool of students and work. This proposal seeks corporations share in the cost of education the pool of citizens that will add to its profits.

Proposal for Action:

Proposal For Action: Of the $2.076 trillion that represents the corporate profits earned in 2018, this proposal seek a one percent of those profits to contribute to the education of students and workforce that will produce skilled and competitive workforce to compete in the global economy and add to its corporate profits.

Results to be Expected:

Results For Action: This proposal seeks to provide an equal education to the citizens of this country but also to provide a competitive workforce to the corporations that are the beneficiary of an educated population.
Title:
Sex Education in Middle and High Schools

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public school students, public charter school students, teachers, adults, public schools, public charter schools, curriculum makers.

Justification:
Only 24 states and the District of Columbia require public schools to teach sex education and only 8 require the classes to mention consent. This is not even half. More than half of U.S. teenagers have had sex by age 18, based on data from 2011-2015 in a report released today from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). 15 percent of high school students have had sex with four or more partners during their lifetime according to a 2011 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. High School students are having sex but they don’t know how to prevent stds, how to prevent pregnancies, and how to say no.
Teenage pregnancy - Roughly one in four girls will become pregnant at least once by their 20th birthday. Teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school and are more likely than their peers to live in poverty, depend on public assistance, and be in poor health. Children of teen parents are more likely to suffer health and cognitive disadvantages, come in contact with the child welfare and correctional systems, live in poverty, dropout of high school and become teen parents themselves.
Unhealthy relationships - the majority of U.S. public school students do not receive instruction through their state’s sex education program on how to identify healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors. 8% of High School students have been forced to have intercourse (NCCD), while 1 in 10 students say they have committed sexual violence (JAMA Pediatrics).
STI/STD risks - CDC reports that about 10 million of the new cases of STDs each year in the United States are found between the ages 15-24. Young people ages 15-24 account for 25% of all new HIV infections in the US (CDC).
The cost of everything above - according to The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, which estimates that teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least $9.4 billion annually.

Proposal for Action:
There will be a federal law mandating all public and public charter schools to (grades 6-12) to teach sex education that mentions consent and teach ways to prevent stds and pregnancies in addition to abstinence. If the curriculum does not include the necessary topics, there will be a loss equal to 7.5 % of the state’s budget for education.
Require:
Teaching of consent and how to establish it.
Education about sexual assault
How to protect yourself from STIs or STDs as a male or female having sex
Education on different types of contraception (male and female)
Words that need to be defined:
Consent - explicitly agreeing to certain activities with verbal confirmation either by saying “yes” or another affirmative statement, like “I’m open to trying.”
Sexual assault - Any sort of sexual contact without consent

Results to be Expected:
There has been research done by Douglas Kirby on prevention programs and the results showed that the programs tested delayed sexual initiation by 40%, reduced number of sexual partners, or increased condom or contraceptive use. The frequency of sex has been reduced by 30%, including return to abstinence and 60 percent of people after reduced unprotected sex.
Title:
To Give Children of Divorced Parents Power in Parental Custody Decisions

Major Areas to be Affected:
Parents, guardians, children, the American people, court systems.

Justification:
In the United States, about 22.4 million children have a parent living outside their household. Of these children, half (50.2%) of custodial parents have legal agreements of custody, officially decided by a judge. This decision of custody is currently decided by most American courts through the “Best Interests” standard, defined as a rule that guarantees “all legal decisions made to accommodate the child are made with the goal of ensuring a child's happiness, security and overall well being.” However, according to Professors of Duke University School of Law, because of its indeterminacy and the salience of qualitative considerations, the standard encourages parents to use each-others failings as evidence in the court, leading to increased hostility between them, and making it difficult for them to maintain a proper relationship to cooperate in the future in matters concerning their child. Furthermore, it is often incredibly difficult for courts to verify evidence produced by each party, and through the stress placed on parents and children during a custody battle, the judge often has to make inferences based on the relationship, character, or mental health of the parent.
The United States needs a new system to decide custody over the current system in place, more specifically, a system more reliant on the decisions and preferences expressed by the child(ren) in question. In this case, children would be given a platform to share their experiences, helping to gain specific evidence directly from the source.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. will alter the “Best Interests” standard with a new component that gives children in custody battles a voice in the decision. The specifics of this new component will be as follows:
I. Courts will be required to give children the opportunity to voice their concerns about custody at any age. This opportunity will be seen as a judge interview with the child in chambers. Parents may not be present unless by the child's explicit request.
II. Children are not required to testify if they opt out of doing so, but only if the judge deems this opting out as not influenced by parents and by the child's own accord.
III. If a child opts out and no interview takes place, the “Best Interest” standard remains as the primary decision system.
IV. This account from the child will be used, based on age, as follows: 4-6 years old have a 20% sway in the final custody decision, 7-9 have 40% sway, 10-12 have 60% sway, 12-14 have 80% sway, and 15+ have 100% sway.

Results to be Expected:
If implemented, this proposal will help to give children a major voice in the decision of custody. This will prevent children from ending up with parents and households that are abusive, neglectful, or not the child's preference. This will also help to give parental evidence more evidence to check against it to help prove credibility in court.
A proposal to mandate that all public high schools be required to make students take a minimum of a semester of comprehensive sexual education.

Major Areas to be Affected:

All public schools in U.S. states

Justification:

In the United States, there is no federal law requiring public schools to teach sexual education, these decisions are left to the states or individual school districts. This system has created a fractured educational opportunity for our young people. It has created a system where students in schools that are only 10 miles apart have access to different information about condoms or the role of abstinence. According to NBC news, “Currently 18 states and the District of Columbia require schools to provide sex education and 32 do not. In some states, such as Louisiana, kids might learn about HIV/AIDS, but not about any other STDs or how to prevent pregnancy. In other states, like Washington, teens receive information on everything from birth control pills to homosexuality.” This fractured system leads to misinformation and worse lack of information. Many teenagers aren't aware of the dangers of STDs or the responsibilities that come with teen pregnancy because they do not have access to the right information. Although teen pregnancy has been dropping, the US still remains a leading devolved nation with one of the highest amount of unplanned teen pregnancies. Overall the lack of knowledge leaves the American youth at a great exposure to STDs and unplanned pregnancies.

Proposal for Action:

Department of Education would make sexual education a mandatory graduation requirement. Schools will be required to teach a comprehensive sexual education course to all of their students

Results to be Expected:

With a more informed younger generations, the rate of teen pregnancies will continue to drop, from there STD rates would also drop.
Proposal #492
Author: Emma Koster, Delegation: New York

Title:
To increase the funding of Title 1 schools

Major Areas to be Affected:
Students in Title 1 schools, Teachers in Title 1 schools, State Educational Agencies (SEAs), Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), US taxpayers.

Justification:
Currently, the funding of public schools face great variation from district to district, with the discrepancies negatively affecting students in low income districts. A public school’s budget is determined by property taxes imposed on the occupants of its districts, so when taxpayers face lower incomes, their public schools receive less funding. Title 1 seeks to solve this problem by providing additional funding to schools with 40% or more students qualifying for the free or reduced lunch program. This program has functioned since its establishment in 1965 under Lyndon B Johnson.

By increasing the amount of federal funding allocated to Title 1, from $15.4 billion to $20 billion, pulling funding from the the United States can assist in challenging the condemned public school education faced by students who reside in high poverty areas. The increase in $4.6 billion further expands education options for Title 1 students, as the funds are designated for personalized learning, resource classes, career-oriented coursework, or increased access to post secondary level courses (such as Advanced Placement).

With the average funding of Title 1 schools currently totaling $275,000, an increase of approximately an average if $80,000 per school could fund the salary of two additional teachers, or a combination of career training, advanced, and resource classes with funds to spare.

The Title 1 program has proven to be highly successful in the past, according to the US Department of Education, who claimed that federal funding of public schools contributed to improved public school conditions, citing a significant decrease in the public school dropout rate among other reasons. In 2015, over 6.6 million public school students were revealed to have experienced a lack of funding, with lower averages of funding for students with higher rates of poverty. (US Department of Education). The poverty cycle is continually reinforced as students in high poverty areas are denied the level of education offered in neighboring, higher income districts. Title 1 seeks to solve this issue, and with an increase in federal funding, the successes of the program can continually expand to further benefit students across the nation.

Proposal for Action:
Increase the federal funding of Title 1 schools by $4.6 billion, increasing the funds sent to State Educational Agencies, then distributed to Local Education Agencies, then granted to Title 1 schools in order to increase the federal funding per student. SEAs and LEAs will be expected to continue fully funding their portion of Title 1 in order for schools to experience the benefits of the funding increase.

Results to be Expected:
With increased funding of the Title 1 Program, more public schools in low-income areas will be able to provide higher quality education, meaning that the gap between the services provided in high and low income public schools will continue to close. Fiscally, the increase in funding would have a national effect. The Department of Education’s budget is publicly funded through taxes, however the adjustment of the funding of Title 1 schools is such a fractionally minimal amount of the budget that it is highly likely the change would be indistinguishable to taxpayers. In the long run, students will emerge from their public education increasingly likely to enter the workforce or advance to higher education. The programs funded by the budget increase make students more competitive in both spheres, expanding the opportunities available to students completing public school in high-poverty areas.
Title:

Equal Opportunities For Minorities

Major Areas to be Affected:

Schools in areas with lower tax bases and higher poverty rates also affect the teacher that work in that area and the students that go to those schools.

Justification:

The disparities between public schools should not exist. It has created the education system to be unfair. Disparities between school districts have left our students behind. Many states have also adopted a model where schools that are underperforming academically are punished by eliminating or limiting funding. This model of punishing low performers sends them into a vicious cycle of underperformance and underfunding that is breaking the back of our educational system. Public schools in the suburbs are allotted more money than Urban Schools due to their higher tax base. Students in areas with higher a tax base are able to get up-to-date books, technologies, exposure to advanced placement classes, and state-of-the-art facilities. While, public schools in lower tax base areas don't have up-to-date books, technologies, and everyday essentials like running water. The quality of education is correlated to the revenue from the tax base in that school district. We have an obligation to even the playing field for school districts in high poverty areas by creating a subsidy that will bring funding up to more equal levels.

The per-pupil foundation allowance estimated for Ann Arbor public schools is 9,410 per student while Detroit public schools are getting 7,906 per student. These correspond to the graduation rates of this schools for example pioneer high school graduation rate is 94% and pershing high school graduation rate is 57%. The present evidence shows that schools with a lower tax base are being left behind. At my current school the conditions are deplorable. This I feel leads to poor in school attendance, and extremely low graduating rates.

Proposal for Action:

Congress will create a fund to supply grants to schools in the bottom 5% of performance, as measured by their state. The fund will be accessed through individual grant applications to a committee created by congress. The grants can provide for both infrastructure projects as well as funding for staff and other resources as deemed appropriate by the granting committee. To apply schools will need to provide baseline data points in areas like test scores, dropout rates and attendance records in order to track progress in these areas over a three year period. This data will be used to determine eligibility to apply for funding after the initial granting period.

Results to be Expected:

Higher graduation rates and performance rates for minority students in schools that are currently struggling. Equal opportunity for non-minority and minority students will lead to progress for all students across all groups and strengthen the educational base for all citizens.
Proposal #571

Author: Lillian Carr, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
To restructure schools’ funding and ensure student success

Major Areas to be Affected:

- Students located in low funded areas
- Educators in Corresponding Schools
- School Board Members

Justification:

America’s failing education system is plaguing society. The socioeconomic and racial status of a student has, more times than not, determined the quality of their education. The quality of a school is generally dependent on the student’s location. Real Estate values are driven by the quality of the local school system, and high quality schools drive higher priced housing, therefore students living in households with higher incomes have a better chance at an higher quality education. The opposite is also true. Students living in households with lower incomes are districted to lower quality schools and in turn have fewer educational opportunities than their wealthier counterparts. Districts need to change the way they allocate resources to schools, adopting the practice of allocating per-pupil dollar amounts, weighted based on the needs of students in that school.

According to the Washington post, school districts that are overwhelmingly white received $23 billion more than predominantly non-white school districts in state and local funding in 2016, despite serving roughly the same number of children. If schools’ funding is restructured, then students who would be districted to poorer quality schools could have a better chance at educational success.

According to U.S. News, school districts with the highest rates of poverty received less funding per student than those with the lowest rates of poverty. When researchers ran analysis to account for the needs that low poverty students need, it was proven that it costs districts 40 percent more to educate a student living in poverty than a student living above the poverty line. Similarly, it was shown that the highest-poverty districts receive about $2,000, or 16 percent, less per student than low-poverty districts. School funding should be restructured as to account for these disparities and foster equality.

To ensure that a student’s zip code does not determine the quality of his/her education, schools should be funded based on the needs of the students not on the addresses where they reside.

Proposal for Action:

The remedy of Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act’s complex and unfair method for allocating federal dollars to schools with children in poverty.

Reform Title I’s four funding formulas to create one formula that better targets schools with high concentrations of students in poverty.

Formula:

- Allocate funds to schools strictly based on pupil needs
- Terminate overfunding to schools that don’t necessarily need it

Results to be Expected:

- Consistency and increased equity in the education system
- Every student is afforded the same opportunities, opening up the opportunities currently reserved largely for white and upper-income children
- All students are given an equal chance to make progress happen in the world
Proposal #012  
Author: Jesus Acosta, Delegation: Arizona

Title:

Teens should be permitted to work entering high school with parental consent. Until they are the age of 16.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Teens, their families, and the work industry that allow these teens to work.

Justification:

Families of the teen will be able to have a better economic status with the help of their teen if they decide to do so. This will also allow teens at a young age to mature into grown adults when the time comes. These teens will be able to have a taste of what it will be like when they are adults. This is a great start for a teen's future and with a job they will be able to prioritize their way of life.

Proposal for Action:

Allow teens to have jobs entering high school with parental consent until they are 16 years of age.

Results to be Expected:

To allow teens to have a brighter and smarter future and to help out around their family or their guardian. To allow teens to have a taste of the real world so that they know that what their parents or guardians do for them is hard and is not easy. This will allow teens to become more mature if this is implemented.
Title:
A Proposal to Create a Tax Deduction to Incentivize Agricultural Growers to Diversify Their Pollination Techniques Through the Implementation of North American Native Bee Species.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Beekeepers, farmers, native plants, native bee populations, Department of Agriculture, Federal Pollinator Health Task Force (EPA), US Geological Survey, federal trade deficit.

Justification:
One third of all food eaten by humans is borne from entomophily, or insect pollination. This makes the global commercial honey bee industry worth $265 billion. However, American beekeepers are losing an average 30% of their honey bee colonies each year due to the rising prominence of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)–double the standard 15% loss rate. It is estimated that America has only half of the 5 million hives it had in 1998. In 2017 alone, beekeepers lost 40.1% of their honey bee colonies. To meet agricultural demand, in the last six years, beekeepers were forced to invest $2 billion into replacing over 10 million colonies.

CCD can be attributed to any combination of pesticides, parasitic Nosema ceranae, pathogenic viruses, and existing stressors such as varroa mites, low nutritional pollen, apiary overcrowding, or migratory stress.

Because of the increased costs in maintaining and replacing honey bee colonies affected by CCD, the price of renting/purchasing them (America’s primary agricultural pollinator) has quadrupled in price. It now costs up to $200 to rent a single hive; California is responsible for 80% of the world’s almonds and the price to pollinate its 1.3 million acres of orchards is roughly $500,000,000.

Honey bees are also amazingly ineffective pollinators. A single honey bee tends to stick to one patch of flowers in a specific location, based on the assumption that if every worker bee in the hive has its own area, all of the pollen available in a 2 mile radius will be systematically collected. However, this prevents pollen from reaching other plants’ pistils, resulting in genetic inbreeding. Additionally, honey bees carry pollen solely in “baskets”, which are small clumps of sticky hairs on their legs that often prevent pollen particles from falling off to actually pollinate other flowers. Native bees have dry hairs all over their bodies which loosely grasp pollen clusters, affording consistent pollination. The European honey bee pollinates at a rate of 5%, which is dwarfed by the 95% efficacy of the native blue mason orchard bee.

Proposal for Action:
Create a federal tax deduction for expenses related to:
- Converting agricultural lands to accommodate native bee species
- Replacing erosion control grass plots with forbs
- Reallocation of up to 30% of farmland for native plant sanctuary
- Planting hedgerows
- Using alternatives to neonicotinoid pesticides
- Seed coating
- Crop spray
- Commercial usage of native bees
- Raising stock
- Purchasing & maintaining native bees

Results to be Expected:
When applied to industrialized agriculture, pollination rates would be drastically increased. Incorporating native bees can increase crop yields due to different, effective methods of pollination. Flowering plants have varying pollination practices but the generalist European honey bee is incapable of sonication (buzz pollination). Native bees are usually specialists and have highly compatible architecture to fit the needs of specific plants. They are also immune from CCD. Net profits would increase by 40% if Californian almond farmers were to
use blue mason orchard bees as their primary pollinators. Each additional native bee species introduced to North Carolinan blueberry plants yields an additional $1.42 million to the industry. Some studies found that native bees can generate as much as ten times the revenue that honey bees currently produce. Diversifying pollinators will also countervail the negative effects climate change has on honey bee activity and subsequent agricultural output.
Proposal #037
Author: Aidan Blain, Delegation: California

Title:
Closing Trophy Hunting Loophole in CITES

Major Areas to be Affected:
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Appendix I Species, Countries with endangered species

Justification:
Currently, some of the most endangered and vulnerable species in the world are being hunted at alarming rates due to major loopholes in the international law of CITES, especially elephants, rhinoceroses, leopards, and cheetahs. The commercial trade of Appendix I Species is banned due to their rapid decline from the face of the Earth accelerated by the demand in the illicit trade of these animals. Yet, there is a paradoxical loophole in CITES that allows for these greatly endangered Appendix I Species to be killed and exported in quotas under the cover of trophy hunting. This loophole, created under the false assertion that the multi-million dollar trophy hunting industry is “noncommercial”, is increasing the rate of extinction of the most endangered species in the world and decreasing biodiversity in nature, both of which are ultimately detrimental to the stability of ecosystems.

In Zambia between 2005 and 2015, the lion population decreased from 3,199 to 264, primarily due to trophy hunting. In just five years, Tanzania and Mozambique have lost 60 and 50 percent of their elephant populations, respectively, with trophy hunting as a major cause. In a mere 18 years, 30 percent of the entire cheetah population has disappeared. There is clearly a correlation between the lack of regulation regarding trophy hunting of endangered species and the disappearance of those same species off the face of the Earth. Without these animals involved in the ecosystem, especially high-trophic level species like cheetahs, the ecosystem becomes unstable, allowing for the unraveling of natural homeostasis.

In Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, trophy hunting has been linked to the illegal trade in wildlife as well as poaching. The trophy hunting loophole in CITES enables land-grabs and revenue from hunting to benefit corrupt governments and the hunting industry with almost no revenue to local communities; the loophole gives pathways to poaching in the ivory trade and facilitates the extinction of the most endangered species in the world, leading to the breakdown of ecosystems. This loophole must be closed and trophy hunting must be banned for all Appendix I Species (the most endangered in the world) of CITES.

Proposal for Action:
All trophy hunting of species listed in Appendix I of CITES will be banned. Currently, there are over 600 critically endangered species under Appendix I out of the 5,800 endangered species listed in CITES. Appendix I Species are the most endangered among CITES-listed species. They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species, yet it allows permits to be legally obtained to hunt these animals as trophies under established annual quotas.

At the Conference of the Parties, the United States will introduce a resolution to ban all trophy hunting for species listed in Appendix I of CITES. This proposal will make it illegal for any country to import or export trophies of species in Appendix I of CITES and eliminate all legally obtained trophy hunting permits of those Appendix I Species. The established trophy hunting quotas for Appendix I Species will be eliminated and it will be illegal under CITES international law for anyone in any country to hunt, import, or export any Appendix I Species.

Results to be Expected:
If 122 out of the 183 parties in CITES vote in favor of this proposal, trophy hunting would be banned internationally among species in Appendix I of CITES. This would protect the most endangered animals in the world from being hunted as trophies while also protecting the critical balance of countless ecosystems internationally. With protection under international law from being hunted as trophies, Appendix I Species would begin to stabilize and rebuild their currently decreasing populations, avoiding extinction.
Proposal #039  

Author: Lily Azat, Delegation: California

Title:

A proposal to terminate all legal decision-making, physical, custody and parental rights from alleged sexual assailants, as well as the requirement for child support, as long as there is a presence of clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through assault.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Rape victims, children of rape victims, rapists, court system, Department of Justice.

Justification:

In this country alone, there are approximately somewhere between 25,000-32,000 pregnancies caused by sexual assault each year. This study from the University of Chicago also shows that of these pregnancies, it’s estimated that about 73% are carried to term, and a majority of those children are kept rather than given up for abortion. That leaves a majority of pregnancies resulting from rape with a child and mother whom desperately deserve protection from the law. While it may seem that in the majority of the country these protections are already given, as 43 states have a variation of law terminating parental rights of a rapist, a majority of these laws don’t provide any actual protection for victims and their children. The holes within these laws lie within the evidence requirements in place to even consider a case to strip parental rights from an alleged assailant. Many of these states require an actual rape conviction from court in order to terminate rights, whereas only 47% of rapes are even reported, and 8% of those have been determined to be incorrect reports due to incomplete information from fear within victims. That leaves so many rapists without convictions and so many potentially unsafe victims and their children. Clear and convincing evidence found within court which leads to the fact that a man sexually assaulted a women, resulting in her pregnancy should be enough in any court of law to take away any of their rights to that child. In addition, laws differ regarding the severity of sexual assault which constitutes the termination of rights, leaving some victims “not damaged enough” to deserve safety and comfort. Many of these laws also continue to require child support from the assailant even if the mother protests, and parental rights are terminated. This only forces the child and victim into an 18 year relationship with their assailant, which is not in the best interest of the mother, therefore placing the child in a harmful position. This proposal would also take away that child support requirement if the victim/mother requests. The restrictions go on and on with laws varying so far as to contain loopholes such as; a maximum number of days the rape must be reported within, exceptions if the victim and assailant lived together, or if they were married. These loopholes and variations in state law are completely unacceptable. Any human being capable of sexual assault does not deserve the right to raise and be a part of a child’s life, anywhere in the country. Regardless of state of an alleged assailant’s conviction, or the statute of sexual assault which occurred, as long as clear and convincing evidence is present proving a sexual assault resulted in a child, that child and their mother deserve protection. Any victim strong enough to defend themselves for a petition against their rapist, no matter how long ago the rape occurred, when it was reported, how severe it was, or if there is a conviction, deserves and needs protection under federal law.

Proposal for Action:

In future cases, any person petitioning to terminate the rights of a biological parent on the grounds of sexual assault which resulted in pregnancy, will not require a conviction of sexual assault or rape on their criminal record in order to gain protections for themself and their child, and will not be forced to accept child support. Under this proposal all loopholes protecting rapists and assailants will be overridden and eliminated with this system to prevent placing children in dangerous abusive situations.

Results to be Expected:

Children from the result of rape will no longer be placed in abusive and/or dangerous situations. Abusers and rapists will not have the right to see their child, make decisions regarding their life, or gain custody. Mothers will no longer be forced into long relationships with their abuser. Courts will likely overlook many more cases of custody and rape.
Proposal #065  
Author: Eric Bonar, Delegation: Indiana

Title:
Preventing Silence from At-Risk Children and Adolescents

Major Areas to be Affected:
Child Care, Education, Mental Health

Justification:
Teen suicide is at a record high today. With approximately 2 out of every 1,000 people aged 15-24 each year taking their own lives, it has taken second place as the leading cause of death for that age range. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), only about 23% of teen suicide victims had been reported to have spoken with an adult about their suicidal thoughts. Additionally, a recent report conducted by the CDC attempted to determine what percentage of child abuse and/or neglect victims had reported their situation. It was difficult to attain hard numbers, but the estimation fell at a maximum of 35%, and a minimum of 9%. Clearly, something is not working in the way American law treats its youth who deal with the aforementioned deep and complex issues. The rates of reporting should not be as low as the aforementioned 23, or 35, or 9 percent. Perhaps, the culprit might be some of the very laws states across the land have passed to protect these children--mandatory Reporting laws. Mandatory Reporting laws bind people in professions that deal with youth very often (e.g., teachers, coaches, counselors, etc.). They usually require adults who learn of possible suicidal thoughts or who even suspect, let alone hear of an abusive situation, to report the problem to the authorities. Additionally, they mandate the child’s legal guardians to be contacted in some capacity. Yet abuse and suicidal thoughts are often difficult to notice, and teens understand more than the laws give them credit for. Pennsylvania state senator Jake Corman, who sponsored the Pennsylvania version of mandatory reporting, even admitted in an interview that “the law...was really always for the little ones.” Even if teens desire to speak up about their situations or their thoughts, and they have an adult that they trust and respect, they very often remain silent, as is evidenced by the previously mentioned numbers. Teens who are seriously considering suicide will not want their parents and the police involved, and according to the CDC’s interviews as referenced previously, the most often provided reasons teens in abusive situations did not report was to avoid jeopardizing a social life and support network they had created for themselves, or risk retribution from their abuser after they are contacted. Thus, the knowledge of the Mandatory Reporting laws presents a barrier to any at-risk adolescent in seeking help or counsel from a trusted authority. The laws created with only the best of intentions for people who really need help have backfired, and this colossal societal mistake must be corrected. As a nation, a great misstep has been made. America’s youth, as this august body is well aware, are the future. In this way, the future of America is being isolated, alienated, not comforted and accommodated. Mandatory reporting laws, however comfortable they make legislators across the nation feel, are actually just akin to performing surgery with a steak knife. The situations involved are too complex to have one solution for everyone, and more people would probably show up to the lifesaving surgery if it did not involve that instrument.

Proposal for Action:
If this proposal comes into effect, adult citizens may NOT be required by any U.S. state, territory, or the District of Columbia to report suspicion of, or accounts of, suicidal thoughts and/or child abuse to the authorities. The legal guardians of the child in question may also NOT be mandated to be contacted.

NOTE: This provision is NOT in any way, shape, or form stating that adults may not report these things, simply that they may not be required to, with intent to encourage more at-risk individuals to share their problems with a responsible adult without as much reluctance. All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal has the potential to, if carried out, curtail the appalling numbers around teen suicide and child abuse reporting being seen at the moment. Even if the percentages can be increased the slightest bit; 9 percent to 10, 35 to 36, 23 to 24, this proposal will be a resounding success. If this proposal can, as it certainly will, assure that even one more at-risk individual feels comfortable to share their story with an adult, leading to his/her/their removal from the situation, all people across the country will be able to sleep a little more soundly, knowing a better job is being done providing for America's youth.
Proposal #107
Author: Olivia Vaughan, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
Banning all exotic and domestic animals in the United States circuses.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. circuses

Justification:
Exotic and domestic animals in the circus are forced to live in abuse, fear, and cruelty all to achieve what some would call "entertainment". There are currently 19 traveling circuses in the U.S. that use exotic and domestic animals in their shows. These animals, some of which would usually walk hundreds of miles each day are deprived of their native habitats to live cramped lifestyles in cages, trucks, and chains. This lifestyle causes the animals extreme stress, which in some instances has driven them mad and brought potential danger to other people as well. Animals such as elephants are poked, burned, and beat with instruments known as the bullhook to try and manipulate them to do involuntary tricks and movements. These animals who by nature are supposed to roam freely, are being abused to perform against their will out of fear of the consequences that will await them.

Proposal for Action:
All exotic and domestic animals such as elephants, tigers, lions, monkeys, zebras, monkeys, dogs, and etc. will be banned from U.S. circuses to protect their safety and well-being. Circuses may continue to perform shows with people as long as it does not include any exotic or domestic animals in the show. The animals that are currently in these circuses will be relocated to zoos in the U.S. in groups based on animal type. If circuses continue to use these animals in their shows after this bill has been enacted, then they will be punished with a Federal Class E felony which is one to four years in jail and a maximum fine of $250,000.

Results to be Expected:
By banning the use of these animals in the circus, it will stop the horrid torture these animals are receiving and help the mental health of these circus abused animals. This will allow the animals to live and grow in the environment to which they belong.
Proposal #108
Author: Grace Hernandez, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
A limitation on the number of animals being tested in the United States??

Major Areas to be Affected:
Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Disease Control (CDC), All major pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies who test products using animals

Justification:
This proposal is important because in the year 2019 we should know how the majority of chemicals react to the skin so there is no need to test it every time. Companies use the same mix of chemicals for several things including perfume, clothes plus makeup according to change.org “USA spends $16 billion dollars annually for animal testing at taxpayers' expense and is subject to massive waste and mismanagement of taxpayers' dollars. Much of this cruelty is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which allocates 40% of its annual research budget to animal experiments.” Large Pharmaceutical companies are also testing their products on animals including more than 100 million “mice, rats, frogs, dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, monkeys, fish, and birds—are killed in U.S. laboratories for biology lessons, medical training, curiosity-driven experimentation, and chemical, drug, food, and cosmetics testing,” according to PETA. Also “The number of Americans who believe that medical testing on animals is morally wrong is at an all-time high. That’s the result from this year’s annual Values and Beliefs poll, conducted by Gallup. The survey found that 44 percent of Americans fully oppose testing on animals.” according to PETA’s blog, so not only is it cruel, the expense is being passed onto the taxpayers that don't support the cause.

Proposal for Action:
To start, major corporations and government departments will have a limit to how many animals can be used as subjects each year and face a heavy fine if they exceed it. There will also be a place to bring the animals used after testing, a sanctuary or something of that nature. Alternative testing methods will also be implemented. This will start the decline in animal testing because every few years the number of animals that can be tested will dwindle down until no more animals are being tested and that change would not be instant but should be extremely small in 5-7 years and gone in ten. After that, companies would no longer be reliant on animals for testing. There will be a fine for every animal that is being tested or killed tested that was over that organization's limit. Companies will be paid money for researching new testing methods if they do not go over their limit. This money for incentives will come from PETA and major fundraisers they hold. This would start in 2022 when each company is given the limit of animals they can test on and then research for alternative testing methods will begin. Every other year from 2022 to 2032 the number of testable animals will drop so by the time 2032 comes there will be almost no animals being tested.

Results to be Expected:
I expect to see a significant decline in the number of animals tested and killed. I also expect to see companies be able to find more humane ways to test their product.
Title:
To eliminate National Parks from being included as part of Government shutdown.

Major Areas to be Affected:
National Parks in the United States.

Justification:
There are currently 411 national parks, monuments, and historical sites. During government shutdown national parks are currently included in reduced workforce. In the past 43 years, national parks have experienced over 20 shutdowns. That is almost every other year. Some of these shutdowns last only a few days to where some like the one this year latest 35 days. There are a few exceptions to the 16,000 park workers who are furloughed such as, life and property, law enforcement, and health and safety, however, these are very limited in staffing. Sewage and overflowing toilets, brimming trashcans, and trespassing are the largest issues. In 2019, parks lost more than $14 million in park entrance fees which is where most parks receive their maintain budget from. The US government does not reimburse this lost revenue. Therefore, additional shortfalls on already limited budgets for basic repairs to parks have even gotten worse. Park communities are also suffering. For a given park that has 425,000 visitors, $20 million is spent in surrounding communities. So for the government shutdown, the associated cost goes far above the salaries associated with workers.

Proposal for Action:
When the US government is looking a possible shutdown periods, National Park workers and contractors will not be included and continue working as normal. This proposal would exempt all National Parks personal from being included in government shutdowns.

Results to be Expected:
National Parks will not be left unattended, wildlife will continue to be managed and facilities such as restrooms will be maintained.
Proposal #197
Author: McKenzie Green, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
Behind the Scenes: The Life of a Circus Animal

Major Areas to be Affected:
Circuses, circus animals, sanctuaries and/or rehabilitation centers

Justification:
Animals in circuses are commonly abused by their trainers with objects such as whips, tight collars, muzzles, electric prods, bull hooks, and more. Circus animals have the right to be protected and treated humanely under the Animal Welfare Act. This act states that circus owners must provide their animals with adequate housing, sanitation, nutrition, and water. This is violated because animal’s food is often withheld until after they can perform. In addition, the circus animals are kept in cages 96% of the time, where they eat, sleep, and defecate in the same place, often resulting in sickness. One example of an extremely popular circus that does not use animals is Cirque Du Soleil. They have been putting on shows for over 30 years, and only relied on their human performer’s talent. Sometimes the animals respond aggressively to this abuse, injuring their handlers, trainers, and even the public. They occasionally escape from their train cars or their temporary enclosures, risking potentially fatal traffic accidents and injuries to themselves and others. Overall, circus animals are being harmed and they have the potential to harm our society.

Proposal for Action:
Due to the constant disregard of the Animal Welfare Act by trainers and circus owners, the use of animals will be banned in circuses. These animals will then be placed into surrounding sanctuaries or rehabilitation centers. The duration of the animals’ stay will be determined by the workers. The circuses will have a designated amount of time to release the animals.

Results to be Expected:
Animals will not grow up and live in a circus environment, yielding beneficial results to that animal. The circus animals will be nurtured back into a healthy lifestyle.
Title:
Banning all fishing on the High Seas to save endangered species.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Major Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) will be affected. Several species of marine life will be affected, including several types of tuna, sharks, and whales that migrate through the High Seas. Other creatures that live solely in the High Seas will also be affected.

Justification:

Several species of aquatic animals have been put in danger by the barely regulated fishing that takes place on the High Seas. Generally, the fishing in the High Seas only accounts for one-tenth of the global fish catch, but those fish are coming from an area that is critical to the success of the areas closer to the coast. Fishing on the High Seas isn't profitable, in 2016 there was a study done that looked at datasets from 2014 and found that of the cost of fishing was from 6.2 to 8 billion USD, but that the subsidies ended up being around 4.2 billion USD. The banning of High Seas fishing will not impact the global seafood supply too much. A recent study stated that High Seas fishing only accounts for around 4.32 million tonnes of seafood annually, which is just 2.4% of the entire global seafood supply.

Proposal for Action:

I propose a ban on fishing in the high seas, the high seas being areas of the ocean located 200 nautical miles away from the coastline. Currently, there are no regulations for what a person can fish while on the high seas. I propose that a sizable fee and possible jail time be put in place for anyone caught fishing more than 200 nautical miles from shore.

Results to be Expected:

Research has shown that when fishing is minimized and regulated, marine population flourishes. The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii, it covers the distance of over 1.5 million square miles in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Since 2006 it has been a huge success. There are many more sanctuaries around the globe that have proven to be very successful. Oceans also regulate the amount of CO2 in the air, they absorb what they can from the atmosphere and slow down climate change. Fishing the high seas alters the necessary food chain in the ocean, this solution could be the thing that restores the chain.
Proposal #222

Author: Reagan Bain, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:

Requiring Airports to Install a Sizable Bee-Friendly Garden.

Major Areas to be Affected:

At least one airport per U.S. state with an average monthly enplanement and deplanement of at least 86,000 passengers. With this change, the cities surrounding these airports could see an increase in the presence of honeybees and bumblebees, as well as wild bees.

Justification:

Bumblebees, honeybees, and various other bee species have been experiencing an extreme decline in population. This can be attributed to disease, the use of pesticides, habitat loss, and climate change. Bees are not suited for the kind of rapid change Earth is experiencing, and if left to die, an estimated one-third of all humanity’s food supply will disappear due to lack of bee pollination. Crops such as apples, pears, field beans, runner and dwarf beans, broad beans, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, and many more will see a significant hit in production if bees go extinct. Just recently, a report was released, outlining the reasons behind why one million species of living creatures are going extinct. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a United Nations committee comprised of 145 experts from 50 countries, the global rate of species extinction “is already tens to hundreds of times higher than it has been, on average, over the last 10 million years.”.

Proposal for Action:

Every controlled, major airport, major, in this case, meaning the airport with the most traffic in a single U.S. state, must install a sizable apiary within their property limits, that includes an attached garden full of wildflowers and plants native to that state. The apiary or bee garden will house at least 24 hives, and contain 500,000 bees. Each airport will be tasked with employing expert beekeepers and gardeners to keep the apiary fresh and safe for the bees and take necessary precautions for the visitors if the airport should decide to allow visitors into the garden. Partnerships between local beekeeping organizations are encouraged. Within the garden, no pesticides nor any harmful chemicals may be used.

Results to be Expected:

As seen in the case of the Seattle-Tacoma airport, unused green space at the end of and around runways can provide a prime location for an apiary. Since June of 2013, the Sea-Tac airport has been home to over 500,000 honeybees. Raising bee colonies in a controlled, yet open environment is a means to assuring a hardy, disease resistant bee population for the future. This is accomplished through the introduction of genetically diverse subspecies of bees, which is fairly simple. Overall, the process of installing apiaries around the U.S. is an action that will only benefit the world and all of those in it.
Proposal #249
Author: Taylor Lipski, Delegation: Model UN
Committee: E

Title:
To reduce cosmetic animal testing internationally through diplomatic action and trade incentives

Major Areas to be Affected:
Cosmetics industry, international trade relations, animal welfare, FDA, consumers, domestic cosmetic companies and distributors

Justification:
The EU has already taken great strides toward ending the testing of cosmetic products on animals. In 2013, a law was passed banning the practice entirely, leaving those 28 countries closer to being cruelty-free than the United States has ever come. India, Israel, Norway and Switzerland have all followed suit, passing legislation to limit cosmetic-based testing. As a global superpower, it is the responsibility of the U.S. to encourage other nations to aspire to cruelty-free beauty. However, we must also practice what we preach. To further the cause of animal welfare as well as keep up with the global trend toward more mindful production, the U.S. has no choice but to limit its own involvement in products produced at the cost of innocent lives. The cosmetic industry is estimated to kill between 100,000 and 200,000 animals worldwide each year. Hundreds of thousands of animals perish annually after surviving miserable and incredibly painful conditions. Beauty products, defined as materials and devices made and sold for the purpose of enhancing the physical attractiveness of users, are by no means a necessary part of life, and should be treated as such. To allow the murder of innocent beings unable to give consent or resist in any way is indefensible. Additionally, beyond the ethical issue of testing on animals, cosmetic testing on non-human subjects is unreliable at best and entirely useless at worst; different species react to various chemicals in dramatically different ways. There are currently around 50 cruelty-free methods of testing cosmetic safety. It is time that the United States joins the fight for animals’ lives.

Proposal for Action:
I. Arrange meetings with foreign diplomats to discuss reduction, as a step towards elimination, of cosmetic product testing on animals.
II. Establish a treaty with as many countries as are willing, which promises to decrease the amount of cosmetic product testing by increasing percentages over a set period of time within each respective nation
III. Place tariffs on cosmetic products exported by countries with continued animal testing who did not enter the aforementioned treaty as a temporary means to incentivize said countries to reduce animal testing.
IV. Pledge to eliminate cosmetic animal testing in U.S. labs over an agreed upon timeframe.

Results to be Expected:
The number of animals killed annually will drop, and the cosmetic industry will be forced to choose an alternative, more accurate, method of product testing (e.g. computer-generated simulations, use of human cells and tissues known as the in vitro method, and use of human volunteers). Participating countries, particularly the United States, will be viewed as more socially conscious and will thus be considered more reliable.
Proposal #312

Author: Daniel Carmichael, Delegation: Alabama

Committee: E

Title:

Stopping the spread of Chronic Wasting Disorder (CWD) by scientifically sampling geographical areas, stopping the transport of deer, elk, and moose over any state line, mandate CWD test kits be distributed free of charge, and impose heavier punishments for the malhunting practices.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Deer, elk, and reindeer in North America.

Justification:

Chronic Wasting Disease is a contagious, and always fatal, degenerative disease that is characterized by spongy degeneration of the brain. It affects deer, elk, and moose. It can be transmitted by saliva, feces, and even through contaminated soil. To date, there is no cure. Regions with little management, like Wyoming, have seen prevalence of the disease in upwards to 27% increase in herds of elk. Animals infected with the disease will most likely be killed via predator, car, or hunter long before the symptoms are clearly noticeable, which can lead to a further spread of the disease. Lab tests show that this disease can morph into an infective disease for humans.

Proposal for Action:

Begin sampling 350 deer, elk, moose in each management unit. Repeat this every four years. Completely ban all export/import of infected, high-risk parts (i.e. eyes, brains, spinal cords, lymph nodes spleen). Furthermore, ban interstate commerce of live deer, elk, moose (Primarily focusing on deer because of the higher demand). Mandate states to provide CWD testing kits, which only includes a shipping fee for the recipient. Impose a $5,000 fine on anyone who does not test their game meat. And to stop illegal trafficking, increase punishment to a felony for any illegal shipment of deer, elk, moose across state lines.

Results to be Expected:

By sampling geographical land-management units, stopping animal trafficking, providing CWD test, and implementing harsher punishments for illegal trafficking CWD will be curtailed significantly and eventually stopped.
Title:
A proposal to establish a federal Bill of Rights for children in public foster care facilities and programs

Major Areas to be Affected:
Administration for Children and Families Children’s Bureau, Child Welfare Gateway Information, state foster care systems, all foster children and parents

Justification:
Between 2013 and 2017, reported instances of child abuse within the foster care system rose 2.7% from 318,400 child victims to 350,100, according to the U.S. Children's Bureau. More than 440,000 children are in foster care systems across the United States, but just 14 states have a Bill of Rights for children within the system. The Children's Bureau Report continues that Thirty-seven percent of foster care children consider themselves “socially insecure” without adequate or comfortable access to their caseworkers. Foster children often are not made aware of their rights, thus abuse runs rampant and goes unreported.

Proposal for Action:
The federal government will establish a Foster Care Bill of Rights to be incorporated into all foster care systems in all 50 states. A child in a public foster care system has the following rights:
To attend his or her court proceeding and/or hearing
To access his or her caseworker all hours of the caseworker’s availability, not to be limited by foster parents
To report to caseworkers or child services any misconduct of parental or familial units
To live in a healthy, safe, reasonable home
To contact biological family members, including siblings, unless prohibited by court order, and social workers, attorneys, foster youth advocates, and supporters, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and probation officers. To be free from any unreasonable searches and seizures of personal property, including those conducted on behalf of foster parents
To have his or her confidentiality protected as fit with state standards
To, starting at age 15, be granted access to life management classes that will help equip the student with skills necessary for the eventual transition out of the foster care system and into independent life
To access medical, dental, vision, mental and behavioral health services regularly and more often as needed
To have access, beginning at age 16, to existing information regarding the educational options available, including, but not limited to, the coursework necessary for vocational and postsecondary educational programs, and information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education

Results to be Expected:
Lower rates of abuse within foster care homes and better reporting of misconduct within homes. Increased access to case workers and foster care youth support groups
Increased awareness of child’s rights
Proposal #372
Author: Eleanor McCutchen, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
To ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of a Child in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States government, the American people, global politics.

Justification:
The Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) supports protections for children against issues including child marriage, forced labor, deprivation of a legal identity, and grants all children the right to health care, education, and freedom of expression. It also protects against discrimination based on the parent’s or legal guardian’s race, sex, religion, etc. The United States played a vital role in the drafting of the Convention and it was signed by the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations at the time, despite this, the United States is the only U.N. country to have not ratified the CRC.

The United States is one of the most influential countries in the world but 21.1% of children live in poverty. Additionally, 248,000 children at as young as 12 were married in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010. It is the only country to sentence offenders under the age of 18 to life in prison without parole. All of these things would be addressed in the CRC.

Proposal for Action:
To submit the Convention on the Rights of a Child to the Senate for its “advice and consent”. If approved with two-thirds majority, the treaty can be presented to the president. To ensure these actions are taken, advocacy groups such as First Focus and the United States Child Poverty Action Group, as well as the American people, can advocate for the ratification and implication of the CRC. This can be done by contacting Senators and government officials about the importance of CRC as well as spreading awareness to the situation.

Results to be Expected:
The ratification and implication of the Convention on the Rights of a Child in the United States would improve the quality of life for children. It would also provide both a mandate and a framework for action in terms of focusing on issues that impact children.
Title:

To Abolish the Practice of the Marriage of Minors in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States, U.S. minors, Internal Revenue Service, U.S Judicial System, County Clerk Offices

Justification:

In the United States, child marriage is no relic of the primitive past. It is legal, and it is thriving. The facts speak for themselves? only two states have completely banned the practice without exception. Our country has failed our children; the lack of protections against child marriage has led to over 200,000 minors to be lured into marriages between 2000-2015.

The implications of child marriage transcend the loss of innocence children endure when they are wed against their will. According to The Washington Post, most of the minors that are forced into marriage are young girls. These girls are twice as likely to drop out of school to better accommodate their marriage, despite the more than reasonable chance of it ending in divorce. Moreover, these minors likely to reach poverty and thrice as likely to be in an abusive relationship.

The parental consent clause has left the law in a juxtaposition, therefore, allowing most parents to marry children off long before the age of consent, justified by the prevalence of poverty and ecclesiastical jurisdictions.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal would seek to accomplish the following:

To follow the model of both Delaware and New Jersey, and outlaw all marriages of minors, (defined as citizens under the age of 18) in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

To remove all stipulations and exceptions of minors seeking marriage contracts, including but not limited to religious exemptions, parental consent of all formats, judicial approval or proof of pregnancy. This proposal would only exempt minors who are emancipated before the age of 18.

This proposal would be enacted at the beginning of the 2021 year, and all licenses issued beforehand would not be affected.

Results to be Expected:

With the abolition of child marriage, children over the coming decade will be exempt from the cycle of poverty strongly associated with the early marriage of minors. Consequently, school dropout rates, domestic abuse, and divorce rates will all decline. Furthermore, the lifelong effects of sexual exploitation and psychological damage that is of these said minors will decrease exponentially.
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Title:
To provide federal assistance to for youth civic engagement programs.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The US Department of Education, United States youth, the American people

Justification:
The United States currently has amongst the lowest rates of voter turnouts in a modern democracy. Younger voters - specifically those 18 to 29 years old - are the least likely demographic to exercise their democratic rights. Perhaps even more troubling, research displays a disturbing number of voters and Americans as a whole display a lack of basic knowledge about current issues and government systems. As of May 2017, only 37% of surveyed American adults could name the Representative for their Congressional District (Haven Insights), and just 34% can correctly identify the three branches of government (Forbes).

For a representative democracy to be most effective, its electorate should be well informed and engaged in the political process. In order to achieve this, many non-profit organizations have created programs to engage young people in civics, giving them a basic understanding of government and public policy issues while at the same time instilling within them values and skills which will encourage them to become an active and informed voter in adulthood. To create an American public that will elect the best representatives available in the future, it is in the government's interest now to provide federal assistance to organizations engaging youth in civics and in the political process.

Proposal for Action:
Allocate $25,000,000 to the Department of Education for the creation and distribution of the Youth Civic Engagement grant. The DOE shall be tasked with distributing this grant in increments of $0-$5,000,000 to eligible groups. Eligible organizations must:

a) be registered as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS
b) use allocated money exclusively for programs designed to engage students in the political process, teach them the fundamentals of government, inform and educate them on current public policy, develop leadership skills, and promote community service.
c) be non-partisan in nature, unbiased towards any particular political ideology, party, or religious view
d) primarily serve minors aged 18 and under, irrespective of those minors' sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

The Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will be tasked with accepting and reviewing grant applications and ensuring in good faith that the awarded organizations meet all of the above requirements.

Examples of acceptable use of grant money include 501(c)(3) Youth and Government programs, speech and debate organizations, and voter registration initiatives.

Results to be Expected:
Nonprofits already providing young people with education and programming to engage them in the political process will be able to increase the size and scope of their operations. In the long run, this will help to create an American society and electorate that is more invested in their community and better informed, and therefore better equipped to elect the most capable citizens to public office.
Title:
The End to Cruel, Unnecessary Animal Testing in Cosmetics.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Cosmetic Companies which use animal testing in the creation of their product include, but are not limited to the following: Mary Kay, ChapStick, Aveeno, Revlon, Dove, and many more.

Justification:
For years on end, animals have been put in a lower superiors circle than that of humans. The cruel, inhumane treatment issued behind the scenes has drawn the attention of many citizens and organizations. Humans use cosmetic products which further promotes animal testing, often leading to death, or very uncomfortable lives for these creatures. Every year, 100,000-200,000 animals suffer and die due to cosmetic testing. Some cosmetic organizations give animals the bare minimum because they aren't required to give more based on the Animal Welfare Act of 2006. “Examples of animal tests include forcing mice and rats to inhale toxic fumes, force-feeding dogs pesticides, and dripping corrosive chemicals into rabbits’ sensitive eyes,”) according to an article titled Animal Testing 101 at peta.org. All of this cruelty remains unadvertised to consumers of such products. Aside from all the testing, it is unguaranteed that if an animal passes the test in survival, a human being can do the same.

There is nothing humane about the treatment of many animals that has been legalized in the United States. The instances and examples described above are the minimum of which animals are used for the benefit and convenience of humans.

Proposal for Action:
With this proposal, I intend to eradicate all animal testing from cosmetic companies. As well as to amend the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 to exemplify this ban. Also, if we as a nation feel the need to continue using cosmetics change our testing sources to: human volunteers, viable plant sources, new scientific discoveries.

Results to be Expected:
Harmful animal testing to be banned. Millions of animals to be saved each year.
Title: Stand with the Salmon

Major Areas to be Affected: Environment, Mining

Justification: The Bristol Bay fishery is the source of 50 percent of the world’s sockeye salmon. Scientists recently completed a thorough, four-year review of the mine and its impacts on the watershed. The study found that the mine would destroy pristine wetlands, that roads and pipelines would slice through salmon-spawning streams, and that toxic chemicals would threaten Bristol Bay’s waters. Alaska Native communities have assessed the mine’s impacts on their livelihoods and way of life and have reached the same conclusions.

Proposal for Action: Impose clean water restrictions and processes on the Bristol Bay region of Alaska.

Results to be Expected: The protection of the the Bristol Bay Salmon fishery.
Proposal #508
Author: Reyna Masterson, Delegation: Washington

Title: To Establish a National Sibling Bill of Rights

Major Areas to be Affected:

Children in out-of-home care, The United States Administration for Children and Families, The United States Department of Health and Human Services

Justification:

Up to 50% of children in out-of-home care (defined as alternative accommodation for children and young people who are unable to live with their parents) have siblings in the program. Up to 75% of children are separated from one or more of their siblings. According to the National Center for Youth Law, siblings provide comfort, security, and a very important role in children's lives as they grow up.

Proposal for Action:

Establish a national Sibling Bill of Rights that includes:

I. Placing siblings together whenever possible;
II. Giving adult siblings the chance to foster or adopt younger siblings;
III. Being placed in homes near each other;
IV. Facilitating frequent and meaningful contact (i.e. visits, video chats such as FaceTime or Skype, texting, and social media) that isn’t supervised unless proven to be unsafe;
V. Ensuring regular visits that can not be revoked on account of bad behavior; and
VI. Other siblings being included in conversations of adoption, custody, and transfers to different homes.

In order to qualify for federal Foster Care funds, the state must adopt and enforce this Bill of Rights through their respective departments in charge of child welfare.

Results to be Expected:

Keeping more siblings together and in contact, thereby providing siblings in out-of-home care with a sense of belonging, identity, and comfort.
Title: An Act to Require All States to Set the Minimum Legal Age to Marry at 18 Years Old.

Major Areas to be Affected: The human rights department, Children’s rights, Marriage rights.

Justification: Child marriage is defined by UNICEF as “a formal marriage or informal union before age 18”. Many states have the legal age to marry at 18 years old, but also have a policy where teens can get married at 16 or 17 years old with parental consent or with a judge’s consent. I want to revoke this policy and strictly set the age to marry be at 18 years old. According to No Ceilings, child marriage “undermines girls’ health, education, and economic opportunities, and increases their risk of experiencing violence.”. Also We the Forum states how “the 18% fall in divorces between 2008 and 2016 isn’t merely a consequence of fewer marriages.”. Furthermore “One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner” states Love is Respect. Marriage to many underage teens may make them feel trapped in an abusive relationship.

Proposal for Action: All states will enact the minimum age of marriage to be at 18 years old. If states currently allow teens to get married at a younger age with parental consent or with the judge’s consent they shall revoke this policy.

Results to be Expected: By enacting a minimum age of 18 years old to get married the United States can expect to see a positive increase in high school graduation rates and a decrease in teen’s risk of experiencing violence. Teens will feel safe when they marry and not be forced or pressured into marriage during adolescence.
Title:
An Act to Impose Youth Centered E-Cigarette Regulations

Major Areas to be Affected:
Middle schools, high schools, and E-Cigarette retailers and producers.

Justification:
America is currently in an E-Cigarette crisis, American youth are easily able to obtain E-Cigarette products and develop life-altering nicotine addictions. According to a study conducted by the Monitoring The Future survey (in 2018), 37.3 percent of 12th graders reported having used a nicotine product in the past year. This statistic has increased from 27.8 percent (in 2017) to 37.3 in 2018. American high schoolers that are legally able to buy E-Cigarette products have the ability to circulate the E-Cigarettes to minors that cannot purchase the E-Cigarette products.

Proposal for Action:
To purchase E-Cigarette products the customer must be twenty-one years of age with a valid I.D. Retailers will also be required to check I.D’s when selling E-Cigarette products. E-Cigarette products will also be taxed at the same rate as tobacco cigarettes (seventy-one percent of the manufactures retail price).

Results to be Expected:
The United States can expect to see a decline in the use of E-cigarette products from minors. A decline in student discipline because of using E-cigarette products in school. What is also projected is the increasing number of smokers using E-cigarette products to combat their tobacco cigarette addictions.
Proposal #522

**Author:** Natalie Buss, **Delegation:** Wisconsin

**Title:**

A Proposal to Create The Federal Animal Abuse Department

**Major Areas to be Affected:**

The US government

**Justification:**

This proposal should be placed into action because as of now, there is little to no way of accurately measuring the amount and severity of animal abuse cases in the country. This causes problems in trying to prosecute possible repeat offenders and even first time offenders depending upon the severity of the abuse and also causes issues trying to calculate how serious the animal abuse range is per state and country.

**Proposal for Action:**

To create the Federal Animal Abuse Department (FAAD) within the US government which will be headed by The Chief of the Animal Abuse Department. This position will be appointed by the president when he or she chooses their cabinet at the beginning of his or her term. The FAAD will take responsibility and jurisdiction over all federal cases of animal abuse and set the national regulations regarding animal abuse.

**Results to be Expected:**

What is to be expected by this proposal being placed into action is that the government will be able to more accurately track and record how common and severe cases of animal abuse are all across the country as well as better regulate how the cases are dealt with.
Title:
To Ban Neonicotinoid Pesticides Harmful to Bee Populations

Major Areas to be Affected:
Environment, Bee Populations, Agriculturalists, Farmers, Pesticide Manufacturers

Justification:
No bees, no life. That is not an over-dramatization. Bees pollinate 71 of the 100 crops used to feed 90% of the world. To say that bees are vital to human survival would be an understatement. However, pesticides known as neonicotinoids (or neonics) are wiping out mass populations of bees at an alarming rate. There is no beneficial need for neonicotinoid pesticides as there are several solutions to rid of their use such as planting more native species and changing times of watering and planting. The European Union has already banned several neonics and areas such as Seattle and Maryland have followed through as well.

The devastating effects of neonics are known, but large agricultural corporations continue to enormous amounts of the chemical. In the US, about 46 million pounds of neonics are used per year. What makes neonics so harmful is they target queen bees, decreasing reproductive rates dramatically.

Several environmental groups have taken steps to ban the pesticide, but federal action needs to be taken in order to protect the bees against this killer chemical.

Furthermore, studies are under progress to study the harmful effects of neonicotinoids on humans. Limited studies have found the presence of neonicotinoids on fruits and vegetables which cannot be washed off from the surface of produce. According to a US Geological Survey, in “nine rivers monitored in the Midwest, where neonics are most heavily used, the study found clothianidin in about three-quarters of monitored sites, thiamethoxam in about one-half, and imidacloprid in about one-quarter.”

The European Food Safety Authority recently categorized two neonicotinoids (imidacloprid and acetamiprid) as “possible impairing the developing human nervous system” after laboratory testing of cell cultures and rodents.

Possibly the most dire consequence of neonicotinoids- to humans- is the impact to bees and thus our food supply, nature reserves, and general health.

Proposal for Action:
The proposal requires the EPA to ban pesticides and other products containing neonicotinoids under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Subchapter IV, Section 346.

Results to be Expected:
Without the number one chemical killer of bees, bee colonies will not die at alarming and unsustainable rates. They will be able to produce more honey, pollinate more crops, and reproduce at higher rates. This would affect humans in that crops necessary for feeding the population will be in less danger of failing due to the presence of more bees.
Title:
Universal Swim Lessons for Low-Income Individuals

Major Areas to be Affected:
Individuals in the US who do not know how to swim, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, Parks and Recreation Departments and other smaller organizations in the US that provide swimming lessons

Justification:
According to USA Swimming, 79 percent of children in families with household income less than $50,000 have no/low swimming ability. Children who qualify for free or reduced school lunch programs are 63 percent less likely to have good swimming ability. 65 percent of African-American children would like to swim more than they do.

If parents have no/low swimming ability, there’s a high likelihood their children won’t have good swimming skills (78 percent for African-American children, 62 percent among Hispanic/Latino children and 67 percent for Caucasian children)

According to the CDC, from 2005-2014, there were an average of 3,536 fatal unintentional drownings (non-boating related) annually in the United States - about ten deaths per day. An additional 332 people died each year from drowning in boating-related incidents.

About one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger. For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries. Organizations, especially the American Red Cross, have the resources to carry out this service.

Proposal for Action:
A register will be available in the Department of Treasury where the organizations will be able to input their tax records and number of individuals serviced. Organizations, especially large ones like the American Red Cross and YMCA, will advertise the service, as will public schools and Parks and Recreation Departments

Organizations that provide free swimming lessons to low-income individuals will receive a tax break in exchange for their free service to low-income individuals. The tax breaks will be unique for each organization. This depends on how much the organization pays in taxes, the complexity of the service, and how many receive the service.

Results to be Expected:
By virtue of the swim lessons being free, low-income individuals will be more financially able to receive the life-saving service and education. Thus, drownings will decrease in all demographics.
Title:
To make legal guardians of minors accountable for what their child posts on social media

Major Areas to be Affected:
- victims of bullying (minors), guardians of children under 18, and social media platforms.

Justification:
Technology has deeply transformed humankind’s culture and values. In just a few decades various technologies managed to permeate our society and thoroughly change our lives. Child and teen Bullying and Cyberbullying are at an all-time high. Approximately 43% of students report experiencing cyberbullying during their lifetime. Cyberbullying victims are also more likely to have low self-esteem and to consider suicide. 78% of teen suicides are a result of bullying.

Proposal for Action:
When minors register a social media account, a guardians email is required so that the parent can oversee their child's account. The guardian is accountable for everything their child posts. Parents will be notified whenever their child posts something and can take necessary action.

Results to be Expected:
By making parents accountable for what their child posts, this requires parents to closely oversee their child’s activity. Children will be less likely to post derogatory and hurtful things about others. This will decrease cyberbullying in adolescents and also decrease teen suicide rates.
Proposal #581
Author: Jose Lizarraga-Rosas, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
Banning the use of solitary confinement within juvenile detention centers for the betterment of juvenile inmate’s mental and physical health.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Juvenile detention centers, juvenile inmates, funds allocated towards rehabilitation programs.

Justification:
Currently, there are 53,000 juveniles in a detention center anywhere around the U.S., and a vast majority of those inmates are in solitary confinement. Solitary confinement is a troubling practice that is sometimes considered too cruel for use with adults, and even more so when used with minors. Neurological and psychological damage, depression, hallucinations, panic attacks, cognitive deficits, obsessive thinking, paranoia, anxiety, and anger are associated with the use of solitary confinement, and these effects are damaging and long-lasting, and ultimately, the results of such a practice impact not just the youth directly affected, but society as a whole.

Every day, minors subjected to solitary confinement have to sit in 6 by 8-foot cells for 23 hours a day, whether their crimes were violent or not, and this is not acceptable in any way, shape or form. Solitary confinement involves isolating inmates in cells that are barely larger than a king-sized bed for 22 to 24 hours per day. Case studies have proven that solitary confinement imposes negative effects on juvenile inmates. It wreaks profound neurological and psychological damage, causing depression, hallucinations, panic attacks, cognitive deficits, obsessive thinking, paranoia, anxiety, and anger. Solitary confinement is already enough to break a grown man into pieces, imagine what it does to a child. This is an issue that needs to be resolved rapidly given that currently, instead of helping juvenile inmates to become better people and to learn from their mistakes, we punish them inhumanely and damage them. Under this proposal, a commission, the Juvenile Rehabilitation and Protection Commission (JRPC), would be created in order to supervise and enforce the provisions of this proposal within all detention centers and to, in addition to overseeing a ban on solitary confinement of minors, implement and oversee a shift towards and widespread utilization of rehabilitative practices and programs within youth detention facilities. Prison rehabilitation programs are a more effective alternative for helping juvenile inmates to reduce and overcome their criminal behavior after release, and we need to be focusing our attention and tax dollars on promoting rehabilitation within our juvenile justice system, not on continuing the use of punitive and damaging and ineffective punishment.

Proposal for Action:
1. Prohibit the use of solitary confinement and similar forms of punishment within juvenile detention centers.
2. This ban will be enacted in all detention centers within the United States of America.
3. Define solitary confinement as - the state of being kept alone in a specialized prison cell away from other prisoners.
4. Instead of putting inmates through the hazardous environment of solitary confinement, inmates that present a danger to themselves or others would be placed in a segregation block in which they would be worked with in order to prevent further issues and in which they would be separated from other hazards until they could be reintroduced into the general prison population.
5. Segregation blocks shall be nearly identical to normal prison/jail cells, and an inmate’s day within a segregation block would consist of rehabilitation in order to return him/her to the general prison population quickly but safely.
6. The time that inmates spend in rehab and the segregation block will vary due to their actions.
   - Class 1-petty offenses, contraband, etc would be up to 1 month
   - Class 2-fights, disruption of peace, verbal threat would be up to 2 months
- Class 3-serious threat, harm to others or self would be a minimum of 4 months or until they are not a threat.

7. Find a quick resolution for the removal of solitary confinement from juvenile detention centers, by creating a commission that would focus on the rights and rehabilitation of juvenile inmates.

8. JRPC- Juvenile Rehabilitation and Protection Commission - this commission would overlook juvenile detention centers and create a federally funded program that will help rehabilitate juvenile inmates in a better, safer, and more effective way. The commission will also protect the rights of inmates and make sure that they are treated humanely while detained.

9. The (JRPC) would introduce rehabilitation programs which would help revitalize juvenile inmate’s mental and physical health, with a final goal of reintegration into society. These rehabilitation programs, instead of punishing inmates for their actions in a negative and destructive way as solitary confinement does, would help them to become reintegrated into society and into civilian life. Inmates enrolled in said rehabilitation programs would receive educational assistance, job training, and counseling.

Results to be Expected:

Removal of solitary juvenile confinement within all juvenile detention centers nationwide. This will be an immediate ban and will be enacted over a 1-2-year time span. An environment in which inmates are not harmed but are instead helped to become prosperous and contributing members of society and to preserve their mental sanity and physical health while detained will be created.
Proposal #583
Author: Molly Walker, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
To provide Americans with transparency into the treatment of animals in the food industry

Major Areas to be Affected:
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); CFOs and AFOs; corporations and businesses involved in the raising, production, and resale of factory farmed animals and resultant animal products; animals raised for food consumption; U.S. consumers.

Justification:
The purpose of this proposal is to create awareness of the atrocious pain and suffering inflicted upon animals that are raised for human consumption, the reality of which is frequently hidden from the American people, by requiring animal product producers to be transparent about the processes and ways in which they raise animals and prepare animal products. Creating awareness surrounding the treatment of animals would then lead to American consumers being able to make more thoughtful and informed decisions when purchasing and choosing animal products, which could lead in turn to the American public choosing more healthfully raised animal products and choosing not to support companies utilizing detrimental practices.

The practices of the food industry are extremely harmful not only to animals, but to humans for several reasons. Several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with genetically modified (GM) food (AAEM 2009), including infertility, immune problems, and changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system, reports the Institute of Responsible Technology (IRT), one of the world’s leaders in the education of harmful Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) foods and crops to the public and policy makers.

It is proven that animals that lived a stressful life often have harmful toxins in their meat. "If the animal is stressed before and during slaughter, the glycogen is used up, and the lactic acid level that develops in the meat after slaughter is reduced. This will have serious adverse effects on meat quality" reports FAO. Factory producers are also creating environmental issues, “Global meat production is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all of the trains, cars and airplanes in the world combined,” says the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. The practices of the food industry are unsustainable and harm humans. "The status quo is innocent until proven guilty," says Ashley Koff, a registered dietitian who studies GMO foods, "as it was for trans fats, DDT, and countless other harmful chemicals. A labeling requirement would motivate companies to prove to consumers that their products are safe, to protect their sales." It is also important to consider the inequality among species of animals. Thomas Wells, a philosophy professor, writes that "We hold inconsistent moral views - that is, the majority of us have freely decided that some animals in some domains deserve special protections (the ones in our homes, and public spaces like zoos), and also that ‘food animals’ don’t." This proposal would create an effective way for Americans to be easily informed of the treatment of animals when they purchase animal products.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. Congress and federal government shall:
1. Require that all animal product packaging (including but not limited to the packaging of eggs, milk, meat) specify the living conditions, including square feet available to each individual animal, diet, use of antibiotics and artificial hormones, the animal’s access to the outdoors, physical modifications placed on animal before death and means of slaughter of the animal in a standardized format which can be readily interpreted by the consumer.
2. Proof/documentation of label claims must be submitted to the FDA and will be reverified during routine FDA inspections
3. This packaging is intended to inform consumers at the grocery store/wholesale/store level and is not intended for restaurant use
4. Animal products are defined as a “product made from any animal material.” In the context of this proposal, only products sold for human consumption are affected. This proposal will not affect any industries that produce animal products such as but not limited to...
leather, jackets, shoes, blankets, pet food products, and soap.

Results to be Expected:

There are many steps that America needs to take to reach a sustainable and ethical production of animal products, but this is the first: allowing everyday Americans the right to transparency surrounding the animal products, if any, that they choose to purchase and consume. Individuals will be incentivized to use their rights to make personal decisions that match their morals while also being knowledgeable and informed. By easily supplying Americans with the truth of how their dinner was put on the table, awareness of the current harsh reality could incentivise people to chose to buy from companies that raise animals in more humane, environmentally sustainable, and healthful ways. “We know, at least, that this decision [ending factory farming] will help prevent deforestation, curb global warming, reduce pollution, save oil reserves, lessen the burden on rural America, decrease human rights abuses, improve public health, and help eliminate the most systematic animal abuse in history,” says Jonathan Safran Foer, author of two bestselling and award-winning novels. No longer will the general public be able to ignore the gruesome treatment of farm animals raised in factories and the effects on America and its inhabitants’ health.
A proposal to make the use of Co2 sequestering concrete mandatory for all new infrastructure projects starting in the year 2020.

Major Areas to be Affected:
- Construction workers
- Cement production companies
- The environment

Justification:
Concrete is the most abundant man-made material on earth. Its essential ingredient, cement, has a huge carbon footprint. Cement is the glue that makes concrete strong, but the process of making cement requires superheating calcium carbonate, or limestone, and releases massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Cement is responsible for 7% of global man-made greenhouse emissions, making it the world's second largest industrial source of carbon dioxide, according to the International Energy Agency.

Cement is the world's second largest industrial source of carbon dioxide. Data from the United States Geological Survey reveals that global cement production was responsible for about 4 billion pounds of CO2 emissions in 2017 alone. There are several different companies in and out of the United States who produce and test different kinds of Co2 sequestering cement and it's price is comparable to portland cement which is the most commonly used kind. Because the CO2 actually helps to make the concrete stronger, concrete producers can still make concrete as strong as they need to but use less cement in the process. One of the main advantages of this method is of course that since the CO2 is trapped, it can't be released into the atmosphere, adding to global warming.

Proposal for Action:
Making it mandatory for all infrastructure projects to use Co2 sequestering concrete, starting in the year 2020.

Results to be Expected:
For every ton of Co2 produced, half a ton of Co2 is sequestered in the making of the concrete. The results of switching to this alternative approach to synthesizing a viable environmentally favorable calcium carbonate-based concrete would be a large decrease in Co2 emissions overtime in the areas that the Co2 sequestering concrete is put in place.
Title:

Increasing the Number of Registered Organ Donors Through the Means of a Priority Point System.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Patients on the Organ Transplant Waiting List, Registered Organ Donors, Hospitals, Transplant Centers, United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), US Department of Health and Human Services

Justification:

As of May 2019, UNOS states that 114,000 of our fellow citizens are currently suffering from the agony of being on the organ transplant waiting list. To make matters worse, 20 people die each day waiting for an organ donor and a new person is added onto the list every 10 minutes. While 95% of all-American adults support organ donations, only around 58% are actually registered, organ donors. In order to increase the number of registered organ donors in the US, we must employ a system that can incentivize people to become donors. The US will achieve higher numbers of registered organ donors through the use of a priority point system similar to the one employed in Israel and Singapore. Under the current UNOS system, candidates for an organ transplant are based on blood type, height, weight, other medical factors, geography, size, the time between procurement and transplant, and medical need. These factors will still play a role in this priority point system, but patients will also be ranked on if they are a registered organ donor or if they donated an organ in the past. Under this system, your status as an organ donor is not the sole determining factor on whether or whether not you will get an organ but rather it will play a factor in the determining process. not only will the number of registered donors increase, as now they are incentivized to do so, but also the number of available organs for transplant will increase. Seeing how the longer we take, 20 more people die waiting for organs, the United States must create this priority point system in order to increase the number of registered organ donors and increase our capacity to save those who are suffering on the waiting list.

Proposal for Action:

Create a priority point system in which recipients are grouped into four categories: Maximum Priority- Those whose need for an organ transplant are of absolute medical necessity (i.e. near death.) This is regardless of the fact if they are a donor or not. First Priority- If they are a registered organ donor and had donated either a kidney, liver lobe, or lung lobe in the past to either a specified or unspecified recipient. Regular Priority- Those who are registered organ donors. Second Priority- Those who are not registered, organ donors. Current donors will receive their priority points after one year and every newly registered donor after the passage of this proposal will receive their points after three years All new registered donors attain a certification of good health and renew this certification every ten years. All persons willing to make an organ donation will be questioned extensively to ensure that the donation is not made for financial purposes, and that they are fully aware of the risks involved with organ donation. Living Organ Donors will be reimbursed in medical expenses only. Minors are exempt from this point system and will automatically receive regular priority, until the age in which they are no longer considered minors. This new point system will be funded by UNOS.

Results to be Expected:

Due to this new priority point system, the number of registered organ donors and living organ donors will increase. This will lead to more organs available for transplant, which will lead to the decreasing of the number of people suffering on the transplant waiting list and more lives being saved.
Title:
To lower the maternal mortality rate in the United States by requiring all hospitals to enact a full-time Laborist program.

Major Areas to be Affected:
OB-GYN hospitalists, hospitals in the U.S., obstetricians, and pregnant women.

Justification:
In the United States, as of 1987, there were 7.2 deaths per 100,000 live births which has transitioned to 18 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2014 according to the CDC. The reason for this increase in maternal mortality has been unclear, but nonetheless, the number has doubled. America is currently going against the dropping mortality rate that most other countries are experiencing. Laborists now practice in more than 35 states, but that number needs to be increased to all 50 states to lower the maternal mortality rate. A study put together by the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology has shown that with a full-time Laborist staff at a hospital, the cesarean delivery chances were brought down by about 5% which also lowers the chance of the mother and baby dying.

One of the number one reasons for maternal mortality in the U.S. is due to poor access to medical care. In many rural communities, it is difficult to maintain a level number of obstetricians to care for pregnant women. This has led to numerous malpractice suits on hospitals, in addition to an increased number of women dying due to giving birth. People in these areas already have to drive far when women go into labor, but if they arrive at a hospital and there is no help ready, that can lead to a morbid situation. Especially if things are already going wrong, such as a ruptured uterus, and require immediate attention.

Proposal for Action:
All hospitals (both private and public) will be required to begin laborist programs, with Laborists working two 24-hour shifts over a 1-week period. Responsibilities include managing unassigned patients who present with ObGyn complaints, 24/7 coverage for emergencies, backing up private physicians who cannot get to the hospital in a reasonable time, and first-assisting for a majority of the hospital’s C-sections.

Results to be Expected:
This will lead to a decrease in the maternal mortality rate for the U.S. and a decrease in malpractices suits that hospitals face. This will also help raise the number of jobs available for obstetricians and job satisfaction by relieving pressure.
Proposal #128  
**Author:** Cameron Olbert, **Delegation:** Oklahoma

### Title:

To Establish Carbon Certification and Taxation

### Major Areas to be Affected:

Fossil fuel industry, American consumers, the global environment

### Justification:

A scientific consensus regarding climate change is clear. According to Professor Stuart Haszeldine of the University of Edinburgh, we are now experiencing measurable global warming of 1°C, a 30% increase in ocean acidity, and a 3.3 mm per year rise in sea level due to sea ice melt. An undeniable causal link has been established between increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and rising global temperatures, in a process called the enhanced greenhouse effect. If humanity continues on its present course, by 2100 it is forecast that the global average temperature will rise by 8.4°C.

It is becoming increasingly clear that putting a halt to this pattern by reducing emissions alone is growing impractical. In addition to emission reductions, models are calling for humanity to begin actively removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it safely away, in a process called carbon capture and storage (CCS). CCS gives humanity a way to dig itself out of the hole it is now digging for itself, instead of merely stopping digging. According to Haszeldine, CCS is taking place about 100 times too slowly to realistically allow humanity to remain within a 2°C budget.

Certificates issued to businesses forces businesses to correct the market failure that is environmental degradation. It does not play favorites between renewables or CCS, merely requiring that one, the other, or some combination of the two be used in order to combat climate change. The market will be enabled to determine the best combination for businesses to use in order to secure an energy strategy that is both environmentally and economically sustainable.

### Proposal for Action:

Congress will direct the Environmental Protection Agency to issue carbon certificates. For each ton of carbon a non-agricultural business emits, it will receive a certificate that carries an obligation to capture and store a percentage of the carbon it emits. In the first year, this will equal 0.25% if total carbon emitted. After 12 months the obligation will increase to 0.5%, followed by 1% the year after that. By 2025 the business is required to capture 5% and by 2032 30%.

Businesses that fail to comply will be charged a $60 per ton penalty on each unfulfilled certificate.

Congress will create a carbon rebate, wherein the money generated from carbon penalties is redistributed equally to citizens whose incomes are 250% or less of their states’ poverty line.

### Results to be Expected:

Economically sustainable and socially cohesive reduction and eventual reversal of human emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Avoidance of the worst impacts of global warming and mitigation of the effect it has already had.
Proposal #145
Author: Jonas Cream, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
To decrease the amount of carbon emissions throughout the country and increase the number of jobs in permanent renewable energy fields.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Renewable Energy Companies, Public Buildings, United States Government, Nonrenewable Energy Companies

Justification:
When considering the most pressing issues for our generation, climate change is the largest issue we are facing. At the current rate the world is contributing to climate change, it is predicted that at the end of the century climate change will become irreversible. The UN panel's researchers found the “human caused” carbon dioxide emissions need to be cut by nearly half of 2010 levels by 2030 to stave off the worst effects of climate change. To save the planet, action must be taken now not later. According to models from the University Of Pennsylvania, every continent has experienced at least a 1.5 degree increase over recent decades. The rate of increase is unsustainable if we wish to continue calling earth home, we must change our actions immediately.

The environmental degradation that has occurred as a result of human impact is unsurmountable. Everyday coral reefs die, animals go extinct, and sea levels rise. We as humans need to claim responsibility. Half of the great barrier reef, one of the greatest natural wonders in the world, has been bleached to death since 2016, according to national geographic. The cause from the bleaching, is an increase in water temperatures that is too high for these organisms to survive in. Without changing our actions the world will continue to lose its natural wonders and eventually us. We must reduce the total carbon emissions released in the United States, by changing where we receive energy from we will cause an inevitable shift in the direction that the world needs.

While for the past several decades the United States has been decreasing its total carbon emissions, we are still the second largest producer of carbon dioxide by metric tons and number one in per capita carbon emissions. The United States has always strived to be "a city upon a hill." It is our job as the leader of the free world, to show the world what is needed to ensure our grandchildren have a place to call home.

Proposal for Action:
All public buildings within the United States will be required to receive 80% of their annual power usage from renewable resources. It will be in an ascending scale format over a 10 year period. Renewable sources would constitute as any form of power generation that does not emit carbon (ex. wind, hydro, and nuclear). Each building will submit a yearly report to the Environmental Protection agency for review. Implementation:
1. After 2 years, 15% of the buildings total energy consumption must be from any renewable resource as previously defined
2. Every 2 years the percentage shall increase by 10% until 80% of the total energy consumed yearly is from renewable sources
3. At the end of every fiscal year, each building will be required to submit an energy consumption report to the EPA for inspection

Results to be Expected:
The increase in the amount of renewable energy will lead to a reduction in the amount of carbon emissions within the United States. This will lead to a slower rate of climate change as well increase activism by the public to combat climate change. As well as an increase in the amount of workers in the renewable energy field.
Title:
To create federal non-profit organizations that provide hygiene products and contraceptives to third world countries.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States department of health and human services; United States Congress; American Volunteers; State Governments; American People; World health organization

Justification:
The United States has failed to solve humanitarian issues across the globe. As the country of creating it’s presence from sea to shining sea, steps should be taken in order to fortify an end to global poverty. The steps to do so are simple, provide hygiene and contraceptives to third world countries. Statistics regarding the birthrate of third world countries skyrocket compared to first world countries, for example countries like Niger who rank number 1 in birth fertility rate (7.153 children per woman), while the monthly income of residents of Niger is around $122. The cycle of poverty will continue in such countries if proper administrative measures are not taken. Not only does the cycle of poverty continually terrorize these countries, but hygiene is another issue to plague third world countries. Approximately 1.6 million deaths are attributed to poor hygiene, sanitation, and lack of clean water. Furthermore, with US involvement into developing countries the US betters foreign relation. In all, the implementation of action is needed for proper administrative measures that will educate and promote ways of hygiene and protected sex.

Proposal for Action:
In order for the United States to establish a helping hand we must create a federal non-profit organization similar to the Red Cross that consists of board of governors to properly handle the governing sector of this new organization, while the remaining employees are volunteers. The company start-up will begin through a federal grant and continue to receive funds through donations and work volunteer. Incentives for volunteers and donors alike are as most non-profit organizations follow which are tax deductibles.

Results to be Expected:
As expected there would be a sharp decline in hygiene related deaths due to all proper supplies are now delivered. As well as an expected decline in fertility rates, as now women are offered forms of contraceptives to prevent pregnancies. Furthermore, we will begin to see developing countries focus more on education, economics, and self sufficiency since there’s is less of a need to spend budgets on basic human needs. The development of better foreign relations between the United States and Developing countries will also begin to emerge.
Proposal #191
Author: Parker Boggs, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
Raising the Federal Smoking Age: Combating a Nationwide Epidemic

Major Areas to be Affected:
Cigarette/E-Cigarette/Vape companies, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Any store who sells nicotine products, Active Duty Military personnel, the American People

Justification:
Nicotine usage remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and commonly starts out at the teenage years. During the past several decades, smoking prevalence among youth has fluctuated in puzzling and unexpected ways. In the 1970's, there was a rise in teen usage of tobacco products. A study conducted by the National Institutes of Health concluded that 28.8% of high school seniors in 1976 had smoked during the past 30 days, 17.2% smoked in 1992, 24.6% smoked in 1997, and 15.6% smoked in 2004. This slowly worked into vaping products, which exploded into markets in 2017. Vaping has now dominated the teenage market as they fall into the fruity flavors they provide. In 2016, before major vaping products were available, 16.2% of high school seniors had vaped in the past 30 days, and in 2018, that percentage rose to 20.1% and is expected to rise over the next 5 years. State-level governments have noticed the issue and decided to raise the age, despite the federal limit. Ample evidence shows that increasing the legal age to purchase tobacco results in a decline in smoking in teens and young adults.

Proposal for Action:
The federal age for the use and purchase of nicotine products will be raised to the age of 21. This will officially go into effect in January 1, 2020. There will be one exception; any active duty military personnel that are under the age of 21 will be able to purchase these products with a presentation of their military ID. For the purpose of this proposal, a nicotine product is defined as any smokable and smokeless tobacco products. These products are defined as the following: Cigarettes Cigars Pipes Hookahs E-Cigarettes Vapes and Mods Chewing Tobacco

Results to be Expected:
While it is hard to determine the future, but trends show that teen smoking will continue to rise throughout the years. There are easy ways to stop this epidemic from growing. It will prove to be difficult for anyone under 18 to obtain these products as statistics show that it is unlikely there is someone over 21 to get these products. This will prevent early usage of nicotine products throughout teenagers.
Proposal #193  
Author: Joseph Clark, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
Allowing the adult population of the United States of America to drink

Major Areas to be Affected:
American adult citizens (18 or over), tax revenue, law enforcement.

Justification:
For over three decades, the federal law has mandated that states either set their drinking age at 21 or lose ten percent of their highway funds from the federal government. This law has lessened tax revenue, increased law enforcement’s arrests of minors, and led to an increase of binge drinking that is fueled by the thrill of drinking underage and flouting the law. The law of most states declares that a person is a legal adult upon reaching his/her eighteenth birthday. Eighteen is the age of majority. It is the age at which one gains full legal rights. At the age of majority a person is liable for their own actions such as entering into a contract, or being held liable for negligence. Parental duty of support to a child ceases when the child reaches the age of majority. At eighteen one can legally consent to sex, serve on a jury, get married, enlist in the military, own a firearm, and smoke tobacco products. Why does the United States of America trust young adults enough to do the things mentioned above but will not allow them to drink alcoholic beverages?

In the United States of America 90 percent of all underage drinking is binge drinking. This is due to the taboo nature of drinking underage and the thrill of breaking the law. John McCardell, the founder of Choose Responsibility - a non-profit organization that promotes public awareness of the dangers of excessive and reckless alcohol consumption by young adults - describes how the legal drinking age does not eliminate consumption among young people. He states that keeping the minimum legal drinking age at 21 will not dissuade young people who want to indulge in reckless alcohol intake. He further asserts that a drinking age of 21 does not even diminish the amount of alcohol consumption among young people.

Smoking, sex, owning a firearm, serving in the military all have a very significant amount of risk and responsibility. Tobacco is more dangerous than drinking. According to the CDC, smoking kills 1.3% of the smoking population each year; that is 20 percent more than drinking (0.063% of the drinking population). Having sex (although the risks of sex do not primarily lie in the deaths it causes) is attributed to 36,000 deaths a year through STDs and an additional 400 through pregnancy complications.

According to the Defense Casualty Analysis System, military service kills around 0.1% of the active duty population per year. This makes military service about 1.5 times as deadly as alcohol. During the Vietnam Era, the military death rate was 0.64%—10 times as deadly as alcohol. By the way, 61% of Vietnam deaths were soldiers younger than 21. Clearly, fighting in the military is much more dangerous than drinking alcoholic beverages.

Proposal for Action:
Amend the Uniform Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 to allow alcohol consumption by those 18 years of age or older.

The current law: Introduced in House (02/22/1984)
Uniform Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 - Prohibits the Secretary of Transportation From approving Federal-aid highway projects in States in which the purchase or public Possession of alcoholic beverages by persons less than 21 years of age is lawful. Makes such prohibition effective in the sixth fiscal year after enactment of this Act. Requires The Secretary to reduce such States’ apportionment of Federal-aid highway funds by Specified percentages beginning in the third fiscal year after enactment.

Line 3, strike 21 and replace it with 18

Results to be Expected:
Greater tax revenue Fewer arrests for underage drinking Fewer deaths of 18 year olds Reduced binge drinking of minors Reduced drinking due to peer pressure
Title:

Paid to Prescribe: A Ban on All Rewarding of Doctors by Biomedical Manufacturers

Major Areas to be Affected:

Healthcare industry, pharmaceutical industry, doctors, healthcare insurance

Justification:

Off-brand drugs in the United States are far cheaper than their name-brand counterparts, though they are required to be just as effective by the FDA. Despite their comparable effectiveness, the under-prescription of generic drugs in instances where name-brand drugs weren't required contributed heavily to excess spending in the health field, an estimated $73 billion of unnecessary costs from 2010 to 2012, about $24 billion of which was shouldered by consumers. Interestingly, the doctors that were prescribing those name-brand drugs the most had a high likelihood of being among the highest paid by biomedical manufacturers, with payments coming in the forms of paid speeches, research grants, and travel fees. A recent (March, 2018) case involving the biomedical company Novartis, who had sales representatives recently testify in court that “they were ‘essentially buying’ prescriptions in exchange for providing doctors with paid speaking engagements, fancy meals, and alcohol.” While excess spending on name-brand drugs has contributed heavily to the excess spending in the American health market, it has not been the only impact of rewarding prescriptors. The opioid crisis has been further exacerbated by workarounds of anti-kickback laws, with heavy opioid ‘marketing’ towards doctors being linked to many of the negative effects of the opioid crisis that can be seen across the nation, and restrictions on marketing and/or detailing visits have been found to greatly reduce the rates of prescriptions of name-brand drugs. Simply, there is a problem in our nation of doctors being paid by biomedical companies to prescribe their medicines, some of which are contributing to the massive opioid crisis.

Proposal for Action:

Doctors and their employers shall be banned from receiving any kind of payments or rewards from biomedical manufacturers or any company that is itself receiving payment from those biomedical manufacturers. Detailing/marketing visits by biomedical representatives must be purely educational to the doctor; no gifts of any kind are to be given to the doctor by the representative, no matter the value. Further, public health institutions are encouraged to further restrict the quantity of detailing/marketing visits that doctors can receive from biomedical representatives.

Results to be Expected:

By banning rewards or payments of doctors by biomedical manufacturers, and by severely limiting detailing/marketing visits to doctors, doctors would be far less likely to prescribe name-brand drugs in instances when there are viable generic alternatives, reducing the excessive amount wasted on name-brand drugs. Further, there would be a drop off in the prescription of opioids by the highest rewarded doctors in the nation, potentially leading to relief from the opioid crisis.
Proposal #198
Author: Olivia Klein, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
To establish federally regulated stem cell therapy clinics in America

Major Areas to be Affected:
Specialized healthcare, tax revenue

Justification:
Every year, nearly 650,000 cancer patients receive chemotherapy treatment in an outpatient oncology clinic within the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those who receive chemotherapy are at a higher risk to develop infections, due to the weakened state of the immune system and the inability for damaged cells to initiate growth. These infections may lead to further hospitalization, delay of chemotherapy, and death in some circumstances.

Many researchers and patients have turned to stem cell therapy, also known as regenerative medicine, which promotes the repair response of diseased, dysfunctional or injured tissue using stem cells or their derivatives. The pluripotency, or the ability to develop growth of multiple different cell types, of stem cells allows them to replace otherwise impotent cells damaged by chemotherapy, or other medical conditions.

351 clinic businesses across the United States offer stem cell therapies, as of 2016. However, questions can be raised surrounding malpractice and federal regulation of such new technologies in private practices. Clinics that offer largely unregulated procedures involving stem cells make up a majority of the US medical marketplace according to Leigh Turner, an associate professor at the University of Minnesota Center for Bioethics, School of Public Health and College of Pharmacy, who studies cellular therapies.

According to the NIH National Cancer Institute, there are currently 176 federally regulated stem cell transplant centers across America maintained by The National Marrow Donor Program. Unless a patient happens to live close to a transplant center, they will have to travel to receive treatment. Although some centers require a stay as an outpatient, the recipient likely has to stay in a nearby hotel or apartment while receiving treatment at one of the 176 federally regulated clinics across the US. This current implication for travel may be off putting for potential patients, as cost of travel and possibility of putting oneself in further danger while traveling can be a large burden on the patient.

Single treatment sessions can range from $5,000 to $8,000, not including overhead costs for therapy providers. These costs are not always covered by insurance, as medical coverage is selective in regard to the patient’s condition. For example, hematopoietic stem cell therapies such as for leukemia are considered established treatment by insurance agencies, and are therefore covered. However, more rare forms of cancer or cellular-based conditions likely lack insurance coverage for their treatments. These steep costs may prevent individuals from lower income backgrounds from receiving stem cell therapies.

As of fiscal year 2018, the federal government spent $1.1 trillion on health care, including funds allotted for the Cures Act, which will accumulate $500 million over 9 years. In addition, income tax expenditures for health care in 2018 amounted to $225 billion. These figures including a state tax increase have the potential to provide for implementation of federally regulated clinic establishments across the nation, as well as further research and more affordable treatment.

Proposal for Action:
Abiding by the 21st Century Cures Act (2016), the FDA will implement federally funded and regulated clinics across the United States to provide treatment via Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy (RMAT) and the Breakthrough Devices program to patients who are in need of medical biologics in a more efficient and protective manner. RMAT provides patients with expedited biological treatments that have been proven through preliminary clinical evidence to potentially meet the medical needs of a specified condition. Stem cell research and applied therapies accessible at FDA regulated clinics will only provide embryonic stem (ES) cell treatment alternatives, as to avoid sourcing malpractice yet still provide treatment with adequate pluripotent abilities. Available therapies will undergo regulation.
improvements conducted by intercenter institutes partnered with individual research institutes, such as The National Marrow Donor Program, using the $500 million accumulated over 9 years authorized by the Cures Act. A portion of these funds will go towards partial treatment cost coverage under Medicaid for individuals who are unable to afford treatment based on personal income level. An additional $100 million 5-year federal tax of each state would allow for the implementation of physical stem cell clinic establishments across the United States, only adding a small sum to annual federal tax expenditures for health care. As of the year 2030, at least three additional federally funded physical clinic establishments should be available to patients in each of the fifty states.

Results to be Expected:

Expedited ES alternative stem cell therapies will be provided for those with a serious and/or life-threatening condition as prescribed by a designated healthcare specialist, and provided at federally regulated stem cell clinic. More conveniently located physical stem cell clinic establishments will be available for anyone seeking federally regulated stem cell treatment.
Proposal #208
Author: Scott Nagatoshi, Delegation: California

Title:
Proposal to add menstrual products to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Major Areas to be Affected:
SNAP Recipients, United States Government, SNAP Authorized retail locations

Justification:
There are nearly 38,000,000 people in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, unable to afford the most basic necessity of food to survive. Their income rates are far under the national average coming in at about $27,000 a year for a three person family. That income is used to pay housing, utilities, transportation, healthcare, and education for themselves and their children. With a lack of sufficient income, SNAP recipients who undergo regular menstrual cycles are often unable to afford necessary hygiene products. This leads to the use of unsanitary materials such as napkins, plastic bags, towels, cotton balls, socks, discarded items of clothing and a myriad of other objects that simply are not meant for that purpose. Using these substitutes can lead to many infections including staph infections and yeast infections which could also lead to Toxic shock syndrome (TSS), a potentially fatal disease. Many SNAP authorized retailers already carry menstrual products for sale but under the guidelines of SNAP recipients are only able to use their benefits for certain foods and drinks, making it very difficult to purchase other common necessities.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal would allow for SNAP recipients who have regular menstrual cycles to purchase menstrual products with an Electronic Benefit Transfer card (EBT Card)

Results to be Expected:
SNAP recipients will no longer have to struggle to purchase menstrual products therefore there will be a lower risk of infections and other medical issues.
Title:

Reforming the Medical Device Approval Pathway

Major Areas to be Affected:

FDA, Consumers, Medical Device Manufacturers, Hospitals

Justification:

The 510(k) Program is the most common premarket submission pathway for Class III medical devices, or devices that present an unreasonable risk of illness or injury, support life, or are implanted. Since 1976, this program has allowed device manufacturers to go through an expedited, less stringent approval process for a new Class III medical device if they demonstrate the product is substantially equivalent to a device that's already on the market. However, some legally marketed devices don't closely reflect the modern technology embedded in new devices or more current understanding of device benefits and risks. Using older predicate devices as comparisons has resulted in the approval of medical devices and products that pose a risk to the general public.

Proposal for Action:

Eliminate the 510(k) medical device approval pathway, and require the FDA to test all new Class III medical devices via the more stringent Premarket Approval (PMA) process.

Results to be Expected:

Removal of the 510(k) approval pathway will boost security standards of new medical devices in order to protect patients and prevent injuries and deaths. Requiring all new devices to face a more rigorous approval process will help cultivate a pool of cutting-edge health tools. This way, the FDA can create a competitive landscape among device manufacturers that fosters greater innovation in healthcare.
Proposal #266
Author: Kimvy Tran, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Allowing food stamps holders to purchase menstrual pads, tampons, and diva cups with the Women’s Health Forward swipe card.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Justification:
From a research study done by Professor Anne Sebert Kuhlmann at the College for Public Health and Social Justice at St. Louis University: Between July 2017 and March 2018, researchers found that 64 percent of the women had been unable to afford period products during the previous year. Also, 21 percent of those women experienced this problem on a monthly basis. The research also reveals that almost half had times during the past year when they had to choose between food and period products. Kuhlmann’s compelling research opens the public’s eyes on the growing issue of costly feminine hygiene products that hinder low-income women’s basic health needs.

When women do not have affordable access to menstrual pads, tampons, or diva cups, they result in using unsanitary measures, like rags or paper towels, to attempt to maintain a healthy lifestyle on a budget. Yet, this method yields dangerous results that can cause death and toxic shock syndrome.

The accessibility of these basic feminine hygiene products not only can put their health and life at risk but this crisis also negatively affects women’s education. To elaborate, in the U.S., 1 out of 5 girls out of school during their monthly cycle. Moreover, these women are missing school to tend to their menstrual cycles at home because they do not have the proper products to effectively take care of their menstrual cycle in a public atmosphere. Therefore, the lack of menstrual pads, tampons, and diva cups can lead to lower quality education, lack of motivation for these women to go to school, and possibly delayed graduation.

Currently, there is no government-subsidized program for low-income women to have easier access to feminine hygiene products. To make matters worse, 41 out of the 50 states still tax tampons, menstrual pads, and diva cups. By implementing the Women’s Health Forward swipe card, not only will low-income women will have a pathway to affording these feminine hygiene products, but the U.S can bring a halt to the worldwide stigma about women’s periods and demonstrate how basic health needs are a right and not a luxury.

Proposal for Action:
Any female member that is being assisted in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is eligible to apply for a Women Health’s Forward swipe card.
The Women’s Health Forward swipe card will have a maximum amount of ten dollars on the card.
The Women’s Health Forward swipe card will replenish its $10 on the card at the beginning of the month.
The Women's Health Forward swipe card will be restricted to the purchasing of only menstrual pads, tampons, and diva cups.
Current participating stores will be mandated to accept the Women’s Health Forward swipe card.

Results to be Expected:
The results that can be expected if this bill passes is more low-income women and girls attending school, less female deaths due to the usage of unsanitary menstrual methods, and a decrease in society’s stigma about women’s periods.
Proposal #285
Author: Drue Bender, Delegation: Michigan

Title:
A proposal to ensure a safe global environment to reduce air pollution and its carbon footprint and implement a Carbon Tax.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Large corporation factories.

Justification:
Global warming/ climate change is a global issue that has been plaguing our world for years and is only getting progressively worse. The effects are only going to get worse within the next 50 years, affecting our agriculture, climate, animals, and our natural habitats. This is all due to greenhouse gases contributing to the atmosphere. The largest emissions of greenhouse gases are from: the United States, Europe, China, Russia, Japan, India, and Africa. One of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions are large corporation factories. By implementing the carbon tax would push companies to introduce upgraded pollution technologies and reduce use of gasoline and therefore begin to counteract the environmental damages that are progressing at high rates.

Proposal for Action:
All countries will enter a Carbon Tax that will tax large corporations based on fossil fuel, specifically carbon emissions produced by the daily business of the company.

Results to be Expected:
The passage of this proposal will lead to the remodeling of our environment in order to curb that damage that has already been done. By curbing global warming we will recreate balance in climate restore animal habitats and live a safer life, to not repeat the same mistakes. Which we will do by implementing emission management and monitoring equipment that will monitor the conditions to see our progress as it relates to global warming.
Title:
A Plan to Decrease Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Citizens, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Industrial Companies

Justification:
The United States accounts for about 4% of the world’s population, but it is responsible for about 15% of the world’s greenhouse gas, or GHG, emissions. GHGs are bad for the environment because when they are emitted to the atmosphere they allow sunlight to pass through them but trap infrared radiation. When infrared radiation is trapped in our atmosphere, our earth is heated, a process known as climate change. Climate change will lead to more heat waves, increased precipitation, more droughts, rising sea levels, and so forth.

President Trump announced the US would be withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, a plan that united over 240 countries to aid in reducing the contributors to climate change. Since then, The United States has not taken the proper steps to regulate our GHG emissions in replacement of the Paris Agreement. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is the organization responsible for taking action and proposing plans when it comes to have a safe and sustainable environment. The EPA has taken steps towards reducing GHG emission in the past; however, the EPA has been facing budget cuts since 2010, which limits their ability and level of response. Furthermore, President Trump’s 2020 Budget Plan seeks to cut another 23% of their budget and this would cause a closure of many departments within the agency.

Proposal for Action:
The US will provide proper funding to the EPA to establish the Office of Greenhouse Gases (OGHG). The office will work to reduce the US’s GHG emissions by:

I. Establishing a nationwide goal to overall reduce GHG emission by 15% by the year 2030, this can be accomplished by following points II-IV.

II. Establishing a Cap and Trade policy for GHG emissions
    a. Each company would still be able to emit levels of GHGs, but the Cap and Trade policy would work to decrease the number of GHG emissions and give a possibility for companies to make money off emitting less.

III. Providing funding and the building of renewable energy sources such as wind farms and solar farms.

IV. Creating a national ad campaign to help households understand how they can reduce their GHG emissions

Results to be Expected:
The US would see a decrease in GHG emission nationwide. This decrease would come from the effort of both companies and individual households. Decreasing GHG would aid in decreasing the causes of global warming and bettering air quality, which would aid the health of all Americans.
Title:
To end the catering of e-cigarette products to teens through stricter advertisement regulation

Major Areas to be Affected:
E-Cigarette Companies, Federal Trade Commission

Justification:
Emerging in its modern form on the market in 2003, e-cigarettes have taken the world by storm. Introduced as an alternative to smoking, many have turned to this in the hopes of helping them quit their chronic habit. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has lamented that e-cigarettes can help smokers, they have stated that it could potentially present more harm than good to those who have never smoked before, mainly teenagers.

Even after the CDC and many other studies have shown the negative effects of e-cigarettes for teenagers, companies continue to cater to this particular age group. Not only are the teenagers who use e-cigarettes more likely to start smoking, but there are a number of other health issues this new fad can create. E-cigarettes have the potential to damage the lungs, bladder, and heart. It can even lead to damage of one’s DNA.

The epidemic of e-cigarette use in the teen community must be stopped. In the short time span of 2011 to 2015, there was a 900% increase in the use of e-cigarettes among high school students. Using tactics such as calling it the “safer” option during marketing or pushing different flavors, these e-cigarette companies have turned their attention to our generation in hopes of finding lifelong customers. This must end.

Proposal for Action:
Increase oversight by the FTC for approval of advertisements for e-cigarette companies. Reduce different flavors of e-cigarettes to those found in cigarettes. Allow only the intended age group of adult smokers to be used in advertisements.

Results to be Expected:
The influx of teenage e-cigarette users will decrease from the decreased number of flavors and altered advertising.
Proposal #324
Author: Maggie Sparks, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
Reforming rehabilitation centers in America by adding a new agency within the Department of Justice, the Federal Drug Rehabilitation Oversight Commission

Major Areas to be Affected:
Drug rehabilitation centers; private health insurance companies; American families

Justification:
According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 47,600 Americans died from overdosing on opioids and 2.1 million people had an opioid use disorder in 2017. The treatment centers created to assist those attempting to recover from the effects of opioid use and manage their addictions have created a $35 billion dollar industry with more than 14,000 facilities in the United States. Rehabilitation facilities also help those dealing with alcohol, food, and other drug addictions. The climbing rate of drug use, production, and drug trafficking has taxed the resources of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and allowed predatory practices of some rehabilitation institutions to go unchecked.

A practice has developed known as “patient brokering.” This occurs when an institution offers money, travel, and/or other incentives to patients who agree to use their programs. Often these institutions provide kick-backs to known drug dealers who recruit patients with private insurance plans. The insurance company is then charged thousands of dollars for the drug rehabilitation program including housing, medical tests, therapy sessions, and prescriptions. These patients often relapse and return to drug rehabilitation within a few weeks or months. Rather than assisting those struggling with addiction, these rehabilitation centers profit from our current insurance system and prey on the most vulnerable.

Oversight is needed to ensure that patient brokering, especially across state lines, is investigated and prosecuted. Nationwide standards for rehabilitation facilities will help to counter corruption and protect patients.

Proposal for Action:
An oversight commission will be created within the U.S. Department of Justice known as the Federal Drug Rehabilitation Oversight Commission (FDROC). The director of the FDROC will be selected by and report to the Attorney General of the United States of America. All funding and employment will be managed within the U.S. Department of Justice.

The FDROC will use its federal powers and authorization to combat rehabilitation center malpractice in the following ways:
I. Subpoena financial data and other records of rehabilitation centers to be used to prosecute institutions that practice patient brokering.
II. Establish, maintain and uphold standards for new rehabilitation centers and create a timeline for existing centers to reach those standards. Those standards will include, but are not limited to:
   a. At least one licensed psychologist and licensed physician must be employed by the institution in a full-time capacity.
   b. All employees providing medical care to patients must be Registered Nurses (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN).
   c. Ban the use of fentanyl from use in rehabilitation centers.
   d. Ban the use of suboxone in rehabilitation centers.
3. Adopt other policies as necessary to combat the changing landscape of illicit drug and alcohol abuse within the country.

Results to be Expected:
The corruption within our current rehabilitation centers and networks will be more heavily investigated and prosecuted resulting in honest insurance practices and protection of those Americans struggling with addiction.
Title:
Public Health Initiatives to Combat the Diabetes Crisis.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Justification:
The diagnosis and patient development of diabetes mellitus in the United States is an ever-growing dilemma. The National Diabetes Statistics Report of 2014 found that over 29 million Americans have diabetes, an increase from 25.8 million in 2010. About 8.1 million of those affected were undiagnosed. An even larger and now more pressing issue is the level of prediabetes diagnosis occurring in the United States particularly among the youth. In 2012, 86 million Americans age 20 and older had pre-diabetes amounting to 35 percent of the population, which is astronomical compared to the 11.8 million age 65 and older who have diabetes. The diagnosis of prediabetes is occurring at younger and younger ages and will only continue to grow. Once diagnosed with prediabetes, 70 percent of patients will progress to type 2 diabetes, which leads to diabetes as the seventh leading cause of death in the United States.

Development of diabetes often stems from a number of predispositions, but once developed a new list of complications arises. Diabetes patients can be severely overweight, experience difficulty in regulating cholesterol levels and blood pressure, have slower healing timelines, develop diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema leading to blindness, nerve pain, ischemic diseases like necrosis, and atherosclerosis leading to myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) and stroke, as well as an increased risk of renal failure.

Not only is diabetes a life-threatening often irreversible disease with many complications the cost of treatment is astronomical. Of every five federal health care dollars, one is spent on the treatment of those with diabetes. In total, about 327 billion dollars annually are spent on the treatment of diabetes and diabetes-related complications. This is a steep increase from 245 billion in 2012. In California, the state with the highest diabetes diagnoses, 39.47 billion dollars a year is spent on diabetes. The United States government, through Medicaid and Medicare, pay 67.3 percent of all diabetes cost in the United States.

Diabetes presents a large burden to the patient and family experiencing it, the healthcare treatment system, and the government spending, and there are changes that can be made to positively affect and lower the diabetes diagnoses increasing citizen health and decreasing government expenses.

The diet consumed by somebody with prediabetes is of utmost importance. High sugar and processed, unhealthy diets can greatly affect acquisition. Populations in food deserts, both rural and urban, are disproportionately affected by diabetes due impart to a lack of available healthy eating choices, such as fresh produce. The produce is often limited and expensive making it unreachable. Simple knowledge and changes like healthier eating habits among other lifestyle adjustments can greatly lower the rate of diabetes diagnosis.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal of legislation contains a variety of adjustments and changes to help in the addressing of the diabetes crisis. These adjustments and changes include:

1. An excise tax on sugary drinks. This tax would be a constant for the amount of sugar in the drink at one cent per gram of sugar.
2. Modification of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program to include farmers markets produce.
3. Tax incentive benefits to employers who provide healthy lifestyle encouragement and choices to their staff. Healthy lifestyle employer encouragement and choices include:
a. A gym available to their employees at a free or discounted rate.
b. If the cafeteria is providing healthy eating opportunities labeled as such with nutritional facts.
c. Competition amongst employees such as pedometer competitions with information gathered monthly or biannually.
d. Screening opportunities for diabetes and other related health issues.
e. Vending machines with greater than or equal to fifty percent healthy options.

4. Tax incentives for grocers that provide cheaper and better quality produce as determined by a set of standards developed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

5. Grant assistance to successful diabetes prevention programs. For example, the YMCA’s Diabetes Prevention Program is a successful diabetes prevention program.
   a. There would be program qualifications, such as outreach and success rates, to receive aid.

Results to be Expected:

Mexico issued a similar sugary drink excise tax and saw an 8% decrease in the sale of sugary drinks and 6% increase in the sale of water bottles. The method has proven highly successful in Mexico and other public health issues like cigarettes. By adding tax incentives for grocers to provide products more readily and the modifications to the SNAP program, food desert crisis that disproportionately create high diabetes rates will be aided with an influx of healthy eating options. Programs like the farmers market modification can also stimulate rural economies, by putting money into them, helping the community as a whole. Tax incentives for employers can help spread and get adults more aware of the risk and opportunities for prevention by making healthier options more readily available. Grant assistance for programs, such as the YMCA’s diabetes prevention program, help address the diabetes crisis by utilizing and broadening already effective programs. For example, the YMCA program has reduced prediabetes development to diabetes by 71 percent. Grant assistance can help broaden the reach of programs and further research into program methods.
Proposal #346
Author: Emily Stoddard, Delegation: Tennessee

Title:
Prioritizing Bicycle Infrastructure To Mitigate Carbon Emissions

Major Areas to be Affected:
The transportation sector, major cities in each state, Office of Roadway Safety, Federal Transit Administration, U.S Department of Transportation, the Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation.

Justification:
The transportation sector is the highest growing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. In 2010, the transportation sector was accountable for 14% of greenhouse gas emissions and only the 5th major contributor to these emissions. In 2016 this number grew to 28% of greenhouse gas emissions which is tied with electricity as the 1st major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. There are no federal infrastructures dedicated to bicycle infrastructures, despite the case studies done proving that bicycle infrastructure generate revenue, help businesses strive and promotes tourism in cities. This is shown through increased business sales in cities who installed bike lanes. Installing bicycle lanes in large cities also lowered the carbon emissions for that city. Cities were accountable for 75% of carbon emissions in the united states in 2018. After Portland, Oregon began to install bicycle lanes and dedicate funding from city transit to include bicycle infrastructures, the unhealthy carbon and greenhouse gas emissions in that city went down by 8% in just the first year.

Proposal for Action:
The United States Department of Transportation should implement bicycle infrastructures into the Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation

Beginning phases of this include:
Developing an infrastructure dedicated to bicycle lanes to ensure the streets in cities accommodate all users of this new transit system such as but not limited to:
Pedestrians
Cyclists
Automobiles
Developing future policies that are inclusive to bicycles
The implementation of policies that ensure cyclists are protected such as drivers would be under past Office of Roadway Safety policies

Results to be Expected:
A decrease in unhealthy greenhouse gas emissions because of the resources being readily available to increase the number of people cycling. Along with an increase in business sales in large cities, this is because increasing bicycle infrastructure improves tourism bicycle use in these cities promotes tourism, which generates revenue.
Along with this, the amount of people biking in large cities is increasing, causing an increase in bicycle accidents. Improving/ promoting bicycle infrastructure will reduce the number of roadside accidents through bicycle inclusive development. Another result of improved bicycle policies and infrastructure is a decrease in traffic because the number of people cycling will increase.
Title:

A proposal to promote scientific literacy and dispel pseudoscience through the creation of the US Senate Special Committee on Scientific Literacy

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Senate, Center for Disease Control (CDC), federal agencies, social media, television stations, internet websites, Ad Council

Justification:

The circulation of scientific misinformation can pose a safety risk to the public. Currently, movements opposing vaccination are spreading falsehoods surrounding vaccine safety. As a consequence, the measles virus has resurged despite being declared eradicated in 2000 by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. As of May 3rd, 2019, 764 cases of measles have been reported across 23 US states. So far, no one has died of specifically measles this year, but in developed nations, the measles death rate is approximately 2 per 1000 cases. Despite a relatively low death rate, measles is highly infectious. In the decade before the measles vaccine became available, nearly all children in the US got measles by the time they reached 15 years old. There were approximately 3 to 4 million cases of measles yearly with an estimated 400 to 500 yearly deaths and 48,000 yearly hospitalizations. Measles can cause severe long-term and even permanent complications for those who survive the infection. These include pneumonia, deafness, permanent intellectual disability, convulsions, swelling of the brain, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (chronic brain inflammation leading to death), several years of immune system suppression, and more. Currently, there are no specific antiviral treatments for measles when a person has already been infected. Outside of measles, vaccine-preventable diseases such as influenza and pneumonia account for 50,000 to 90,000 adult deaths per year in the United States, mostly among the elderly.

The simple truth behind anti-vaccination claims is that there is no truth. Generally, anti-vaccination activists (commonly known as anti-vaxxers) make one or more of 4 claims about vaccines: vaccines cause autism, vaccines contain toxic chemicals, too many vaccines overwhelm a child's immune system, and/or vaccines cause autoimmune disorders. While there is overwhelming evidence in opposition to these claims, anti-vaxxers instill fear in parents with this misinformation, leading parents to be hesitant to vaccinate. Anti-vaxxers overwhelmingly use social media sites such as Facebook to distribute anti-vaccine claims. While sites like Instagram have employed technologies that detect and remove anti-vaccination posts, there remains a significant presence online. Some groups target specific religious or ethnic communities that may be skeptical about modern science. Currently, a group known as Parents Educating and Advocating for Children's Health (PEACH) is responsible for measles outbreaks occurring in Orthodox Jewish communities in New York. The group has specifically tailored their existing pamphlet designs to an Orthodox Jewish demographic. This shows just how aggressively anti-vaccination organizations are pushing their misinformation. Without action, it is only a matter of time before more and more once eliminated diseases wreak havoc on unvaccinated people.

Proposal for Action:

A new Senate committee will be established. The Special Committee on Scientific Literacy will be tasked with identifying public health and safety threats related to scientific illiteracy or scientific misinformation. In addition, they will write legislation that provides funds to relevant federal departments in order for public service advertising campaigns that combat the misinformation to be produced. For example, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) would be granted funding for a counter anti-vaccination campaign. These funds would be used by these departments either to create their own ads or to hire third parties to create them, such as the ad council. Exactly what strategy these campaigns take on is up to the discretion of the Special Committee on Scientific Literacy and/or the department that’s given funding, but a heavy emphasis will be placed on social media advertising, especially in counter anti-vaccination campaigns, as that is where most of the misinformation in originating from. Other possible forms of public service advertising are television and radio ads, fact sheets, non-social media web ads, and more.

Results to be Expected:

Vaccination rates will increase leading to fewer preventable deaths every year, and the measles outbreaks will cease as the anti-
vaccination movement will be more publicly discredited. The resurgence of eradicated diseases will be prevented, saving even more people from death and permanent injury. The US will also be better protected from scientific misinformation as well.
Proposal #380  
Author: Maggie Hannick, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
Incentivize green burials, biodegradable coffins, and burial pods.

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Environmental Protection Agency, fossil fuel companies, funeral homes/morgues/crematoriums, and friends and family of the dead.

Justification:
Green burials are simple and environmentally sustainable, involving no cremation or embalming. Bodies are placed in biodegradable coffins without concrete burial vaults, which allow the burials to decompose naturally. A Capsula Mundi, which is commonly known as a burial pod, is an organic casket suitable for ashes that can be buried, and the biodegradable plastic shell of the casket breaks down from the bacteria in soil while the remains give nutrients to a sapling tree planted right above it.

In traditional burials, which are not environmentally friendly and are wasteful, caskets are lowered into the ground in large concrete or metal vaults, and valuable resources, such as concretes, metals, and hardwoods, are then wasted and unable to be used in other ways, such as in construction and industry. Furthermore, the embalming process is not natural, and sanitation and beautification in traditional burials required for embalming and other types of burials is not widely supported because it is unnatural. While cremation can be seen as environmentally friendly, it is an energy-demanding process. Cremation uses the natural gas equivalent of a 500 mile car trip. In addition, a conventional funeral—including the embalming process and a metal casket—can average $6,500, plus another $2,000 for cemetery charges. Due to the environmental harms and high costs, traditional burials are no longer as common.

We have the resources and ability to create life out of death, and more and more people are becoming interested in the practice of green burials. Support for green burials as well as the environmental awareness from this idea has increased recently and also has allowed for less cultural barriers between burials. Green burials and burial pods are legal in the entire continent of North America, and there is no government push back in the United States or Canada. Also, green burials can be personalized and help with the grief of death and provide emotional benefits.

We need to save trees instead of cut them down to build coffins. While Earth’s temperature and oceans are rising, ice is melting, natural disasters are occurring more often, greenhouse emissions are strong, and carbon dioxide levels are increasing, we need to make an intense effort to protect the environment, stop climate change, and reduce waste.

Green burials and burial pods provide people with a natural return to earth, instead of harming the environment. Our current traditional burials are not sustainable for the earth. We need nature to be full of nutrients in which these remains in the soil will become molecules capable of nourishing a tree. The United States is running out of land, and cemeteries are becoming full. Instead of allowing corpses to take up space and harm the environment, we should focus on saving our land.

Proposal for Action:
The United States Environmental Protection Agency will offer tax incentives to funeral homes, morgues, and crematoriums for supplying and selling green burials, biodegradable coffins, and burial pods. The tax incentives will come from increased taxes on fossil fuel companies since fossil fuels are nonrenewable, unsustainable, environmentally and physically damaging, and contributing to global warming.

Results to be Expected:
Friends and family will be helped in the process of taking care of their loved one’s passing by saving money and personalizing burials. The United States’ precious resources will be saved and preserved. Land will be cultivated, and more trees will be available to provide for the environment. This will contribute to the process of decreasing climate change and its drastic effects.
Title:
To incentivize states and lower their drinking age to 18

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Economy, American distillery, winery, and brewery businesses, American adults (18+)

Justification:
In 1920 Americans everywhere were shocked when their federal government took away alcohol. As usual the American people protested and rebelled by smuggling alcohol into the country with formations of gangs to protect this loot. Similarly, in October 1986 the Federal Minimum Drinking Age Act was passed. This Act raised the legal drinking age from 18 to 21. From this a culture has risen of sneaking around, binging, and lack of education in the teenage world of alcohol. In fact in 2017, 4,300 teenagers lost their lives due to an alcohol related incident. Alcohol to most teeagers is a fun drink, it is not considered a drink of death, but without education and legal responsibility how would they know this to begin with? This irresponsible binge drinking lifestyle leads to 119,000 emergency room visit with 23% of teenagers that say they have been in the car with a drinking driver. The goal of this act is to increase protection and awareness for teenagers. This proposal will also overall help the economy and decrease the number of fake Id’s and other illegal buying techniques.

Proposal for Action:
Strike the National Minimum Drinking Age Act to a resolution that drops the age from 21 to 18
Create a Resolution within the National Drinking Age Act to strike out loss of Highway funds
In place of a 10% highway fund loss the states will be incentivized to follow the new minimum drinking age by:
Increasing their Educational funding by receiving a 0.7% increase in federal funding to increase awareness about alcohol abuse, addiction, safe consumption, and etc.
Increasing the states federal dollar amount for highways and their safety procedures, through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Increasing HSIP by one billion dollars and dividing effectively to each state.
If a state decides to raise their drinking age above 21, they will not lose any funding from the programs above, but will not gain any new funding. Their State to Federal highway match rate will go from 90% to 50%
If a state decides to keep their drinking age at 21, 20, or 19 they will not gain any funding, but will not lose anything either
Finally in Congress a committee will be inducted to discuss the impact and resolutions for lowering the drinking age to 18 every four years. The committee will also discuss the funding of the Act by discussing increases and decreases of funding and taxes provided through this program

Results to be Expected:
The results for lowering the drinking age is expected to improve the health and wellness of teenage lives; decreasing deaths, illegal activity, and other health incidents. The increase in education funding aims to teach them about safe drinking and safer habits; hopefully decreasing death and binge drinking. The highway funding aims to increase the safety of roads and increase resources and awareness to the officers protecting these teens.
Title:
An Act to increase the availability and affordability of menstrual care products and to do so through creating free access to such products within federal assistance programs, in certain public and workplace restrooms, and in schools.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Women and girls, especially women and girls who are low-income; private employers; the U.S. federal government; state and local correctional facilities; public schools serving grades 6-12 in all 50 states; homeless shelters, food banks, and domestic violence shelters; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and Medicaid.

Justification:
Although women and girls make up a majority (50.63%) of the U.S. population, and although the vast majority of women and girls will menstruate for a large part of their lives, for 3-5 days each month on average, menstruation has historically been characterized as shameful and as abnormal; examples, among many, of this stigmatization include 2 Esdras 5:8 of The King James Bible reading “menstruous women shall bring forth monsters. . .” and that prior to 1972 the U.S. had in place a national ban on discussing menstruation over the airwaves. This historic characterization of menstruation as something other than the normal bodily function that it is for millions of women affects women’s health, human right to dignity, and freedom of movement in public spaces. The associated stigma is evidenced by the absence of free and accessible menstrual care products—products that are as essential as toilet paper for menstruators—in public, workplace, and school restrooms; and which are not covered under federal assistance programs such as Medicaid and WIC. Lack of access to these products then results in women and girls missing school and/or work, experiencing humiliation, and putting their health at risk. According to the most recent Puberty and Confidence Survey, conducted by the feminine care products brand Always in August of 2018—the first survey or study to look at such data in the U.S.—nearly 1 in 5 U.S. girls and young women ages 16-24 reported either having left school early or having skipped school entirely as a result of lacking access to feminine care products. Further, a survey conducted by the menstrual cycle-tracking app Clue of 90,000 of its users found that 18% of respondents in the U.S. reported having missed work due to anxiety around menstruation; the food bank network Feeding America found that a lack of access to feminine hygiene products impacts low-income girls and women most; and a study published in the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology found that two-thirds of 200 low-income women living in St. Louis, Missouri could not afford feminine hygiene products. A survey commissioned by the advocacy organization Free the Tampons and performed by the consulting firm Harris Interactive also found that 86%, or 101 million, of U.S. women have experienced the sudden onset of their periods in public without having access to feminine care products, and found that women report embarrassment and humiliation when subjected to menstrual bleeding without proper protection; additionally, research has determined that lack of access to menstrual care products—a lack that the 42 million women in or on the brink of poverty are more likely to experience—results in increased risk for toxic shock syndrome, cervical cancer, and infection. In light of findings indicating that a lack of access to menstrual care products and the accompanying stigma are prevalent in the U.S. and that the health and wellbeing of vast numbers of women and girls are impacted by that omission in our public policy, it is imperative for the lack of access to menstrual care products and the stigma underlying it to be addressed if women are going to be able to participate in society fully and with dignity and respect: for to quote the head of the U.N. Human Rights Office of Economic and Social Issues, Jyoti Sanghera, in a report, “Every Woman’s Right to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene” outlining the United Nations’ belief that menstrual hygiene is a human right, the “stigma around menstruation and menstrual hygiene is a violation of several human rights, most importantly of the right to human dignity” that must be acted on and overcome.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. Congress and federal government shall:
[For the purposes of this Act, menstrual care products shall be defined as any product used with respect to menstruation, and shall include pads and tampons.] I. —Amend Section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to add that the United States Secretary of Labor shall be required to promulgate a requirement that each employer falling under the purview of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and employing fifty or more employees be required to provide menstrual care products free of charge within all female-designated and gender-neutral restrooms located on workplace premises.
II. —Require that the attorney general of each state that receives grant funds under Subpart 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
Streets Act of 1968 submit to the U.S. Attorney General a report demonstrating that all female inmates and detainees in that state have access to menstrual care products on demand and at no cost to the inmates and detainees as a precondition for receiving grants under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, with a 20% reduction in such funds for the following fiscal year for any state that fails to comply with this provision.

III. —Amend Section 316 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 to create guidelines that ensure that federal grants provided to private nonprofit organizations and local governments under the Emergency Food and Shelter Grant Program may be used to provide menstrual care products.

IV. —Require, through amending Section 17 of the of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, that the Secretary of the of the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgate guidelines allowing recipients of benefits of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to purchase menstrual care products with WIC benefits and to be provided with additional federal vouchers/subsidies to do so.

V. —Amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act of 1935 to classify menstrual care products as medical necessities and to require that the cost of menstrual care products, as medical necessities, be funded under Medicaid beginning two years following the calendar date of the passage of this Act.

VI. —Amend Section 4108(5)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide and make available federal grants for states and local school districts that choose to provide menstrual care products free of charge in public middle school and high school restrooms; such grants shall become fully available within one calendar year following passage of this Act.

VII. —Amend Section 14101 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 in order to repeal the exemption of offshore holdings from domestic taxes and tax rates, and to apply the domestic corporate tax rate of 21%, beginning in 2020, to all overseas corporate profits accrued by corporations headquartered in the U.S. or worth at least $50 million and determined by the Secretary of the Treasury to be primarily managed and controlled in the U.S. Resultant revenue shall be allocated towards covering the cost of the above provisions; funds not utilized shall be appropriated into the federal budget and General Fund.

Results to be Expected:

Implementation of the provisions of this Act would lead to increased access to menstrual care products in workplaces, in public schools, in correctional facilities and through essential federal programs serving women and girls who are low-income and who may lack adequate menstrual protection, and would reduce the humiliation that women and girls of all income levels and backgrounds often endure and the mental energy that is often expended as a result of a lack of access to free menstrual care products in workplace and public restrooms. In addition, the provisions of this Act would be funded through closing the loophole allowing revenue and profits shifted overseas by U.S. corporations to continue being tax-exempt or taxed at minimized rates, thus simultaneously funding this Act's provisions surrounding menstrual equity and doing so while reducing the wealth inequities imbedded within the current federal tax code. This increased access to menstrual care products, funded through decreasing income inequality in the U.S. tax code and creating a fairer system of taxation, would then allow women and girls to participate more fully in their educations, in the workplace, and in civic life with dignity and well-being, and would in tandem, through recognizing menstruation as a normal bodily function and women's bodies as normal and mattering, likely result in instigating advancement in other areas of women's rights as well, given that, as women's rights advocate Gloria Steinem has stated, advocating for and addressing women's menstrual needs is "evidence of women taking their place as half [of] the human race."
Proposal #538
Author: Isabel Frazza, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
To Add Staffing Requirements to The Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Medical professionals, patients requiring long-term care, federally funded long-term care facilities, The U.S. Social Security Administration, Medicaid, Medicare.

Justification:
By 2030, experts estimate that 3 million Americans will reside in nursing homes. The elderly population in the U.S. continues to grow, and long-term care facilities are struggling to meet the needs of their residents. The Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 set new regulations for nursing facilities. Many facilities rely on the federal government for a majority of their funding, and worked to comply to these guidelines. However, the act did not include specific regulations for staffing. Today, understaffing continues to be a huge problem. The Journal of the National Medical Association published a study which found that 90% of nursing homes are understaffed. Understaffing within nursing homes is dangerous for both the staff, who are forced to work long hours and pick up shifts to make up for staff shortages, and the residents who do not receive the care they deserve. Understaffing leads to lack of proper medical care, injury, bedsores, malnutrition, and much more. Nursing homes across the United States would greatly benefit from more adequate staffing.

Proposal for Action:
Amend The Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 to include the following staffing requirements, as recommended by The Consumer Minimum Staffing Standard.
For every nursing facility:
- Full-time RN, Director of Nursing
- Full-time RN, Assistant Director of Nursing (Facilities with 100 beds)
- Full-time RN, Director of In-Service Education
- RN Supervisor on duty at all times.

Minimum Level Direct Care Staff (RN, CNA, LPN/LVN)
Day- 1:5
Evening- 1:10
Night- 1:15

Minimum Level Licensed Nurses providing direct care, treatments and medications, planning, coordination, and supervision at the unit level (RN, LPN/LPN)
Day- 1:15
Evening- 1:20
Night- 1:30

These will serve as minimum staffing requirements, to be adjusted upward for residents requiring more care.

Results to be Expected:
In order to receive federal funding, nursing home facilities will hire more staff. This will result in adequate staffing, which will offer a better, environment for both residents and staff members. Residents will suffer injuries less often and cases of neglect will decrease.
Title:
The creation of the Office of Climate Mobilization, cleaner building regulations, and a carbon tax to decrease the amount of CO2 emissions and help slow the effects of climate change.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The fossil fuels industry, the renewable energy industry, construction, and the general public.

Justification:
One can see climate change’s effects through the melting of the polar ice caps, increases in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters like wildfires, hurricanes, and droughts, and the loss of habitat for many species leading to extinction or threat thereof. These are only some of the impacts of climate change across the globe as well as in the United States. The purpose of this proposal is to decelerate the rapid upward trend of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in the atmosphere that are greatly contributing to climate change and global warming. The carbon tax portion of this proposal is based on the legislation in British Columbia that has successfully reduced per capita emissions by 12.9% between 2008 and 2013. The causes of global warming are not limited to the rising emissions of CO2, however the reduction of these particles will slow the rate in which the temperature increases. Global warming is caused by heat-trapping gasses (such as CO2) often referred to as “greenhouse gases”. While they are necessary for the preservation of life on earth, the current amount of carbon dioxide, one of the most powerful greenhouse gasses, is at a dangerously high level and harming many ecosystems. These particles can stay in the atmosphere for decades after being emitted. NASA and NOAA research has shown a correlation between increases in temperature and increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The United State’s carbon emissions are second highest in the world, at 5,319 million metric tons. This proposal will help combat the effects of climate change while bringing about little to no economic stagnation.

The effects of climate change have been and will continue to be far reaching, disproportionately affecting already-vulnerable communities all over the globe who have fewer resources that could enable them to adapt. A report by the World Bank explains how climate change could lead over 100 million people into poverty by 2030, as droughts will ruin the livelihoods of many poor farmers, driving up prices, and disproportionately affecting the poorest and middle classes.

Another effect of climate change is the increase in violent natural disasters, such as hurricanes. In 2017, hurricanes such as Maria and Harvey were estimated to cost about $200 billion in reparations. The strength and frequency of these storms will increase, costing the U.S. and many other countries hundreds of billions of dollars each year. The regulations and taxes proposed will decrease the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, stagnating the rapid increase of storms and helping the economy. In addition, with this carbon tax, not only will the amount of carbon be reduced, but the economy will be bolstered with the dividends. The creation of an agency focused solely on fighting climate change and the proposed changes in carbon emissions will begin the much needed process of fighting global warming and its effects that have been detrimental to society and will become much worse.

Proposal for Action:
1. The creation of an Office of Climate Mobilization by Congress, under the Department of the Interior, tasked with ensuring the following building regulations are adhered to:
   - Buildings at the end of construction after October 1, 2020 are required to be solely powered by renewable energy.
   - Buildings built before October 1, 2020 will be required to be solely powered by renewable energy by October 1, 2027 based on the guidelines created by the Office of Climate Mobilization.
   - Those paying for the building’s construction will be required to pay.
   - Renewable energy will be defined as solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric. Exact sources will be determined more specifically by the OMC.
2. Create a carbon tax of $15 per metric ton, increasing 2% per year (accounting for inflation) starting October 1, 2019, and allocating 80% to be put into dividends for the public. Of the remaining 20% of the funds, as much as necessary will go into funding the Office of
Climate Mobilization, the remaining portion will be apportioned by the OCM into subsidies for businesses to assist in the installation of renewable energy systems.

- For each step of fossil fuel transmission, production, injection, pumping, and any other way of obtaining, transporting, or using fossil fuels will cost $15 per metric ton, with the above increases per year.

Results to be Expected:

Based on the significant decrease in CO2 emissions in British Columbia 5 years after a similar policy was put into place, the U.S. CO2 emissions should decrease approximately 15% by 2022. Without any precedence, the exact amount of reduced emissions is impossible to discern, however the new building regulations will significantly reduce carbon emissions. This dividend would give a quick, needed boost to the disposable income of the lower and middle classes. The U.S. is a global power and will help lead the rest of the world in switching to cleaner policies as well.
Proposal #014
Author: Joshua Whitfield, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
The License Compromise

Major Areas to be Affected:
Abortion

Justification:
Abortion is an extremely controversial topic. Some believe that it is the murder of human beings while others believe that it is an opportunity for choice. There is no way to change the beliefs of another human being completely unless that person believes themselves incorrect. Even then pride would get in the way of that person’s conversion of ideas. America itself is based on compromise and the sharing of ideas. This bill will give a woman a choice in whether they are ready to raise a human being and give doctors a choice on whether they will go through with an abortion procedure. Doctors have choices also. Compromise is the best way to make choices. This bill will fund state governments and local hospitals within those states including the doctors.

Proposal for Action:
I propose that licenses be issued to willing doctors in states, through the government. The doctors who are issued these licenses will have done an eight-month program educating them on the safest and efficient ways to perform an abortion procedure. These programs will cost $250 a month or $2,000 annually. This will be paid for by the doctor or any patron. A patron is any parental guardian or American citizen that willfully chooses to finance the doctor’s attendance. 40% of money/proceeds made by this endeavor will go towards the education of immigrants to learn English, financial literacy, and their rights via the building of schools for these sole purposes mentioned. These licenses will be called Choice License.

Results to be Expected:
Safety of the patient and the choice of both the doctor and the patient will be fairly taken into account. Any money/proceeds made by this endeavor will go towards the education of immigrants to learn English, financial literacy, and their rights via the building of schools for these sole purposes mentioned. This will give America a chance to solve other controversial issues and increase the quality of life for all American citizens. This will give doctors a chance to participate in a new branch of medicine without having to stay out of work for an excessive amount of time. This amendment will give 60% of proceeds to state governments that will the money towards the quality of life of the citizens of that state.
Proposal #049

Author: Kate Prest, Delegation: Florida

Title:

Mandatory Mental Health Evaluation for Purchase of a Firearm

Major Areas to be Affected:

Citizens safety, Gun Owners, Firearm industry and those affected by mental illnesses

Justification:

A man walks into a shooting range and supply store. He is an average customer shopping for a gun to rent for target practice. The man is friendly, calm and “normal” by society’s standards. He gives his driver’s license to the store employee and walks to an assigned lane to begin shooting practice. The man seems approachable and in such good spirits that he even strikes up conversation with off duty police officers having target practice in the lane next to him. The shooting range worker gives the man a heads up that his hour is almost up. When suddenly, the man turns the gun on himself and takes his own life. This is just one instance, out of nearly 22,000, that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports of suicide by firearm each year. Mental health officials say 1 in 5 adults have a mental disorder but do not show mental illness in everyday activities. The U.S. Department of Justice states that approximately 60% of all adult firearm deaths are by suicide. The statistics are proof how easy it is for someone with a mental illness to obtain a firearm in the United States. Clearly, firearm dealers throughout the nation are not paying attention to the mental stability of their buyers. And this lenience is not just affecting suicidal people. In Florida, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooter who killed 17 students and staff was diagnosed as developmentally delayed in 2002 and a year before the shooting, he even posted threats on Instagram about “shooting the school up”, which is classified as a criminal threat however, the young man was still permitted to own a gun. Given stories like these, the current provisions in place to bar the mentally ill from having access to firearms is far too laid back and has been seen to bring deadly results. A required mental evaluation for people who would like to obtain a firearm of any kind is necessary.

Proposal for Action:

A thorough, more detailed and mandatory mental health evaluation for anyone who wishes to obtain a gun is the smartest and safest course of action for our country and needs to be implemented. A required psychological assessment from a licensed doctoral level mental health specialist which will test impairments that can be related to harm to oneself or others. In addition to a required background check, this psychological evaluation will be required of any person who wants to receive a permit to own a firearm. The test will study mental stability and emotional well-being. If failed, a firearm permit will not be allowed. If someone who is denied acceptance can retry every six months for two years for approval. A person who can show that they no longer are impaired CAN undergo another assessment after.

Results to be Expected:

The proposal is not a complete solution for suicide and school shootings, however there is always a place to start. With the implementation of this policy, gun violence as a result of mental illness will decrease, the number of mass shootings, suicides, violent acts will fall, and as a result, there will be safer schools, businesses and environments.
Proposal #066
Author: Jack Huber, Delegation: Indiana

Title:
The Responsible Gun Ownership Act

Major Areas to be Affected:

This proposal supports the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution and understands that gun ownership is an integral part of American society. This proposal affirms that the vast majority of gun owners are responsible and are against any unnecessary gun violence. The Responsible Gun Ownership Act will empower federal judges by giving them the power to confiscate weapons either permanently or temporarily from those who trigger certain red flags. These red flags will monitored by the FBI’s Domestic Terrorism department and information will then flow from that team to the Judges'.

Justification:

This proposal would help justify the many claims in the past that the FBI did not have enough power to take action against certain individuals that they had on their watch lists. The FBI’s domestic terror department would handle and monitor all of these proceedings and would be given the power to recommend a judge look into an individual’s record. The judge, now working with the FBI, would have the jurisdiction to make whatever decision he seems the best for the well-being of the individual and the citizens affected by his/her actions.

Proposal for Action:

The Responsible Gun Ownership Act will empower federal judges. No one person in the entire United States of America better exemplifies what justice and law signify. Making them the best group of people to hold this burden for the rest of the country. These determinations will make the biggest concrete step yet to take the guns out the hands of those who are mentally ill and/or unfit to have weapons.

Results to be Expected:

The expectation for this proposal is that with this newly given power, judges can make an efficient determination by working with the FBI’s Domestic Terror department in guaranteeing that if Constitutional rights are to ever be infringed upon, it is for a just reason and/or cause. With this kind of jurisdiction, along with goodwill, America can begin to become a safer country while still upholding our core constitutional values.
Proposal #120
Author: Leah LaForge, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
To allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation more days to complete a background check in the purchase of a firearm

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, gun owners and dealers

Justification:
In the event that a background check comes back inconclusive for a prospective buyer, the FBI then completes the background check for the said buyer. But under current federal law, if after three business days the investigation has not been concluded, the sale can proceed regardless. Gun sales like this, which are made even though the buyer hasn’t passed a background check, are known as "default proceeds."

According to the FBI, in 2018, the agency failed to complete 276,000 background checks within the allotted three-day window. That’s around 3 percent of background checks, out of the more than 8.2 million in 2018. In 2016, 4,170 guns were sold to people with criminal records, mental illnesses and other circumstances which should have prevented them from being able to buy a firearm. However, this problem is only getting worse with time. There were more than 300,000 default proceeds in 2016. Of all background checks performed that year, 3.24 percent resulted in default proceeds. That figure is up from 3.02 percent in 2015. Since 1998, the loophole has put a total of 62,949 guns in the hands of people who were later found to be ineligible. If the background check later comes back negative, federal authorities are supposed to retrieve the weapon. Delayed denials are referred to the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) for retrieval. In an email to TIME, spokesperson Amanda Hils said ATF does not publish the number of guns retrieved, in 2015 or previous years. A 2014 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report criticizes ATF for poorly tracking firearm retrievals across the organization. Since then, the bureau has allowed managers to monitor delayed denials investigations, according to a Department of Justice audit. The audit also highlights room for improvement. Due to a longstanding disagreement between the FBI and ATF regarding the definition of "fugitive from justice" (a disqualifying category for firearm sales) there are 2,183 delayed denials from 1999 to 2015 that ATF has not retrieved.

The history behind the nickname “Charleston Loophole” has a more sinister story following it. The loophole allowed a self-described white supremacist to obtain the gun he used to kill nine people at a predominantly black church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, including Clementa Pinckney. This racially motivated act of terrorism was created in hopes of creating a “race war.” He had admitted to drug possession prior to the gun purchase, which should have prohibited him from buying a gun, but the FBI couldn’t complete his background check in time, and the seller allowed him to buy a .45-caliber Glock 41 Gen 4 handgun anyway.

A study published in JAMA last year found that the US’s civilian gun death rate is nearly four times that of Switzerland, five times that of Canada, 35 times that of the United Kingdom, and 53 times that of Japan. The research indicates these issues are linked: Where there are more guns, and where gun laws are weaker, there are more gun deaths, including homicides and suicides, after controlling for other variables that contribute to crime and violence.

This proposal does not hinder one’s right to bear arms; instead, it prevents those that do not meet the qualifications to own a firearm to have access to firearms.

Proposal for Action:
To extend the limit on the amount of time the FBI has to complete a background check from three days to thirty in the purchase of a firearm.

-If the background check clears before thirty days, the purchase can go through as soon as it clears.

Results to be Expected:
To reduce gun violence in the United States.
To prevent those unqualified from obtaining firearms from purchasing a firearm due to a time limit on background checks.
Proposal #159
Author: John Acker, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
National Reciprocity for Conceal and Carry,

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States, ATF, FBI, and state governments, US Territories, US Law Enforcement

Justification:
It is crucial for our citizenry to be able to exercise their constitutional rights, and equally important they have the right to defend themselves. This proposal would mandate states recognize the citizens right to bear arms by guaranteeing legal US Citizens the right to carry a firearm no matter where they are. This proposal is guided under the full faith and credit clause of the US Constitution, which guarantee rights for all, no matter what part of country they come from. The states are required to follow the outlines of the US Constitution, and the second amendment is one of the most important. Every citizen, regardless of race, social status, creed, gender, and location deserves the right to self-preservation, and it’s the duty of the government to ensure their rights are protected.

Proposal for Action:

Section 1.
Legal US Citizens will be permitted to carry a weapon in all 50 states if they possess a state issued concealed weapon permit or come from a state with constitutional carry, to allow the unequivocal right for a legal US Citizen to carry a firearm in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and US Territories.

Section 2.
Furthermore, conceal is defined as concealing a firearm on your person or concealing a firearm in a vehicle. Carry is defined as the concealment of a firearm on your person. However, persons possessing this permit must respect and obey the rules and regulations of private businesses and public institutions including but not limited to hospitals, federal buildings, schools, etc.

Results to be Expected:
Citizens of the United States having their full rights under the constitution guaranteed, and the ability to properly preserve, protect, and defend themselves.
Proposal #161
Author: Libby Butler, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
Illegalizing Abortions 20 weeks after Conception

Major Areas to be Affected:
Abortion Clinics, Pregnant Women, Sex Education Classes, Physicians Offices and Hospitals

Justification:
The Roe v Wade Supreme Court Case legalizes abortion, when before this case abortions were only allowed in incest and rape scenarios. As found in many sources, abortions in the first trimester are the safest for not only the woman but the fetus and her reproductive organs as well. At twenty-week, 300-gram fetus with a heartbeat who takes a few gasps after premature delivery appears to be alive but is not commonly called viable.

Proposal for Action:
Abortion 20 weeks after conception will be illegal. The only exceptions will be as followed: rape, incest, severe harm to the woman, or harm to the embryo. Additionally, abstinence-only education will be banned, and a new sex education curriculum emphasizing contraceptives and birth control will be implemented. If a doctor decides to preform an abortion 20 weeks after conception, penalties will be issued depending on the situation. These penalties include but are not limited to jail sentences, crimination, fines, or loss of medical license.

Results to be Expected:
Only 1% of abortions occur after 21 weeks, according to Planned Parenthood, this proposal is not unreasonable. Womens health will be more stable, rather than having the risks held with abortions occuring later in pregnancies. Futhermore, young women and men will become better educated on contraceptives and birth control rather than simple abstience.
Proposal #204
Author: Olivia Shreeman, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
Killing the Buzz Before It Starts: A Ban on Alcohol Advertising

Major Areas to be Affected:
Alcohol manufacturers, Television and radio advertisement companies

Justification:
In 1971, the banning of the advertisement of cigarettes on television and radio went into effect in the United States, and a ban on smokeless tobacco products soon followed in 1986. In the years prior to these bans, medical health professionals were researching the damage that can be sustained by nicotine exposure. Because of the detrimental effects, Congress passed the proposed ban on television and radio cigarette ads to protect “impressionable children.” After these bans were put into place (1977-1981), student’s “daily smoking” habits dropped by approximately 9%.

According to the AddictionCenter, nicotine is ranked fifth on the “most addictive substances on Earth.” However, alcohol was ranked second, just after heroin based on several factors, including the levels of dopamine released in the brain, etc. Alcohol advertising has a significant impact on underage drinkers. According to Dr. Timothy Naimi, a professor at the Boston University’s Schools of Medicine and Public Health, underage drinkers unexposed to alcohol advertising drink an average of 14 drinks per month. However, when exposed to the “average amount of alcohol advertising,” that number increased to 33 drinks per month. To take the study a step further, Naimi found that teens exposed to the “greatest amount of alcohol ads” drank an average of 200+ drinks per month. In May of 2016, an issue of the Journal of the Studies on Alcohol and Drugs found that the average middle-schooler is exposed to “two to four alcohol ads per day.” The FDA has recognized the extremely addictive nature of nicotine and has attempted to provide a remedy for the rampant use of it by banning the television and radio advertisement of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, yet it is still legal to advertise for alcoholic products on television and the radio.

Proposal for Action:
The advertisement of alcohol products on television and radio should be banned beginning January 2020.

Results to be Expected:
The drinking rate of underage children should decrease, resulting in a healthier younger generation, decreased rate of alcohol addiction in teens and young adults, and a decrease in alcohol-related deaths.
Title:
To increase the regulations on United States gun control at the federal level

Major Areas to be Affected:
US firearm owners and distributors, individuals who wish to purchase firearms, convicted felons, the mentally ill, the US government, the American public

Justification:
In light of all school shooting, gang violence, and other gun-related issues, it is important to address the issue of gun-control and regulation. Being able to obtain a gun in the United States has been known to cause such problems, therefore, the Second Amendment of the US Constitution has been looked at and speculated. The right to bear arms has been a right given to US citizens that may seem more detrimental than necessary. According to the Violence Prevention Initiative, “people who report ‘firearm access’ are at twice the risk of homicide and more than three times the risk of suicide compared to those who do not own or have access to firearms.” Even further, suicide rates have been seen to have a positive correlation with gun ownership rates. A major issue with this is the evidence that higher gun access causes higher death rates of children. Making the process to obtain and maintain a firearm much more strenuous and specific can decrease the amount of casualties and deaths caused by guns.

Proposal for Action:
Completely repeal the Second Amendment of the Constitution
Ban the manufacture and sale of gun by anyone other than government-run institutions
US government firearm sales and auctions that are already in use
More in depth background checks of purchasers
Each owner of a firearm require a plan of usage and storage upon purchase with proof of such plan
Implement a workshop/class for all gun purchasers on maintenance and safety
Attendance is mandatory for all who wish to purchase a gun. Workshops are held once every six months in each state. Appointed officials, veterans or members of reserve forces, will be sent to lead these courses.
Limit the number of firearms that can be purchased at one time and in total Depending upon the specific firearms owned, the total number that can be owned ranges from 3 to 7.
Individuals registered to own a gun are subject to search without probable cause
All restricted individuals (“violent or gun-related misdemeanors, dangerously mentally ill, drug abusers, alcohol abusers, and juvenile offenders”) should become prohibited persons indefinitely, never being granted access to firearms
A government database will keep track of all prohibited persons, noting which have attempted to obtain a firearm.
Purchasing and receiving firearms should be handled by the federal government and NOT the individual state governments to eliminate flexibility

Results to be Expected:
Obtaining a gun will be much more difficult, and gun violence will decrease. The process will cover all bases and will not be left up to the states. With more specific rules and regulations and the addition of regular service checks, guns will be used purely for sport and protection.
Proposal #243  
Author: Iccha Singh, Delegation: Model UN

Title:

To make it mandatory that every sold and unsold semi-automatic and automatic weapon has an embedded microchip that alerts emergency services when it is within a certain radius from a public facility (schools and places of worship).

Major Areas to be Affected:

Weapon holders (18+), emergency services

Justification:

Since the shooting at Columbine High School on April 20th, 1999 there have been countless attacks on innocent students and civilians across the United States. In 2018 alone there were over 18 school shootings. Not only do these violent rampages take place in schools, but they occur in many other public settings. Take the Pulse Nightclub mass shooting in 2016 for example, leaving 50 people dead and 53 people injured. With 3017 mass shootings in 2018 and already 105 in 2019, there seems to be no light at the end of this tunnel.

In many, if not all, of these situations the perpetrator is mentally ill or unstable. Gun laws around the United States are not only loose, but the lack of stringency is unfounded. First, they are varied by state, avoiding the broad nature of most federal laws. Under federal law, the Gun Control Act of 1968 prevents unsuited individuals or minors from possessing handguns or ammunition. Additionally, it requires licensing for any firearm salesperson. The National Firearms Act of 1934 enforces specific weapons to be manufactured by certain American licensed gun makers, to avoid faulty machinery. Additionally, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 requires each prospective gun-buyer to undergo a background check. However, one major flaw in the existing legislation is that it does not ask for background checks in sales by unlicensed sellers, leaving the impact up for interpretation of each state.

While at first glance, these federal laws seem to guarantee safety and prevent misuse of these firearms, they clearly are not doing a well enough job. Why is this, one may ask. This is because of the variation of rights within different states. Each state has different restrictions of weapons, waiting periods, and whether background checks are done for all weapons or just handguns, and whether background checks are done for unlicensed sellers. Since these laws are so inconsistent across the country, it is difficult to set restrictions that will please everybody and not go against the 2nd Amendment.

Therefore, I propose a microchip. This microchip will go into whichever firearm is sold in that state, and the local police will anonymously track the geographical position of that weapon. If the weapon is within a certain radius of a school, it will alert emergency services to immediately facilitate the situation.

Proposal for Action:

Introduce the idea to the National Rifle Association (NRA) and create a partnership.
Propose the idea to the House of Representatives and work with the NRA in getting it passed through the House and Senate, making it the federal microchip law.
Work with the NRA to find a suitable technology to implant in every firearm that has not yet been sold. Funding would come from the NRA's budget.
Implant microchip in all unsold firearms.
Work with the Governors in each state to create a task force.
Set a location for microchip installation in each state.
The task force will mandate that every firearm owner brings in their weapons to have microchips embedded into them. They would crosscheck each firearm owner against an official weapon transaction record to ensure all weapons are covered.
The force will install microchips into each weapon.
They will keep count of how many weapons were legally sold in the state. This number would be required to be submitted to a nationwide tally.
Set a fine and punishment for failing to have microchip installed.
This protocol would be repeated every 3 years.
The Governor and task force in each state will set radius standards based on the gun restrictiveness in each state.

As part of the decision, they would take into account the total number of weapons sold in state and compare it to the nationwide tally.
The more guns sold in the state, the tighter the radius constrictions.
The radius constrictions would be verified by the NRA.

**Results to be Expected:**

More often than not, the emergency services are not able to prevent a mass shooting from happening, and only get there to stop it from getting worse or to pick up the fallen pieces. With the proposed microchip, the emergency services can get there before the havoc occurs, and can prevent the culprit from doing any damage. This will decrease the overall amount of mass shootings in America, as well as the deaths and wounds that they cause.
Title:

Amending the Federal Requirements to obtain a firearm (and a Gun License) to mirror the procedure used in Massachusetts

Major Areas to be Affected:

Gun Owners, State Law Enforcement Agencies, Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Justification:

Massachusetts presently offers a model for preventing gun violence that the whole country can benefit from. With a rate of 3.4 deaths by firearms per 100,000 people, the state has positioned itself to sport the lowest death by gun rate; interestingly, Alaska fairs a rate of 19.8 deaths by firearms per 100,000 people, and Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, and a number of other states are facing firearm related death rates of over 10 individuals per 100,000 people. These high rates are representative of the fact that lives are constantly lost to the actions of ill individuals, and that stronger enforcement is necessary to ensure that only those who are fit to own a gun are granted that opportunity. If the procedure for obtaining a gun in Massachusetts was mirrored in every other state, the violence due to guns would drastically decrease, damaging less communities, civilians, parents, and children both physically and psychologically.

On a daily basis, 100 Americans are killed due to guns and an immeasurable number are injured permanently. However, the effects of this violence grows far past the number of casualties: communities are left shattered and forced to face the loss of their loved ones, and millions of Americans are drawn into fear of the next shooting. Psychologically, individuals are left traumatized and often troubled by depression and anxiety as a result of such violence.

Access to a gun doubles the risk of death by homicide and increases the risk of death by suicide by 3 times. Within the United States, the gun suicide rate is 10 times that of other developed nations. For children under the age of 18 that have died by gun suicide, they are statistically more likely to have used a gun found at home. This evidence demonstrates that the danger due to guns does not solely stem from the licensed owner; in reality, it is the ubiquitous prevalence of guns that is also responsible for the number of deaths. In other words, if there were less guns in the homes of families, there would be less suicides and less violence, resulting in less families broken.

Collectively, it is worth noting that when guns are handled responsibly, their place in American hands ensures that national communities can protect themselves in the scene of an oppressive federal government. In the scene of danger, it is such weaponry that serves as a means of self-defense. With that being said, completely restricting access to guns will not provide a means of security nor happiness as their role is fundamentally important to many environments across the country. However, it is indisputable that their ubiquity is largely responsible for the damage being felt by children and families. The number of suicides, homicides, domestic violence predicaments, and the psychological trauma that is wreaked upon society will all be lessened if a stricter procedure can be put in place to prevent those with ill intent from holding firearms.

Under the structure of federal law, the requirements to obtain a firearm have not appropriately evolved to meet the technological refinement seen in the weaponry: all that is required is a background check, which searches for felonies and mental health issues. It is noteworthy that there is even a loophole, through which private sellers provide a means of escaping the background check. Most states oblige to the federal procedure with very few additional requirements, and with the level of violence faced in those regions, it is clear that their procedure fails to serve as the safeguard every American is looking for. However, Massachusetts has organized a deftly structured procedure that an individual must go through to obtain a gun. With the lowest death rate due to firearms, the state has cemented its role as a defender against gun violence and thrives as evidence that where there are less guns, there are less gun deaths.

Proposal for Action:

Federal requirements for obtaining a gun will be amended to mirror the procedure presently employed in Massachusetts. First, the individual must complete a Firearm Safety Course and collect their Certificate of Completion, and then obtain the Gun Licensing Application. Within the application, he or she must check off the type of license that he or she applying for (Firearms Identification Card...
or License to Carry). Personal Information must be provided: name, address, date and place of birth, names of parents, physical traits, occupation and employer information, and either Social Security Number or Drivers License Number. In addition, the Questionnaire regarding legal status must be completed - the questions involve citizenship, past convictions and felonies, mental illness, addictions, domestic violence, and outstanding warrants for arrest. The ATF will determine what felonies and circumstances are to result in a denial of the license. The individual must provide the name and contact information for two personal references, not related to the individual applying for the gun license (it is up to the discretion of the local police whether or not they will require letters of recommendation from these individuals). Also, the individual must provide an explanation as to the purpose of applying for the Gun License. Once the aforementioned materials are provided to the Police Department, a background check will be tested within every state the individual has resided in using the information on the Gun Licensing Application. Lastly, the local Chief of Police for the city or town in which the individual resides will determine whether the individual that has applied is suitable to carry a gun license. It may be denied for anyone deemed unsuitable. If deemed suitable, the local police department will issue the Firearm License. In successfully obtaining the license, the individual gains legal right to possess a gun.

A committee will be formed under the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to ensure that the listed procedure is successfully integrated nationally.

-Funds will be distributed to the ATF under the discretion of the Department of Justice.

The previous set of federal requirements to obtain a license (and purchase a gun) will be replaced with the requirements above. States may choose to draft legislation to incorporate any additional requirements to obtain a license, but the listed procedure is to remain a process that any American must face across the country.

Results to be Expected:

The positive changes that will take place in the long term will be of great magnitude: there will be a decrease in rates of death due to firearms per 100,000 people for every state, a decrease in suicides by guns, a decrease in number of homicides by guns, and a decrease in number of individuals suffering from anxiety, depression, and any state of mental discomfort caused directly or indirectly by gun violence. Collectively, the level of gun violence faced in the United States will decrease and the level of security will come to resemble the situation in other high-income, developed nations where guns are successfully regulated. In the long term, national communities will thrive with a decreased fear of shootings and violence. Mental health and emotional health are expected to significantly improve, and thus gradual increases in social standards of living will come to fruition.
Proposal #272
Author: Isaac Alexander, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Allowing handguns to be placed in classrooms from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public schools in the United States

Justification:
Currently in the United States, there are 132,853 K-12 public schools. Of these, 1 out of 62 will likely face a school shooting. Each year, the amount of school shootings has drastically increased. In 2018, 24 school shootings occurred, of which 10 had police officers on duty. According to an article posted by CNN on May 9th, 2019, it stated that there have already been 15 school shootings this year.

In society, gun violence continues to be a prominent issue without a clear solution. As the number of school shootings increases, the number of victims has as well, including those who are not physically injured. Data shows the effects of school shootings cause resilience in those present and about 28 percent of victims develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a disorder which causes an individual to struggle with recovery after experiencing a traumatic event. In addition, about a third of the victims obtain acute stress disorder. This violence causes the families of the victims to exhibit disparity and fear, adding stress to their lives and even may initiate thoughts of suicide.

Furthermore, the average police response time is approximately 10 minutes. This inadequate response system grants shooters the opportunity to massacre dozens and ultimately affect thousands. During this reaction time gap, students, teachers, and other staff are left defenseless and vulnerable. Without taking effective action, the nation indirectly promotes these acts of terrorism to occur.

Proposal for Action:
I. Creation of new legislation that mandates a single handgun be in present in every public school classroom from Kindergarten to 12th grade.
   i. Only one round of bullets will be allowed to be kept in the classroom.
   ii. Guns will be placed in a volt in each classroom. The volts can only be opened by the principal and/or vice principal.
   iii. Volts will be checked every month by a designated person from the town’s Board of Education.
   iv. If any of the regulations above are not followed, then the privilege to hold a weapon in that classroom will be revoked. If a gun remains in volt after privilege is revoked, repercussions may include fines and/or prison time.
II. All teachers must take firearm safety courses on how to operate the handgun and pass all other mandatory tests.
   i. An individual may not possesses a handgun without completion of the safety classes.
   ii. Psychiatric tests will be administered to all teachers who pass the examination and choose to keep a weapon in their classroom.
   iii. If a teacher is found without a permit with a weapon in the classroom, he or she may face fines and/or prison time.

Results to be Expected:
School shootings will likely decrease.
Students feeling of protection and safety would increase.
The number of injuries from school shootings will decrease.
Proposal #279  
Author: Alysha Orbach, Delegation: Texas

Title:
The creation of a National Firearm Registry and a National Licensing System within the National Criminal Background Check System.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Firearm owning persons, National Institute Criminal Background Check System (NICS), Police Officers, Businesses that sell firearms

Justification:
In the United States, more than half a million firearms are stolen each year, with handguns accounting for more than half of these stolen firearms, many of which are then sold illegally. In 2000 the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) issued a comprehensive report on firearm trafficking investigations involving more than 84,000 diverted firearms. The ATF found that nearly a quarter of their firearm trafficking investigations involved stolen firearms and were associated with over 11,000 trafficked firearms, including 10% of the investigation which involved guns stolen from residences. In 1997 the U.S. Department of Justice conducted a survey that found that 8.4% of state prison inmates who used or possessed a firearm during the offence for which they were incarcerated obtained the gun from the illegal market. An estimated 40% of the firearms that are acquired within the United states every year come from unlicensed sellers who are not required by federal law to conduct background checks on gun purchasers.

Proposal for Action:
Creation of a National Firearm Registry within the National Institute Criminal Background Check System.
People with criminal convictions will be unable to possess a firearm.
If a person is no longer legally able to own a firearm, police officers will have the ability to take that weapon from said person.
Gun owners must renew their registration annually at local police offices, for all the firearms they own, during which they will undergo a background check to ensure they are no longer eligible to own a firearm, or they will explain when they turn over their weapon the reason they may no longer own a firearm.
The firearm must be registered within 15 days of acquisition by a new person.
There will be a fine of $300 for the first non-compliance, and the firearm(s) in question will be taken for upwards of six months at the second instance of non-compliance.
Creation of a National Licensing System within the National Institute Criminal Background Check System.
Before any person may own a firearm they must be trained by local law enforcement to properly handle the style of firearm they are to be licensed in.
Firearm owners will be required to have a valid license for as long as they own the firearm.
Licenses will be issued once per firearm and are not required to be renewed for the duration of firearm ownership.
The enactment of these policies will go into effect the following year after the passing of this proposal and current firearm owners will have a year following enactment to become compliant.

Results to be Expected:
The number of trafficked firearms, stolen firearms and people with firearms that are legally unable to own on will decrease. Police officers will have the ability to easily access if a person can legally own a weapon and be able to remove said weapon if they are unable. People who buy firearms from unlicensed sellers will no longer be able to go without a background check when buying firearms.
Proposal #335

Title:
A proposal to require extensive background checks assessing mental stability for ownership of weaponry and periodic check-ins on mental stability of gun owners.

Major Areas to be Affected:
National Rifles Association (NRA), Gun Owners of America (GOA), Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Rights stated under Amendment II of the Constitution of The United States.

Justification:
Many citizens around the country are afraid to even go to the store to pick up groceries in fear of an attack by someone with a gun. Seeing as though there has been a gradual rise of gun related attacks (an average of 3 times a week), we as a people must find a solution to this dangerous pandemic that is not only affecting the united states but is also affecting the rest of the world. As one of the largest gun manufacturing countries with 4 of the top 5 richest and largest gun manufacturing companies (Northrop Grumman: 20.22 billion, Raytheon: 21.95 billion, Boeing: 30.7 billion, and Lockheed Martin) totalling 108.36 billion dollars. With so much money these companies have fed off ear by encouraging citizens to buy more and more weaponry rather than promoting ways to prevent shootings on high scales. In only 3 months of 2019 there were 21 school shootings. Another worry is that even if guns are bought through the right avenues that people will easily be able to steal them from where they are put.

Proposal for Action:

: Require all gun manufacturers to donate a minimum 1 million dollars a year to foundations or charities helping victims of gun violence/school shootings.

Ending of all online gun sales.

Require gun retailers to include a gun lockbox with ever handgun purchased.

Require all gun owners to take mandatory mental stability exams by government approved counselors every doctors exam

Results to be Expected:

A decrease in mass shootings and other violent shootings due to the inability to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them.
Title:
The United States must implement a Universal Firearm Identification System that maintains a record of gun ownership.

Major Areas to be Affected:
1. All United States citizens who own one or more firearms
2. All United States citizens who wish to obtain a firearm

Justification:
In the United States, when a citizen would like to obtain a firearm from a shop, they must pass a comprehensive background check. This may include the assessment of the citizen’s criminal record, and their mental health history. In some circumstances, a gun license is not required at all. If the citizen is deemed eligible, they may purchase the firearm and be a United States firearm owner. However, this process lacks a vital step. Once the gun is in possession of its new owner, there may not be any registration of the gun. Additionally, in the great majority of cases, the gun is not under a specific name. This is detrimental, for if the firearm is stolen, the owner may not have any idea. Often times, stolen guns are used in the commission of violent crimes. If the government required citizens to record their firearms every six months, the owner would maintain aware their gun(s) and notice if one were to be missing. Stolen guns pose a significant threat to community safety, and gun theft is not a minor problem in the United States. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a gun is stolen in the U.S. every two minutes. Gun dealers and owners have a substantial responsibility to take reasonable measures to protect against theft. They must help ensure that their guns do not become part of this illegal inventory.

Proposal for Action:
Implement a Universal Firearm Identification System (UFIS)
Every gun owner must be documented by the federal government. This data will be distributed within local and state governments. The state controls how the data will be distributed at their own discretion.
Every gun must be documented by the federal government
This data will be distributed within local and state governments. The state controls how the data will be distributed at their own discretion.
Implement the Federal Government Ownership Form, enforced by UFIA, at the interval of six months.
Every gun owner must renew their ownership and claim their firearms (through the UFIS monitored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation)
Lying on the form is a Federal Offense resulting in federal and state fines and the offender may be charged with guilt by association if convicted because of a crime relating to
Previously owned firearms must be reported to the Gun Registration Database of the UFIS
Required by law if a gun owner has made previous gun purchases
Any transfer of the firearm must be reported in the UFIS
If not in possession of a purchased firearm any longer, report out of possession and the legal method used to transfer the firearm out of your possession
If a registered citizen found in possession of a firearm that is not registered, then penalty may include arrest and questioning to determine the offenses at hand

Results to be Expected:
The establishment of this proposal is a crucial step to solving the United States gun crisis. Firearm ownership is an extensive responsibility, and The Universal Firearm Identification System will ensure that all gun owning citizens live up to their duty. A major national concern is the reliability of the system the United States has set in place now. American citizens need a system they can trust. This solution, UFIS, not only maintains the second amendment, but it also constructs a secure and more trustworthy platform to
assuring the security of owning guns. It is clear at this point that The United States must do whatever it takes to create a safer society for the citizens of the United States.
Title:
A proposal to improve the monitoring of violence portrayed in video games through the establishment of a federal rating board.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), International Age Rating Coalition (IARC), United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC), video game developers and companies, Center for Disease Control (CDC), video game users

Justification:
Today, realistic video game simulations of school shootings, serial rape, massacre, and more are made available in stores and online to people of all ages. These violent games are often poorly labeled or entirely unrated, and thus consumers are not informed of the potentially negative effects that result from them. Currently, under the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), an independent self-regulatory agency, the rating process for video games is voluntary and privately funded. The ESRB is part of the International Age Rating Coalition (IARC), an international group of rating boards that works to streamline digital game rating, and the U.S. is the only country in this coalition with a rating board independent of the government. In 2018, the American Psychological Association (APA) recommended that the ESRB enforce stricter guidelines and make known the types of violence in the games more clearly, but no significant change to the rating system has been made since 1994, despite the research and real-world violence that calls for such a change. In order to better inform consumers of video game content and effectively enforce rating guidelines, the U.S. must establish a rating board under its government that is federally run and funded.

In 2017, the APA Task Force on Violent Media concluded that violent video game exposure was linked to increasing aggressive behaviors, thoughts, emotions, and decreased empathy. Recent studies from the APA and the CDC find that violent video games can majorly affect one’s decision-making skills and increase aggressive impulses and tendencies for real-world violence. There are several cases of real-world violence that reflect this linkage, one being the mass shooting at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. The shooters, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who killed twelve students and a teacher, were frequent players of DOOM, a first-person shooter game that features extreme blood and gore. Eric Harris mentioned during trial that one of his favorite aspects of gameplay was “using a chainsaw to slice open an enemy’s head.” Seven years later on September 13, 2006, the Dawson College shooter, Kimveer Gill played an estimated six to eight hours of Super Columbine Massacre RPG—a video game created and modeled after the Columbine Shooting—every day, which forensic psychologists determined to be a major factor that contributed to the shooting. A more recent example is the case of Adam Lanza, who killed twenty-six people on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Lanza was identified as a “socially awkward loner who played video games all day—” specifically a game called Active Shooter with the main objective to kill as many students as possible. Real rapists, kidnappers, and murderers have played these gruesome games and even cited them as training for their actions.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. government will establish a government agency under the FCC that serves as a rating board for video games.

1. This agency would model the existing rating guidelines under the ESRB and the IARC. Following a Congressional hearing during which data is presented on the correlation between video game violence and real-world violence as well as an assessment of current IARC standards, adjustments would be made to these guidelines as deemed necessary.
   a. Further research by the CDC will be done using delinquency, violence, and criminal behavior as outcomes to make any correlation clearer.
It is required for all video games available to the public to be rated by this board. All video games must be properly labeled with the assigned rating as well as a brief description of the potential effects that rated Mature or Adults Only games could have on the user. This description is based on the most recent publicly funded research from the CDC and other credible sources. Both the rating and the description will be displayed on-screen with every start-up of the game.

Releasing a video game without a rating or failing to properly label and advertise a game made available to the public would be considered an offense, resulting in fines or potentially more severe punishment if repeated. An advertising review council within the agency would be tasked with monitoring industry compliance to this set of guidelines.

The rating process:

a. An online questionnaire of pertinent game content is completed by the developers. This content must include anything that could affect the game rating, most importantly all forms of violence incorporated in the game (blood/gore, sexual violence, strong language, gang violence, etc.).

b. Developers submit a trial of the game that displays this pertinent content. The most extreme forms of all categories which contribute to rating must be included in the trial.

c. The video is reviewed alongside the questionnaire by a group of at least three trained raters on the board who collectively deliberate the rating. Once the raters reach consensus on the appropriate rating and content descriptors, the director or deputy director can review the raters' recommendation and may conduct a parity review to maintain consistency in rating assignments.

Follow up play-testing after the game is released will ensure that accurate content disclosure was provided to the board. Additionally, games can be reassessed at any time if concerns about its content is expressed by users or the public. If game developers feel that a game's rating should be reconsidered, or if changes were made to a game post-rating, there is an appeals process available.

The FCC will be tasked with appointing a director and a deputy director, as well as board members of the agency who meet specific criteria created by the FCC. Each board member must undergo a training period to prepare for properly assessing and rating video games.

This board would not be censoring any material through ordering changes or banning content. The primary goal for this board is to implement and enforce better ratings and advertisement guidelines.

Results to be Expected:

Game users and parents of users will be better informed of video game content, specifically the levels of violence. Every video game made available to the public will be rated; therefore, developers are held accountable for the content included in their games, and parents are less likely to ignorantly purchase inappropriate games for young users. All games will be better advertised and labeled to repeatedly inform and remind users of game content. With the added rating feature that includes a description of possible effects of violent gameplay on users, additional warnings are provided on the label and onscreen to remind users of the rating each time they play the game.

Additionally, with the absence of unrated content, games that include graphic violence such as rape or school shootings are less likely to be sold in stores due to public disturbance and controversy as well as corporate image. Both digital and physical gaming stores will be able to make better informed decisions on what video games to carry. Consequently, developers are less likely to include content that explicitly shows criminal or violent acts, as they would risk retailers refusing to sell their games. Even further, real-world violence related to video games could be reduced as further research is conducted with added factors of delinquency and criminal behavior. As the evidence of the relationship becomes clearer, the video game industry will be able to enforce stricter regulations as needed.
Title:
To Avenge Victims of Revenge Porn

Major Areas to be Affected:
Interstate commerce, Cyberspace, People within the United States

Justification:
As beautiful as relationships can be, break ups can be just as brutal. Sometimes, the feelings of betrayal, sadness, and anger invoked from the break up causes people to take a more vengeful route: non-consensual pornography, commonly known as “revenge porn”: “the distribution of sexually explicit images or video of individuals without their permission.” Typically, these are sexually explicit images/videos created or sent privately while the individuals were in the relationship, but after the relationship is over, one of the individuals posts these images/videos online as blackmail. This negatively affects the reputation of the individual in the photos, causes much emotional distress, and compromises their dignity.

Several countries, including the United Kingdom, Israel, and Australia have national statutes in place against revenge porn and the distribution of sexually explicit images without their consent. The United States, while not having any national laws in place, has laws in 40 states, including the District of Columbia, making revenge porn illegal. However, due to the nature of the distribution and how the internet transcends state lines, this is not an adequate solution. The goal of this proposal is to create a national law banning this so that individuals everywhere, not just in certain states, can be protected under the law and those perpetrators of revenge porn get the punishment they deserve.

Proposal for Action:
The intentional and non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images or videos (revenge porn), regardless of motive, is hereby illegal.

I. Pertains to images/videos taken by someone else or the subject themselves or created through image editing programs (i.e. photoshopping someone’s face onto a sexually explicit image)
II. Pertains to content including an individual’s face or any other identifiable information
III. Applies not only to original distributor, but to anyone else involved in the distribution
   A. If a reasonable person would know or understand that the images/videos were supposed to remain private, but the images are still intentionally distributed, the individual involved in the distribution is subject to punishment
   B. Companies may be held liable as well in some cases (See section IV)
IV. Companies
   A. Includes any companies/online websites operating in the United States in which individuals can post/view sexually explicit images
   B. If image/video is posted on the website, the company/website is only held responsible if the subject reports the content and requests its removal, and the company/website refuses to take it down.
V. Classifies revenge porn as a Class 4 Felony
   A. Potential jail time for the perpetrator/original distributor
   B. Fines up to $25,000
   C. Restitution to the victim
   D. Forfeiture of any profits from the distribution
VI. Exceptions for images/videos used for
   A. Lawful public purpose
   B. Lawful criminal investigations
   C. Reporting unlawful activity
   D. Images/videos created or distributed voluntarily
Results to be Expected:

With the implementation of this proposal, a reduction of the instances of revenge porn should occur, as well as less of these images/videos going viral due to the “reasonable person” clause holding other distributors of the content liable. Overall, due to this nationwide solution, victims of revenge porn will be protected across state lines and will receive justice.
Title:

An Act to Implement Active Shooter Drills in Schools

Major Areas to be Affected:

Department of Education

Justification:

Unfortunately, in the past couple of years, the frequency of school shootings has been rapidly increasing. With the constant influx of news on recent school shootings, people have responded by peacefully protesting and conversing with senators to act on gun legislation. With the implementation of legislation being quite a strenuous task due to lack of agreement, school safety regarding shootings has yet to be acted upon. Action needs to be taken now, and by implementing active shooter drills, the decrease in the level of chaos during such shootings can benefit the students and faculty.

Proposal for Action:

Every public school will be required to implement an active shooter drill four times throughout the school year, during which local law enforcement will come in and survey the school's layout to determine the best method for those in schools to stay safe during a shooting. Faculty, and students alike will be notified about when the active shooter drill will occur, and will be taught by law enforcement about how to act in a shooting situation in order to stay safe. Each state's Department of Education will make sure schools comply and implement the active shooter drills four times in a school year.

Results to be Expected:

Implementing a day for active shooter drills will inform those in school about how to respond in the case of a shooting and will extend the level of understanding for students and faculty. It will also decrease the commotion and level of chaos in an unfortunate event, and increase the faculty and student's ability to respond quickly in the case of a shooting.
Proposal #444
Author: Cooper Young, Delegation: Arkansas

Title:
Anti-Abortion Act

Major Areas to be Affected:
Areas with high abortion rates.

Justification:
Unborn babies have rights, they are still human, this is ethically wrong.

Proposal for Action:
This section outlines what is made illegal in this proposal. This proposal will make abortion illegal for women who are physically able to have a baby. If a woman will be unwilling or unable to support the baby, the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services will: contact a family member/another legal guardian who is able and willing to receive the baby, connect the parent with an adoption agency, or place the baby in the foster care system.

This proposal will create a new office within the Department of Health and Human Services, which will connect the parent with the appropriate party if the mother is unable to support/care for her baby. After the mother gives birth, if she declares that she is unwilling or unable to care for the baby, the hospital will contact an official from the DOH to come and receive custody of the baby until they have connected it with a family member or adoption agency, or have entered it into the foster care system. While the Arkansas Department of Infant Affairs connecting the parent with the appropriate party, the baby will either stay at the hospital or with a family member of the parent who is able to care for the baby temporarily.

Results to be Expected:
Higher population rates, lower abortion rates.
Proposal #491

**Title:**

Provide cost-free abortions for those receiving specific welfare programs.

**Major Areas to be Affected:**

U.S. Federal Budget, WIC (Women, Children, and Infants), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

**Justification:**

Low-income families continue to grow exponentially, as family income decreases evermore and lower class mothers aren’t able to cover abortions by themselves. Children are a very costly addition to people, in many cases women are not able to financially support their children, leading to very negative relationships, an increase in the population living in poverty, and more children suffering through systems like that of foster care. Not only is abortion a protection of the mother in this case, but it avoids the birth of a child into poverty and struggle. Through the implication of this legislation, less people will be born into poverty, leading to less people receiving welfare programs like SNAP, TANF, and WIC. The economy will positively be impacted by this proposal, leaving funds for the U.S. Federal Budget to focus on other socioeconomic advancements in the nation.

**Proposal for Action:**

Considering the current socioeconomic polarization and increasing population of citizens receiving “Safety Net” Welfare Programs, we must enact federal legislation, providing cost-free abortion procedures to those currently receiving aid from WIC, SNAP, and/or TANF. Currently, these programs are responsible for providing economic aid through nutrition assistance (SNAP), supplemental food and nutrition education (WIC), and economic assistance to states, which will implement programs focused on income assistance, child care, transportation, job and education training, etc. With the implementation of this proposal, free abortions will be provided to those who receive direct aid from any of these three welfare programs.

**Results to be Expected:**

The passage of this proposal will result in a further socioeconomic unification of citizens across the U.S., alongside the safety and security of those seeking abortions. The lower class will shrink and more families will be stable and self-sufficient as they will have less children to feed/care for. Not only will parents be impacted, but children will obtain a higher quality of life as they will have a greater opportunity for care and nourishment. Furthermore, women who can not currently afford abortions will be able to receive such procedures, protecting the women from possible harm. Beyond the uplifting of the lower class, and protection of women, this proposal will lead to a lower population of citizens receiving welfare assistance, an increase in self-sufficiency and motivation, and relief to the Federal U.S. Budget, saving the nation funding necessary for other programs and areas of funding.
A Proposal to Specify the Definition of Murder in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Federal Law, Citizens of the United States, US Law Enforcement

Justification:

Currently, the codification of murder under federal law does not include the definition of “human being”, which causes confusion in society today in interpreting the law. There is, however, a statute definition, which again leaves much to be desired in the way of clarity, and both have yet to be updated for the most recent decades. This proposal is necessary to prevent confusion and aid in the enforcement of laws and the creation of new legislation by providing a strong foundation and base definition by removing conflicting entities and adding simple yet complete explications.

Proposal for Action:

The proposal will add a subsection to article C of 18 U.S. Code §1111 to read “The term ‘human being’ means any member of the species homo sapiens at any stage of development as defined by 1 U.S. Code §8.” This proposal will also delete the word “infant” from section A line 4 of 1 U.S. Code §8, delete the phrase, starting from “who” and ending at “alive” in lines 4 and 5. Additionally, article B would be deleted from this same code as well as article C.

Results to be Expected:

Should this proposal be implemented, law enforcement officers will be able to better determine the whether or not a crime has been committed. Furthermore, uncertainty surrounding this ambiguous codification will be rectified, leading everyone to have a better comprehension of the law itself and those it covers.
Proposal #514
Author: Kaelle Hoeppner, Delegation: Wisconsin

Title:
An Act to Allow for First trimester abortions be covered by Medicaid in all 50 states

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Federal Budget for Medicaid, Women health, Women rights, and Abortion affordability and access.

Justification:
According to Guttmacher Institute over a million women in the United States have an abortion each year, and over half (57%) of those women pay the full cost out of pocket because federal health care such as medicaid only covers first trimester abortions in 15 states. The landmark Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade had ratified abortions in the first trimester as a constitutional right under the Ninth Amendment of Right to Privacy. By giving women this right and then federally taking away their funding to receive it isn't truly giving them the complete extent of their right. That would be like giving the people the 5th amendment right to counsel and then making them pay for it themselves, which the whole point of right to counsel is that when you can't afford it they appoint someone to represent you in the court of law. Doing it any other way wouldn't make sense, just as not providing federal funding for abortions outside of the fifteen select states and cases involving rape, incest, and life endangerment, even though it is a women's constitutional right to an abortion just doesn't make sense. The most compelling factor of this bill would be that if a women or family cannot afford an abortion how could they possibly afford to raise a child correctly or decently when a child would cost almost one thousand times more than an abortion. Based upon our countries foster care system, placing a child into the system is killing them at a slower rate, whilst first trimester abortions are nothing more than removing something that can barely be classified as a life form because it cannot scientifically sustain life outside of the womb. The consent to have sexual intercourse is not the consent to pregnancy and if medicare can cover a man being sterilized in a vasectomy procedure in all 50 states it should cover the procedure of abortion in all 50 states.

Proposal for Action:
Under this legislation all public health care/insurance providers whether state or federal are required to provide either two thirds or full coverage of a first trimester abortion regardless of the reasoning behind the abortion. To enact this/ cover it Congress would have to increase the portion of the federal budget that is allocated to medicaid and mostly likely decrease the amount of coverage on procedures like sterilization or coverage/reimbursement on Naloxone when it is administered on to someone who has overdosed on illegal recreational drugs.

Results to be Expected:
Women in all 50 states would have access to affordable abortions. Their coverage of the abortion services will not be dependent upon whether or not they were the victim of rape, incest, or life endangerment. Women being able to afford their abortion will result in less unsafe/illegal abortions, along with less children being born into poverty, the foster system, or being unwanted for the sole reason that their family cannot afford them. Overall, this legislation would improve the quality of life for many women - especially young ones who cannot afford an abortion or a child - and then being forced to choose the latter. Women will no longer be forced to go through with an unwanted pregnancy. Knowing that the government that granted you these rights will help you act on them is an important and empowering thing for all women around the country.
Proposal #516

Author: Madeline Blahnik, Delegation: Wisconsin

Title:
Implementing a minimum 24 hour waiting period on the purchase of firearms to prevent firearm-related suicides

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public firearm sellers, United States citizens, the Individual States of the United States

Justification:
The United States has about 22,000 lives claimed annually by firearm-related suicides. However, many of these firearm-related suicides are snap decisions, such as Andrew Black’s, a 23-year-old from Vermont who committed suicide within hours of purchasing a firearm. Black’s family is now insisting that a 24 hour waiting period would have spared their son’s life.
The only states that have waiting periods are California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Washington, and the District of Columbia. This leaves billions of people with clear access to the most successful tool used in suicide, as according to Harvard, over 82% of successful suicides are completed using a firearm.
The United States needs to enact legislation that does not infringe on the rights of American citizens, yet works for the safety of the American Public. An enforced waiting period can be the difference between life or death to thousands of American citizens.

Proposal for Action:
Require all public firearm sellers to withhold the delivery of any firearm for at least 24 hours after the completion of the transaction and background check. If state legislation already has a waiting period enacted or chooses to enact a longer waiting period, the state’s chosen duration is to be followed as long as the waiting period is longer than or equal to 24 hours. States may choose to limit private sellers in their legislation as well, however, only public sellers would be required to wait 24 hours by this federal law. No matter what firearms state legislation holds the delivery of, all public sellers could not deliver any type of firearm within 24 hours of the completed transaction and background check.

Results to be Expected:
By enacting a 24 hour waiting period the United States can expect to see a drop in the number of successful suicides and a lower number of gun deaths in the United States. This is due to firearms being the most lethal suicide method and firearms being responsible for more than 20% of the gun deaths in the United States. A study conducted by esteemed professors E.D. Shenassa, S.N. Catlin, and S.L. Buka found that preventing access to firearms can reduce suicide mortality in minors by 32%, therefore by removing access to firearms in an immediate, high stakes mental state, these mortality rates will lower, as well as mortality rates in other age groups.
Proposal #010
Author: Rosie Eden, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
Vaccine Proposal

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Parents and citizens relying on herd immunity to protect them from diseases they are unable to be vaccinated against.

Justification:
Vaccinations have been a major advancement in modern medicine. They have succeeded in wiping out diseases such as smallpox and rinderpest, and have nearly eradicated malaria and polio. Lately, however, there has been a growing opposition to vaccinations in America. With the rise of the anti-vaccination movement, diseases previously thought to have been eradicated, such as measles, have had outbreaks in the United States as recently as December of 2018. Not only is this issue negatively impacting the children who contract these diseases, but it also creates a serious threat to those who are too young to be vaccinated and those who have immune system deficiencies that render them unable to be vaccinated.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal would enact a federal law requiring all parents to get their children properly vaccinated at the times and to the extent that a medical professional recommends. Certain exemptions will be granted to those whom a medical professional diagnoses as unfit to receive vaccinations. Other exemptions will be granted to those who are able to prove their affiliation with one of the following religious organizations: Dutch Reformed Congregations and Faith healing denominations including Faith Tabernacle, Church of the First Born, Faith Assembly, End Time Ministries, and Christ of Church, Scientist. The federal government will oversee and either approve or deny all applications for vaccine exemptions. Parents who break this law and refuse to vaccinate their children without receiving an exemption from the federal government will be charged with child abuse.

Results to be Expected:
Making vaccines federally mandated would greatly increase herd immunity in America. Cases of preventable diseases in America would decrease and certain diseases would even be eradicated. Deaths in children caused by vaccine preventable diseases would decrease, thereby protecting the general public from a variety of preventable diseases.
Title:

A proposal to make schools across the nation more accepting places for LGBT students by providing more certified counselors to school districts and provide adequate training to school counselors so that they can better assist LGBTQ people in crisis.

Major Areas to be Affected:

LGBTQ People in the United States, Department of Education, Child Protective Services, Administration For Children and families, Parents of LGBTQ Children.

Justification:

LGBTQ youth have a rough time in the American school system. According to The Trevor Project, LGBT youth contemplate suicide at almost three times the rate of heterosexual youth. Much of this suicidal ideation comes from the overwhelming fear of rejection by loved ones. According to a study done by The Trevor Project, a survey of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth who come from highly rejecting families are 8.4 times as likely to have attempted suicide than LGBT people who experienced low levels of rejection. When LGBT people “come out”, especially to their parents, they risk fear of homelessness and never reuniting with their parents ever again.

According to the Williams Institute at the University of California Los Angeles, over 40 percent of the homeless youth served by agencies identify as LGBTQ.

In addition to being at a high risk for suicidal thoughts and actions, every episode that LGBTQ people endure increases the likelihood that they will engage in self harming behavior by 2.5% on average. LGBTQ youth are almost five times as likely to have actually attempted suicide than their straight peers, and these suicide attempts are almost 4 to 6 times as likely to result in injury, poisoning, or overdose that requires treatment from a doctor or nurse.

Proposal for Action:

While most of the school systems in the United States strive to provide as welcoming an environment for LGBTQ people as possible, many states do not have laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in schools. My proposal would:

- Work to make schools more LGBTQ friendly by working with the Department of Education to make sure that every school district in America has a zero tolerance policy against LGBTQ bullying.
- Appropriate federal funding towards the US Department of Education to go towards getting more certified counselors in schools so that LGBTQ people have a safe place to talk about any bullying that has been directed at them and issues that they face in their personal life by mandating that every school counselor take courses specifically on how to respond for LGBTQ youth in crisis.
- Work to make a safe space so that LGBTQ people who are kicked out of their homes by their families have a safe space to go and talk to and feel welcomed at school.
- Appropriate money from the United States Department of Education to provide training to existing school counselors to better work with LGBTQ people in crisis.

Results to be Expected:

LGBTQ youth in our school system would no longer have to hide who they are at school which would lead to better mental health outcomes for LGBTQ youth in our national school system. Under this policy, the national state of mental health among our nation’s children should increase because more of them have a safe space to go to at school to talk about their personal issues that they face if they are struggling with how they see themselves in the world.
Title:
A proposal to address the global pandemic of blood donation deferral periods of men who have sex with men (MSM).

Major Areas to be Affected:
LGBTQ+ Community, members of the United Nations, World Health Organization, Blood Donation Centers.

Justification:
Blood donation is a key factor in saving lives, and it also has many benefits. A single unit of blood can be used to help save up to 3 lives. One out of seven people entering a hospital needs a blood transfusion, and shortages in blood supply frequently occurs. Due to the fact that blood cannot be artificially made, blood can only be acquired through donation from other people. In 2016 in the state of Florida, there was a mass shooting at a gay nightclub, Pulse. In the aftermath of the shooting, there was an extreme demand for blood to help victims in their recovery. Although many people were willing to donate blood to assist the victims of this tragic shooting, the most affected group by this travesty, MSM, were unable to donate due to current regulations. Throughout the world, 48 nations have a form of a deferral period, a period in which a person is ineligible to donate blood, in effect for MSM wishing to donate blood. These deferral periods can range from 3 months to indefinite. These were initially imposed when the HIV/AIDS pandemic was rampant and most prevalent in the MSM community. Today, almost all nations mandate any donated blood to be tested for a range of infections, including HIV. As a result, the probability of contracting HIV through blood transfusion is extremely small. In Göttingen, Germany, there is approximately a 0.00000263% chance of contracting HIV due to inaccurate testing of blood. Additionally, in the United States, there are about 14 million blood donations annually, and only 29 cases of HIV have been reported since 1985. The times have drastically changed since many of these deferral periods and bans were first imposed throughout the 1980s, with the MSM population making up less of the overall HIV population in modern times. Therefore, something needs to be done in regards to this critical problem that is contributing to the loss of lives due to blood shortages.

Proposal for Action:
The World Health Organization will form a committee to investigate the extent of the pandemic in a Member State. If a country is found to have the technology to accurately test donated units of blood for diseases that are transmitted through blood, specifically HIV, and if less than 0.50% of their total population is diagnosed with HIV, then they will be mandated to eradicate their deferral period for MSM blood donation within 2 years of the publication of the study. After the abolishment of the deferral period, assuming the potential MSM donors meet all other qualifications, they will be allowed to donate blood. In addition, blood donation centers will be prohibited from asking donors to disclose whether or not they are an MSM or have engaged in sex with an MSM.

Results to be Expected:
The implementation of this proposal will allow for a significant increase in blood donations and supply. As a result, many more lives would be saved due to an increase in blood supply with the abolishment of the MSM deferral period. The ability for MSM to donate blood will also lead to an increase in the overall health of affected nations, because donating blood has many health benefits for the donor, as well as the recipient. In addition, eradicating this ban would help to give members of the MSM community more rights, working towards a more equal society for the LGBTQ+ community in the world today, in which many people face discrimination in their communities.
Title:
An act relating to the creation of a national standard for prospective parents to reach when seeking to adopt a child.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Children and Families, Prospective Adoptive Parents, Prospective Foster Parents.

Justification:
In 2017, more than 690,000 children spent time in foster care. These children typically remain in state care for about two years, but some end up staying in the system until they age out. While in foster care, these children are robbed of stability. They often have to move several times, and are transferred between foster homes with alarming frequency. However, bureaucracy in the system has created a situation where prospective parents are put at a disadvantage when adopting.

Currently, the standards for adopting children are quite high. This makes sense; after all, we must ensure that children are placed in a home that will care for and love them. The bar is set high because it needs to be. However, parents that wish to adopt a child across state lines have to meet these requirements twice; once in their home state, and once in the state of the child. This means they must go to two court hearings, take classes in both states, and pay the exorbitant fees that go along with this in order to be certified. Doing this may leave a child to languish in the system for years more than is necessary, and contributes to our adoption crisis. By creating a national standard, we can combat this difficulty and help more children find forever homes.

Proposal for Action:
A national standard will be created for adoption and foster care certification. All participating states will be required to change their adoption laws to reflect the standard, and all states will be required to recognize the rights of adoptive parents that reside in states that have also ratified this proposal. Family Court Judges will still be allowed to factor the geographical distance of an adoptive parent’s home from the child’s current residence into their rulings if need be.

Results to be Expected:
Qualified Parents will be able to adopt children more easily while still being subjected to the same rigorous background checks and training that the People have deemed necessary. Children will be adopted out of the foster care system more quickly, and be given the stability they deserve.
Proposal #082
Author: Rasmee Ky, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
A Proposal to Increase Vaccination Rates Among Minors

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public and private schools, pre-K-12 students and their parents or guardians, physicians, Vaccines for Children, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Justification:
In 2000 measles was declared eliminated within the U.S., but in 2019, we have already seen 626 confirmed cases of measles across 22 states. At least 72% of these cases were confirmed to be from unvaccinated individuals. Across the nation, 17 states have MMR vaccination rates which fall below 90% among preschoolers, whereas the threshold for herd immunity is 92-95%. This means, in these 17 states, children who are too young or medically unable to receive vaccines are susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases since it is likely that the diseases will be able to spread from person to person within the community. Even inside states with high vaccination rates overall, there exist pockets of low-vaccination rates which act as breeding grounds for these once-eliminated diseases. Given the current personal and religious exemption policies, some private schools have vaccinations rates below 50%. Vaccines are a cheap, safe, and effective option which should no longer be optional since allowing parents to opt out of vaccinations not only endangers their own children, but the children who are at the mercy of their decisions due to their medical conditions. When parents or guardians make choices on behalf of their children which strip them of their liberty and put them in needless danger, the state must step in to protect those children and, furthermore, give them the right to protect themselves.

Proposal for Action:
(1) Require all students who enroll in any public or private school or daycare to be up-to-date on all vaccination requirements as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unless given a medical exemption form by a licensed physician. Any personal or religious exemptions would no longer be accepted. Families must annually update the school or daycare with their child's vaccination records and any students who fall behind on their vaccinations must submit a catch-up schedule with updates on their progress to their school or daycare in order to continue their attendance.
(2) Any individual age 12 or older can consent to receive all vaccines recommended by the CDC regardless of parental consent if deemed sufficiently aware of the treatment and its effect(s) by their physician.
(3) Funding towards the Vaccines for Children program will be increased as is necessary to keep up with increased demand.

Results to be Expected:
Vaccination rates are expected to increase to the point where they will reach or surpass the herd immunity threshold for each respective disease, which will save the lives of countless of children across the nation and lead to the elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases.
Proposal #119

Author: Kai Marron, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
The Transgender Equality Act

Major Areas to be Affected:
Transgender people in the United States, Identification Services, United States Military, The Civil Rights Act of 1964

Justification:
Transgender people have extreme difficulty changing their identification in several states as well as suffer discrimination and loss of opportunity just because of their identification and transition. Several recent studies - from Trans Equality (NCTE) and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) - have shown that transgender individuals in the United States particularly face discrimination within their own family units and schools, in employment and housing, within government settings, through hate crimes, and under the justice and legal systems. According to the HRC, transgender youth are three times more likely to be excluded by peers because they are “different.” A national survey of transgender people in the United States showed that transgender individuals face double the unemployment, and 90% of those employed face discrimination within their own jobs. The 1994 Employment Non-Discrimination Act does not protect transgender individuals’ from employment discrimination. Transgender individuals are also oftentimes discriminated within government settings through healthcare policies and government-issued IDs, as well as exclusion from the US Military since the passage of Directive-Type-Memorandum-19-004, which excluded all transgender citizens from the military, except if they serve in their birth gender, had been grandfathered in prior to April 12, 2019, or were given a waiver. According to 2014 estimates from the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy, despite the ban on military service, about 21.4% of the total transgender population in the US is estimated to have served in the military. According to the 2014 study, “The American military employs more transgender people than any other organisation in the world: around 15,500...more than 6,000 of whom are on active duty.” In 2019, the United States Department of Defense states that 1,400 service members have been diagnosed with gender dysphoria and fewer than 10 service members are receiving gender reassignment surgery. Transgender people also receive discrimination from law enforcement as well. According to the NTCE, One-fifth (22%) of respondents who have interacted with police, reported harassment by police, with much higher rates reported by people of color.” Also reported by the NTCE, “One fifth (22%) were denied equal treatment by a government agency or official; 25% reported police harassment or disrespect; and 12% had been denied equal treatment or harassed by judges or court officials.” Not only adults though, children also suffer discrimination based on their identity. According to the American Psychological Association, transgender children are more likely than other children to experience harassment and violence in school, foster care, residential treatment centers, homeless centers and juvenile justice programs. American citizens do not deserve to suffer discrimination in the workplace and in their everyday lives just because they have changed their identity and body.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal calls for amendment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include explicit protections of transgender people. The amendment will prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. The proposal also calls for the Federal Ban on Transgender troops to be repealed. Finally, this proposal will call for certain restrictions on identification changes to be amended. Currently, in several states a person requires a sexual reassignment surgery (SRS) in order to have their gender changed on their birth certificate and other forms of identification. This proposal simply requires a diagnosis of gender dysphoria from a licensed psychologist or that the person have already began/undergone an SRS/therapy in order to amend a person’s gender on all identification, state and federal.

Results to be Expected:
Transgender people will receive more opportunities and less discrimination in their lives.
Title:
Establishing a Federal Vaccination Law within Schools

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public and private school students, public and private school parents, public and private schools, school districts, CDC, FDA, US Government

Justification:
Measles is an incredibly contagious respiratory infection that causes a total-body skin rash and flu-like symptoms along with death if not treated. In 2000, measles was officially declared eradicated in the US. However, due to a large group of Americans not being vaccinated measles has resurfaced. From January 1 to May 3, 2019, 764 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 23 states, an increase of 60 cases from the previous week. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994. Currently France has a 100% vaccination rate and countries such as Germany, Australia, and Slovenia have extremely strict vaccination laws. America currently lacks a federal vaccination law however all 50 states have some kind of law requiring children attending public and private school to be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles and rubella, and varicella. All 50 states allow medical exemptions, 47 states allow religious exemptions, and 17 states allow philosophical (or personal belief) exemptions along with which DC allows medical and religious exemptions.

In 1905, the Supreme Court ruled that a state can mandate vaccines and ruled that the state can impose regulations to protect the public health, even when such regulations interfere with individual rights. Currently there is too much variation on what is allowed and not allowed regarding to vaccines and the process of gaining exemptions is easier in certain states than others. By allowing for philosophical and religious exemptions in only certain states, America contains pockets of people who are not vaccinated which has allowed contagious diseases to re-emerge. In America people are given the right to life and when people remain unvaccinated and enter the public, they potentially risk the lives of those who take the precautions to avoid the disease.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will pass a law that requires all students in public and private schools to be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles and rubella, and varicella in all 50 states regardless of religious or philosophical reasonings by December, 2019. If the student is not vaccinated by that date they will be unable to attend school until done so. However, they may enroll in state sponsored online school even if unvaccinated. The law will also urge for widespread education on the diseases and the importance of vaccinations. It will be enforced by the CDC, FDA, and the school districts.

Medical exemptions will still be allowed and will require a referral from their doctor directly to the school district. If the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services declares a public health emergency regarding a disease the student is not vaccinated against for the medical reason, the school district has the right to require the student to partake in their schooling online until the emergency is revoked.

The school districts will be responsible for notifying parents and students on the new law, where and when to receive the vaccinations, along with information on the dangers of the diseases they are be vaccinated against and the importance of vaccines while also counteracting the false claims about vaccines (cause autism, directly injecting with the disease, etc) through emails, phone calls, and papers. The school district will also be responsible for maintaining all vaccination records and reporting them to the CDC.

The law is subject to be updated over the years when new vaccinations and diseases emerge. Certain vaccines may need to be administered again when declared by the CDC and the school districts will be required to notify parents when this occurs.

The law will also urge for babies and adults within the United States to receive their vaccinations. TV commercials will be aired, free pamphlets will be given out, radio commercials will play at peak times of the day, and the US government will create a website that provides educational links and a place for parents and students to ask questions. The information will be recorded and administered through the CDC and FDA.
Results to be Expected:

By requiring all students who attend school within the United States to be vaccinated against the previously listed diseases and educating everyone on the necessity of them, the total number of outbreaks of the previous listed diseases will overall decrease or be eliminated.
Proposal #166  
Author: Charlotte Snoad, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
A proposal to guarantee medical autonomy for transgender minors in non-supportive families.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Transgender minors, families, LGBTQ community

Justification:
According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, transgender youth have the highest rates of suicide and suicide attempts of any demographic, any age. More than half of all transgender males who participated in a 2018 study reported at least one suicide attempt. Among transgender female youth, the rate is 30 percent.

According to the National Institutes of Health, gender dysphoria, a condition where a person’s gender assigned at birth and the gender with which they identify themselves are incongruent, affects an estimated 0.5% to 1.3% of the population. The current best practice for transgender/gender dysphoric youth is a combination of psychological support therapy, along with progressive medical/hormonal therapy, culminating in optional gender affirmation surgery if desired by the individual. Key to a successful and healthy adolescence progressing to adulthood is the use of hormone-suppressing drugs which prevent the development of gender non-congruent secondary sexual characteristics. As a young person progresses from pre-pubescence to puberty, if they are living and presenting as their non-cis gender, it is critical that they do not have to deal with the non-congruent sexual characteristics that begin to manifest during puberty.

Puberty-suppressing gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues (GnRH) are fully reversible, and allow a transgender young person to progress through puberty without the trauma of non-congruent sexual characteristics. Once the person enters adulthood, they are able to make choices about gender affirmation surgery.

GnRH agonist therapy is considered appropriate and most effective once a young person has entered Tanner Stage 2 of the Tanner Scale of development. The treatment is possible in later Tanner stages, but it is optimal in Stage 2 because it allows for suppression of, and not reversal of, the development of sexual characteristics.

Studies have shown that transgender/gender dysphoric youth in supportive families that provide GnRH agonist therapy as well as counseling have significantly greater mental health outcomes. Additionally, a correlation has been shown between GnRH agonist therapy and actual family support. So, even in families that appear supportive and that provide access to GnRH agonist therapy, the rate and intensity of family support increases as the young person progresses through adolescence with GnRH agonist therapy.

According to The Trevor Project, transgender and gender non-conforming youth from non-supportive families are almost 10 times more likely to attempt suicide than those from supportive families. Additionally, the Human Rights Campaign reports a strong correlation between hormone treatment and positive and improved mental health.

Proposal for Action:
Transgender minors with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and recommendation from a physician, whose families are unwilling to provide support for GnRH agonist or other hormonal puberty-suppressive therapy, would be granted medical autonomy. In states where Medicaid provides coverage for gender dysphoria therapy, minors would be eligible for coverage. Minors covered by parental insurance would remain eligible under their parent's insurance. Covered therapies would be limited to GnRH agonist therapies and would not include gender affirming surgery.

Results to be Expected:
Transgender minors in non-supportive families would have access to GnRH agonist hormone therapies, allowing them to progress through puberty without the trauma of developing non-congruent sexual characteristics. The mental health of already-fragile transgender minors in non-supportive homes would be improved, thus lowering their risk of suicide and other harmful outcomes.
Proposal #187
Author: Nikash Harapanahalli, Delegation: Texas

Title:
The United States of America must adopt a proposal that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and
gender identity.

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Businesses, American State Agencies, members of LGBTQ+ community

Justification:
Several civil rights think tanks, firms, and watch dog groups, such as the Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Human Rights
Campaign, and the American Civil Liberties Union all recognize LGBTQ rights as being essential to the conduct and execution of human
rights in a just society. It can, therefore, be made that the discrimination of LGBTQ individuals in the realms of employment, housing,
and access to other services is a violation of Human Rights and basic human dignity. The legality of workplace discrimination of
LGBTQ+ individuals directly puts the United States of American in violation with the United Nations' Yogyakarta Principles, of which the
Federal Government ratified in 2017. The urgency of recognition of LGBTQ rights is one cannot be overstated. A recognized increase in
LGBTQ unemployment, poverty, and homelessness are denying the United States taxable revenue and stable conditions for all
residents. The consideration LGBTQ rights as human beings and as citizens of the United States of America is synonymous with the
protection from discrimination. The protection against employment discrimination is a right that all Americans are endowed to. And by
denying it to certain individuals we ignore their concerns, condemning them to discrimination by the Americans. Furthermore, members
of the trans, bisexual, pansexual, etc communities have experienced systematic discrimination within the workplace. By limiting the
employment options of the LGBTQ community, the United States of America ignores their presence as individuals and perpetuates a
cycle of discrimination, prejudice, and intolerance that hinders the United States of America from achieving true equality. By protecting
LGBTQ individuals from employment discrimination the United States can accurately protect their citizens and work towards resolving
deep-rooted issues concerning the LGBTQ community.

Proposal for Action:
The United States of America must actively enforce Employment Standards through the amending of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
(which compiled and standardized labor laws in relation to workplace discrimination and services), adding LGBTQ persons to the
already established protected clause, essentially extending the protections from discrimination to cover sexual orientation and gender
expression. By amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the nature of protection is extended towards housing in that housing cannot be
denied (upon reasonable proof) based on sexual orientation and/or gender expression.

Fines are to be placed on businesses and State Agencies that do not comply with this amended act. Establishment of a national Human
Rights Commission that acts as a third party oversight over proper judicial, law-enforcement, and business procedure and prosecution.
This third party serves as an overwatch to ensure that cases and judicial proceedings are properly conducted without biases. Such
commission does not intervene in rulings nor takes the place of the United States Judicial Branch or United States Supreme Court. The
Human Rights Commission has a legal duty to review each case decision pertinent to the violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
ensuring compliance from the Attorney General of the United States of America, and depending on the nature of the court response,
can issue an official warning to all branches of the Federal Government concerning the workings or standards being upheld by the
Judicial Branch or Legislative Branch concerning the enforcement of the amended clause. The Human Rights Commission will not be
extended to all existing protected entities until it is judged fit to do so following a period not to exceed 5 years. Once said five year
period mark has been reached the efficacy of the HRC will be judged as to attempt to understand if such state organ is ready to be
expanded to other protected classes. The HRC acts as a precedent for civil rights reform insofar as it is now a mechanism for which the
United States Federal Government can dutifully execute its covenant to the people of the United States. The necessity of the HRC can
be reevaluated by a Congressional act after a five year period.
Results to be Expected:

Statistically, America’s civil rights reputation will improve with the United States of America joining 28 nations that protect LGBTQ individuals from employment discrimination. The United States of America will and can prevent corporations from leaving the nation to Europe or Canada because of employment options; therefore The United States of America fosters a friendlier business environment. The United States of America will ensure that individuals beyond the LGBTQ community are protected employment discrimination – allowing America to be more conducive towards advancing more civil rights agendas and expanding the protections of LGBTQ and other minority groups.
Title:
Closing the Child Abuse Loophole: Criminalizing Conversion Therapy

Major Areas to be Affected:
LGBTQ+ youth, conversion therapy practitioners (medical practitioners/psychotherapists), religious groups, parents/guardians of LGBTQ+ youth

Justification:
Conversion therapy ? here defined as medical or psychological methods intended to change the sexual orientation of people with same-sex attraction ? despite having been declared ineffective and scientifically invalid by every major American psychological and medical organization, remains legal in 41 states. While consenting legal adults may still choose to pursue this avenue, allowing minors to undergo such treatment is tantamount to child abuse. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act defines child abuse as "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm." Given that the American Psychological Association states that conversion therapy may "cause depression, anxiety, low self-esteem and self-harming behaviors" as well as induce extreme self-hatred and cause physical harm, conversion therapy is child abuse and cannot be legally or ethically condoned. An estimated 350,000 American minors have undergone conversion therapy, the majority of whom were forced or pressured against their will by a parent or authority figure. Suicide rates have doubled and depression rates have tripled compared to the national norm among LGBTQ+ minors who have undergone conversion efforts, and survivors of conversion therapy have described some tactics as torturous. Thus, the only just course of action is to make conversion therapy for minors, practiced by medical and psychological professionals or by others in exchange for payment, a criminal offense.

Proposal for Action:
Conversion therapy for minors, as defined above, shall be made illegal in all 50 states, and penalties shall be introduced for those practicing or forcing such therapy on minors in the form of prison sentences comparable to those for child abuse as legislated by individual states.

Results to be Expected:
LGBTQ+ rights and societal acceptance will increase, and suicide and depression among already at risk LGBTQ+ youth will lessen. Parents will no longer have the option of trying to “cure” their children, hopefully lessening the prevalence of conversion therapy practiced on adults. The reality that conversion therapy is ineffective will be endorsed by the government, allowing it to take greater societal hold. Conversion therapy as described above will become obsolete, and this gaping loophole which allows for the legalized mental and physical harm of minors will be closed.
Proposal #207
Author: marina carlstroem, Delegation: California

Title:
Define Vaccine Refusal as Child Neglect

Major Areas to be Affected:
Child Protective Services, Parents, Children, Medical Clinics, Child Abuse Lawyers, Pediatricians

Justification:
According to the National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, a neglected child is one whose condition has been impaired or is in imminent danger of becoming impaired because the parent has failed to exercise a minimum degree of care in supplying the child with adequate health care.

88% of American Pediatric Association physicians consider an informed refusal to vaccinate to be a case of clear-cut medical neglect—an offense in which a parent refuses proper medical care to the point of putting a child in serious danger. In 34 states refusing to vaccinate a child for philosophical reasons bars them from entering the school system, making equal education much more difficult. The number of deaths caused by vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States increased sevenfold from 2000-2010, and it has only further increased since then. The issue of vaccine hesitancy is what the World Health Organization called the number one threat to global health in 2019, and the United States must do more to curb this growing epidemic.

Proposal for Action:
Require all mandated child abuse reporters including teachers and physicians to report to Child Protective Services if parents refuse to vaccinate their children for philosophical reasons.
Allow Child Protective Services to begin investigation upon parents who refuse to vaccinate their children by adding “Refusal to vaccinate the child without a religious or medical exemption” to Sec. 111. DEFINITIONS. [42 US.C. 5106g] of the National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Results to be Expected:
Philosophical vaccine exemptions will not be allowed in any states. The number of unvaccinated children will decrease and herd immunity will increase. There will be many fewer instances of preventable disease outbreaks within the United States.
Title:

Remove the FDA's regulations in regards to the deferral of men who have sex with men from donating blood in order to end the discrimination against the LGBT community.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The LGBT community; particularly men who have sex with men (MSM), patients who could potentially receive the blood transfusions, the FDA.

Justification:

Currently, the FDA recommends blood establishments to automatically defer and deny any MSM and any woman who has had sex with an MSM the opportunity to donate blood.

As of January 2019, the American Red Cross issued an emergency plea for blood donors due to the urgent blood shortage across the country. Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood, and there are many patients who are potentially in danger of not being able to receive life-saving blood.

The majority of gay and bisexual men are not HIV+, and blood screening technologies have significantly improved since the deferral on members of the LGBT community were put in place. The Williams Institute estimates that there are approximately four million gay and bisexual men within the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that, at the end of 2014, 106,500 gay and bisexual men were living with HIV and unaware of their infection. According to these figures, only 2.7% of gay and bisexual men unknowingly live with HIV. Relating to the blood screening technologies, there is no legitimate excuse with modern medicine for the automatic deferral of men who have had sex with men in the past twelve months, as every unit of donated blood is required to undergo screening for HIV.

Personal testimony from gay and bisexual men who have advocated for the opportunity to donate blood enforce the notion that these guidelines prevent blood establishments and patients from receiving healthy, life-saving blood. Overall the FDA's regulation is unreasonable due to the advancements of modern medicine, the need for blood, and the discrimination against the LGBT community.

Proposal for Action:

Remove the FDA's regulations that defer men who have sex with men from donating blood. This will include the immediate removal of guidelines 9 and 10 from the FDA's blood donation deferral recommendations. The present guidelines state: (9) Defer for 12 months from the most recent contact a man who has had sex with another man during the past 12 months. (10) Defer for 12 months the most recent contact a female who has had sex during the past 12 months with a man who has had sex with another man in the past 12 months.

Results to be Expected:

There will be an increase in blood donors-particularly MSM's and those from the LGBT community-in order to help with the nation's emergency blood shortage.
Proposal #261  
Author: Meghan Mertyris, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Making Adoption Legal for all LGBTQ+ Couples and Individuals

Major Areas to be Affected:
National Adoption Agency and the Children's Bureau

Justification:
Currently, there are approximately 500,000 children in foster care nationally. Out of these 500,000 children, 100,000 of them are seeking a permanent home. One group that has been consistently overlooked and yet have also been consistently interested in adopting children are LGBTQ+ couples. An estimated two million LGBTQ+ people are interested in adopting. The Human Rights Campaign’s All Children- All Families initiative advocates for inclusive, non-discriminatory practices towards LGBTQ+ families, couples, and individuals looking to adopt. The HRC refers to the LGBTQ+ population as an “untapped resource” when it comes to finding homes for children in the foster care system. Unfortunately, one-third of adoption agencies would reject LGBTQ+ applicants due to either their religious beliefs or a state law prohibiting placement with LGBTQ+ parents. Agency heads are more likely to have negative views towards LGBTQ+ people adopting when they associate such adoptions with greater evaluation and support needs. All these stereotypes and beliefs have absolutely no factual evidence. The belief that LGBTQ+ adults are not fit parents has no empirical foundation. Good parenting is not influenced by sexual orientation or gender identity. Instead, it is influenced most by a parent’s ability to create a loving and nurturing home environment. There is no evidence to support the claims that children of LGBTQ+ parents have diminished intelligence, suffer from more problems, are less popular, or have lower self-esteem than children of heterosexual parents. In addition, state-run and private agencies’ literature, forms, and the Resource Family Pre-Service are all non-inclusive of LGBTQ+ families, couples, and individuals. By making sure these adoption essentials are inclusive, state-run and private agencies are doing everything in their power to place children in the best homes possible. The American Psychological Association, American Medical Association, and the American Bar Association, amongst many other notable organizations, have lent their full support to legalizing LGBTQ+ adoption. The U.S. judiciary system has also weighed in to lend its support to LGBTQ+ adoption. In 2016, a U.S. federal judge struck down a ban on LGBTQ+ adoption in Mississippi, citing it as unconstitutional. The legal system, multiple renowned organizations, and scientific evidence all prove that LGBTQ+ adoption would be a benefit to our country.

Proposal for Action:
State-run and private agencies will not be able to deny a petition for joint, single-parent, second-parent, or step-parent adoption based on the individual’s sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.
A judge may not deem a couple or individual unfit for adoption solely based on their sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.
Any employee of a state-run or private agency, such as a home study social worker, may not discriminate in any way against families, couples, or individuals based on their sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.
State-run and private agencies may not discriminate against their staff based on their sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.
State-run and private agencies will be required to train their employees on how to work effectively with LGBTQ+ families, couples, and individuals.
Any forms and literature, the home study, and the family assessment orchestrated by state-run and private agencies must be inclusive to LGBTQ+ families, couples, and individuals.
The Resource Family Pre-Service contains inclusive language, examples, and exercises for LGBTQ+ families, couples, and individuals.
Any state-run or private agency that refuses to let couples or individuals adopt based on sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity will be shut down.
Results to be Expected:

With the implementation of this proposal, we will be able to drastically reduce the number of children in foster care who are currently looking for adoptive parents. Long-term foster care is associated with increased emotional problems, delinquency, substance abuse, and academic problems. By adding LGBTQ+ parents into the potential adoptive parents’ pool, fewer children will be adversely affected by the foster care system. In addition, we will be relieving a huge economic burden for our country. With more children in loving homes, there will be far less of a need to spend money on maintaining the foster care system. This money can be invested in other vital sectors of our economy. Finally, state agencies and courts now apply a “best interest of the child” standard to decide adoption cases. By placing children with loving LGBTQ+ adoptive parents, we will truly be acting in the best interest of the child by giving them the home they so desire. In the state of New Jersey, the Department of Children and Families have implemented these steps. With the implementation of this initiative, the DCF of NJ has been able to increase the amount of qualified LGBTQ+ adoptive parents, thus reducing the number of children living in foster care. By training their staff and altering their forms and documents to be inclusive of LGBTQ+ parents, the DCF has been able to welcome and support more adoptive LGBTQ+ couples and individuals.
Proposal #306
Author: Ciel LaZar, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
Protecting the Working Rights of LGBTQIA+ People.

Major Areas to be Affected:
LGBTQIA+ and Employers.

Justification:
Within the last few years there have been several disagreements among the lower courts on whether or not Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 covers discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. In the case Altitude Express Inc. v. Zarda a skydiving instructor sued Altitude Express Inc. claiming that they fired him because he was gay. In Bostock v Clayton County, Georgia Gerald Bostock argues he was fired from being the child welfare services coordinator for a Georgia county’s juvenile court system after his employer found out he was gay. These cases in the lower courts were disagreed on and are being submitted to the Supreme Court for review. Another case from Michigan, where Aimee Stephens was fired just shortly after sending a letter to her employer and colleagues explaining how she was transgender and would be coming to work as a woman from that point on. These are not the only instances of discrimination towards LGBTQIA+ people in the workplace. In 28 states there are no legal protections against discrimination. While 20 states provide full protections. The other two states have some protection but are lacking in certain areas to meet the standards of a fully protected state. There are over 11.3 million LGBTQIA+ adults living in the United States and it’s estimated that there are more LGBTQIA+ youth that are unaccounted for that will soon become employed. With no protections for people in 30 states this leaves a large number of them at risk to discrimination in their employment. This issue, among several others, has led to the community being economically disadvantaged. The Constitution of the United States guarantees inalienable rights to all people of America, without this proposal millions of Americans are living their lives in uncertainty knowing they are not considered equal by many employers.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQIA+ employees.

Results to be Expected:
Through this proposal not only will adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964 set a legal precedent allowing courts to rule in a way that does not violate the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community, but it will also help to improve the economic disadvantage that the community is faced with by creating more stability in their employment.
Proposal #331
Author: Caroline Couch, Delegation: Tennessee

Title:
A Proposal to amend the United States Constitution to prevent the abridgement of rights based off of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Major Areas to be Affected:
State and Federal Judiciaries, US Department of Labor, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Military

Justification:
Within the United States, the rights of around half of the population are blatantly being ignored, as well as a visible minority of those in our country. There are gaps in our federal legislation that has not only allowed for inequal protection of women, but of those citizens identifying as LGBTQ+ in the United States.

This proposal is inspired by the legacy of the famous, yet failed, Equal Rights Amendment. The proposal would provide for the explicit equal protection of women, it would also increase clarification of sex discrimination in courts, and set strong precedent against the creation of sex-discrimination legislation. However, the amendment would extend protections to a group where discrimination is extremely tangible.

In 28 states there are not protections against LGBTQ+ discrimination, in many of these there is active persecution due to Religious Freedoms Acts. Without explicit protections, members of the LGBTQ+ community find themselves discriminated in housing, employment, and other public accommodations. If an LGBTQ+ community member was to tangibly come out, they could be fired under the terms of their sexuality or differing gender identity (nonbinary, trans). On a federal level, we have seen this with the barring of transgender persons from serving in the military. With this proposal, not only will discrimination of sex finally be explicitly stated as illegal under the US constitution, but protect the basest rights of 4.5% of our population.

Proposal for Action:
To propose a possible 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The text of the amendment would be as follows:
Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

Results to be Expected:
With success of this proposal, the issue will be turned to the States to undergo the ratification process. If ratified, the amendment should see the clear definition of discrimination and abridgement of rights against women and LGBTQ+ groups. Discriminatory legislation against these groups will be turned to the courts, where they will be ruled under the adopted and ratified proposal.
Proposal #389

Author: Veronica Whiteside, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
To prohibit closed domestic adoptions in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
Adoption agencies, adoptive and birth parents and the Department of Child Welfare.

Justification:

On any given day, there are more than 438,000 children in the foster care system, waiting to be adopted, in the United States. According to Childrensrights.org, there were 687,000 children in the system in 2016 alone. Of these children, 57,300 were adopted and placed in homes. Of the children adopted, 70% are estimated from open adoptions. Though closed adoptions are not as common today as they would have been decades ago, closed adoptions are still available. In an open adoption, the birth mother is allowed to see or receive updates about and potentially form a bond with their child. In a closed adoption, the potential for a relationship between the birth mother and her child, along with the adoptive parents, is cut. Studies have shown that children from open adoptions have been more content in their adoption when compared to children who had not known. Birthmothers participating in an open adoption have also expressed less grief and regret than mothers from closed adoptions.

Proposal for Action:

Abolish closed adoptions in private adoption agencies. However, birthmothers may renounce the right to have a relationship with the child. Children will still be allowed to pursue a relationship with their birthparent. Medical documents will also be made available in the case that the child may be susceptible to an inherited illness. Birthparents whose children are placed for adoption due to cases of domestic abuse in the home will not be allowed to have the rights to their children. Birthparents who also suffer from addiction must attend rehabilitation before they are allowed the right to see their children.

Results to be Expected:

By abolishing closed adoptions, adopted children will be able to form a relationship with their birthmother, while the adoptive parents still retain full rights. In doing this, birthmothers will still retain the right to see their child and have a place in their lives, even if from the sidelines.
Proposal #392
Author: Abby Fry, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
Require two doses of the MMR vaccination for children who are medically able to receive the vaccination by the child’s sixth birthday.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Unvaccinated children, school children, the public health of American people, doctors, the American healthcare system, anti-vax movement.

Justification:
In 2018, the United States saw more cases of the measles reported than the previous two years combined with a total of 372. Since April 26 of 2019, 704 cases were reported to the CDC within twenty-two states. This is the largest outbreak of measles seen in the United States since 2000. Most cases are brought to the US from unvaccinated citizens or travelers, primarily children, returning to the United States from countries that are experiencing measles outbreaks and this disease quickly spreads among unvaccinated children. In 2000, the disease was considered eliminated from the US but due to the vaccine hesitancy, there has been a resurgence. There is currently no federal legislation for vaccinations and state laws are simply not able to contain this issue as seventeen states currently allow opting out of the MMR vaccination to go to school if the parents cite personal beliefs and thirty-three states allow religious exemptions. Due to lack of enforcement, non-vaccinated children are allowed to leave the country to measles outbreak affected countries and are a great risk for the health of other children who cannot medically receive the two doses and infants who are too young to receive the vaccination Federal authority on vaccines only applies to situations of national concern, such as the quarantine of foreign disease and regulation between states as measles have been brought from abroad as well as stages cannot contain the disease, the federal government must intervene. The United States needs to protect the well being of its people by requiring the MMR vaccination to eliminate an easily preventable disease and improve the health of all Americans, specifically, our youth.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal applies to children within the United States who were born before 2013. To make sure that the requirement is met, certification from a medical professional that the doses were met are required to attend school as well as leave the country. If verification cannot be proven by the child’s sixth birthday, then the child may not attend a school with other children or leave the United States until verification can be provided. To increase MMR vaccination accessibility in poor and rural areas, free clinics will be provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services. If a child is found going to a school or leaving the country while still not having received two doses of the MMR vaccination after their sixth birthday, a fine of 2,500 US dollars will be issued to the legal guardian of the child.

Results to be Expected:
By requiring children to receive the two doses of the MMR vaccine, the rate of reported measles cases will rapidly decrease and measles will be considered eliminated in the United States once again. The spread of mumps and rubella will decrease as well as a positive result. Overall, the health of the American public will be improved once again.
Proposal #445  
Author: Jaylen Wright, Delegation: District of Columbia

Title:
To mandate all 50 states and U.S. territory establish identical adoption procedures for Homosexual Couples as Heterosexual Couples

Major Areas to be Affected:
The areas to be affected are same sex couples, United States adoption agencies, Department of Health and Human Services and the Foster Care System. Florida, Texas, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Georgia, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Illinois, Tennesse, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Alabama, West Virginia

Justification:
The most recent estimate, from 2011 American Community Survey data, shows 605,472 same-sex couple households. Of these, 168,092 reported being married couples. Sixteen percent of same-sex couple households had an own child (biological, step, or adopted child of the householder) in their household in 2011. An estimated two million LGBT people are interested in adopting. Gay and lesbian parents are raising four percent of all adopted children in the United States. Over the years, the number of children living with LGBTQ parents has risen tremendously. As the trend continues, that number will only increase, as same sex adoption and parenting becomes more and more widely accepted. Researchers estimate the total number of children nationwide living with at least one gay parent ranges from 6 to 14 million. Additionally, new research from European economists have statistically shown children of same-sex couples perform better in school than kids raised by a mom and a dad. The researchers found that children raised by same-sex couples had higher test scores in elementary and secondary school and were about 7 percent more likely to graduate from high school than children raised by different-sex couples. Same-sex parents are often wealthier, older and more educated than the typical different-sex couple. Same-sex couples often have to use expensive fertility treatments to have a child, meaning they are very motivated to become parents and tend to have a high level of wealth. This is likely to be a key reason their children perform well in school. However, 10 states permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. The ability of LGBTQ individuals to have a family should be a fundamental right as is same-sex couples right to marry.

Proposal for Action:
The intentions are to ensure equality for all adoption proceedings regardless of the sexual orientation of the adopting parents. All state-licensed child welfare agencies would be required to place and provide services to LGBTQ people and same-sex couples.

Results to be Expected:
A fundamental right to parent would include the right of LGBTQ people and same-sex couples the right to adopt a child in all 50 states. State-licensed providers would be unable to deny this right based on religion. Non-profit and for profit agencies not receiving a state license would not be affected.
Proposal #474
Author: Jacey Matthews, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
A Ban on Homosexual and Bisexual Conversion Therapy in the USA

Major Areas to be Affected:
State governments, LGBT population, and certain radical religious groups

Justification:
Homosexual conversion therapy programs are programs in which individuals who are suspected or display homosexual tendencies are forced to undergo psychiatric, spiritual, and in some cases physical interventions in an attempt to change one's sexual orientation to heterosexual. These programs cause irreversible psychological damage to a person, and in some cases have led directly to death by suicide. Some practices used by conversion therapy groups include inducing nausea or vomiting while displaying homosexual images, sexual reconditioning, psychotropic medication, hypnosis, and in extreme cases chemical castration and electroshock therapy. There have been no proven scientific documented cases of a person's sexuality being altered, and all creditable psychiatric associations have deemed conversion therapy harmful and unethical. In a country that prides itself on freedom for all, it is absolutely essential that these harmful practices are outlawed across our nation. The American Psychiatric Association has stated that they "oppose any psychiatric treatment such as reparative or conversion therapy which is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that a patient should change his/her sexual homosexual orientation." The American Academy of Pediatrics states that “Therapy directed at specifically changing sexual orientation is contraindicated, since it can provoke guilt and anxiety while having little or no potential for achieving changes in orientation.”
An estimate by the Williams Institute at University of California found that 698,000 adults had been subjected to conversion therapy, with about 350,000 receiving conversion therapy as a minor. Many children are forced into conversion therapy by their parents. An estimate of 11 million, (4.5%) of Americans identify as LGBT.
Sixteen states and two US territories have already passed legislature to ban the practice of conversion therapy, those states being New Jersey, California, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Mexico, Connecticut, Nevada, Washington, Maryland, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Delaware, New York, and Massachusetts. Conversion therapy is also banned in Washington D.C and Puerto Rico. This issue needs to be addressed on a national level, rather than be handled by individual states as done previously. To save time and lives, as well as send a message that the United States is a land of freedom, a national ban on conversion therapy needs to be put into action. Certain religious affiliations or groups may place pressure on state legislatures to delay banning conversion therapy, and in their hesitancy thousands of individuals are vulnerable.

Proposal for Action:
Require that conversion therapy is banned in the entirety of the United States of America by the year 2022.
All currently practicing conversion therapy organizations must disband or change their practice by the year 2022.

Results to be Expected:
There will be immense approval from LGBT and human rights associations, as well as celebrations from LGBT individuals across the nation.
LGBT suicide rates may drop, possibly exponentially.
The national average of LGBT Americans may rise, with individuals feeling safer and less threatened to come out.
The nationwide approval and acceptance rate of LGBT individuals may rise, with more Americans becoming educated and aware.
There will be approval from reputable physiatric and mental health organizations.
Possible initial disapproval from radical religious associations, anti-lgbt groups, or conversion therapy organizations.
Title:
Ban philosophical vaccine exemptions

Major Areas to be Affected:
The U.S. government, the American people, the U.S health care system

Justification:
Over the past 30 years anti-vaccination sentiment has increased significantly as many politicians and celebrities are spreading the misinformation that vaccines are harmful to the body. While this sentiment increases, so does the number of outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases in the United States, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough due to non-vaccinated individuals spreading the disease to others. The CDC declared measles eradicated in the United States in the 2000s but recently there have been deadly outbreaks across the country. If this continues, more outbreaks are sure to occur.

Proposal for Action:
Require the end of philosophical or personal beliefs vaccine exemptions across the United States. All children would be required to follow the CDC vaccine schedule. Children and adults who are currently behind in vaccines be required to receive said vaccine. Medical exemptions would not be affected for example those who physically could not receive the vaccine Will continue to be able to exempt from the vaccine.

Results to be Expected:
By putting an end to philosophical vaccine exemptions the United States would be less likely to experience disease outbreaks. These measures would protect populations of people were medically unable to receive the vaccines such as the elderly infants and those with certain medical conditions such as cancer. Ultimately more stringent policies will protect the population of the United States.
Proposal #529
Author: Sarah Fahlberg, Delegation: Wisconsin

Title:
Ensuring Vaccination for Interstate Travelers

Major Areas to be Affected:
Unvaccinated interstate travelers

Justification:
By May 2019, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) had already reported that there have been over 700 cases of measles, a vaccine preventable disease, in 23 different states, a record high number of cases for the past 25 years. The number of measles, mumps, and pertussis cases have recently started to increase due to lower vaccination rates in some areas of the country. All states require children to get vaccinated before entering school, but many states allow different exemptions for required vaccines. Some states only allow medical exemptions while others allow a religious and/or philosophical exemption. This inconsistency means that interstate travelers who are unvaccinated in accordance with their state’s religious or philosophical exemptions can pose a risk to adults and especially children who are unvaccinated due to a medical exemption, and can spread the disease between states. A new federal law is required to ensure that the unvaccinated are protected from interstate travelers without non-medical exemptions.

Proposal for Action:
A person outside of their state of residence may be required to show proof of vaccination for certain diseases defined by Department of Health and Human Services upon request by a public official. Proof of vaccination can consist of a card issued by a healthcare professional with records of vaccination. If the person is unable to show proof of vaccination, the public official must report the person, or their parent in the case of an unvaccinated minor, to the Department of Health and Human Services. Within 60 days of being reported, the person is required to show proof of vaccination, provide proof of a medical exemption from vaccination issued by a doctor, or face a fine of $1,000.

Results to be Expected:
More people will be encouraged to get themselves and their children vaccinated in order to travel between states without facing a fine. This will likely increase vaccination rates and prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases between states.
Proposal #555
Author: Olivia Bartek, Delegation: Nebraska

Title:
Regulating Personal Exemptions for the Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccines

Major Areas to be Affected:
CDC, all US citizens, families, unvaccinated minors, healthcare providers

Justification:
During 2011, a total of 222 measles cases and 17 measles outbreaks were reported to the CDC, compared with a median of 60 cases and four outbreaks reported annually from 2001 to 2010. This outbreak could have been avoided by simply creating herd immunity in the population. Herd immunity can be defined as at least 95% of the population being vaccinated against a disease which keeps the disease from spreading. Herd immunity also protects unvaccinated individuals, which includes newborns, from a disease because the disease is controlled in a small portion of the community. When a public health intervention is necessary to safeguard the public, individuals generally can be required to give up some personal liberty, particularly if that liberty is tied to a government benefit like school.

Proposal for Action:
States will no longer be allowed to exempt individuals from the MMR vaccine solely on the basis of personal objections or beliefs. States may only continue to allow exemptions from the MMR vaccine for religious practices or verified medical reasons.

Results to be Expected:
Regulations work and help to push the vaccination rates up. Vaccine refusal is one of the growing public health threats of our time. If we continue to allow non-medical and non-religious exemptions to vaccination, rates of vaccination will continue to fall and more outbreaks will undoubtedly follow. Mandatory vaccinations provide an overall ability to combat major disease in both the individual and in people in general. Removing other barriers to vaccination, educating health providers and providing strong information systems is vital.
Proposal #007
Author: Abigail Carter, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
The reduction of food waste by stores.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Stores which sell food, food banks, homeless shelters.

Justification:
According to a 2010 USDA report, more than 30 - 40% of food is wasted each year in the United States. 31% of this waste is on the retail and consumer levels, which translates to $161 billion worth of food each year. Out of the 430 billion pounds of food produced in a year, 133 billion is thrown out by stores and customers alone. This is a gross crime in a country in which there were 40.6 million living in poverty as of 2016, over 13 million of whom were children. This is not to mention the enormous toll farming takes on the environment. If the level of food waste was lowered, greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and deforestation could all be lowered along with it.

Proposal for Action:
If a store intends to throw away a food product, and there is a food bank or homeless shelter within a 10 mile radius, the store selling it must offer to donate the product to one of these organizations at least a week before its expiration date. If the expiration date is less than a week away from the sell-by date, or if the offer is declined, the store may dispose of the product.

Results to be Expected:
Reducing food waste will lead to a decrease in the demand for food production, thus lowering our environmental impact. Donating the food to those in need, rather than the dumpster, would be a significant step towards helping both the planet and the hungry.
Proposal #040
Author: Jad Soucar, Delegation: California

Title:
Sports Diplomacy

Major Areas to be Affected:
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs/ Division of Sports Diplomacy, U.S Foreign Policy

Justification:
The sports diplomacy division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural affairs has managed to recruit some the most celebrated athletes to its cause of influencing diplomatic, social, and political relations through sports, despite its limited funding. Their are a 5 programs in the Sports division, which focus on issues ranging from female empowerment, leadership skills, as well democratic workshops, all of which are taught through sports. The divisions efforts have reached thousands of people in over 100 countries and have helped promote a positive image of the American government in places from Thailand to the infamously hostile region of Iraq. The effectiveness of the program was quantified by a State department study concluding that "The vast majority of Sports Visitor and Sports Grants survey respondents reported that their views of the U.S. Government and the American people (87% and 92%, respectively) were more positive after participating in the program". Considering that anti-american sentiment consistently leads to a failure in U.S foreign policy, a plan to improve america’s image, as well as empower and teach people around the world is critical. It may be difficult to believe but all of the division’s efforts have been accomplished through 5 staff members and just $6.5 million, or .0001 percent of the State Department and USAID's overall funding.

Proposal for Action:
We must increase the budget for the sports diplomacy division of the Bureau of educational and cultural affairs. The extra funding would go towards the Sports Envoy, the Global Sports Mentoring Program, Empowering Women and Girls through Sports Initiative, and Sports Visitor Programs to ensure that sports diplomats are financially supported, and the agencies events are properly resourced. The funding is critical to maintaining the effectiveness of these programs, considering that the agency often times only has enough funding to cover hotel fees, leaving the rest to generous athletes and charitable organization. Unfortunately the divisions reliance on spontaneous and inadequate infusions of charitable donations, has led to a steady decline in diplomatic missions orchestrated by Sports Diplomacy division, as well as a decrease in the agencies ability to empower and spread pro-american sentiment to people around the world.

Results to be Expected:
In a state department study documenting the effectiveness of sports diplomacy a vast majority (90%) of respondent, when asked to assess the effectiveness of the Sports diplomacy, a majority of the Envoys surveyed rated the program as “very effective” in terms of creating goodwill and improving attitudes and beliefs about the American people. By expanding Sports diplomacy all over the world we expect to see pro-american sentiment as well as local empowerment spread around the world.
Proposal #054
Author: Juliette Vasquez, Delegation: Florida

Title:
To significantly decrease the presence of Genetically Modified Organisms(GMO's) from the food markets of the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Food and Drug Administration, the United States Government, all U.S. citizens.

Justification:
Genetically modified organisms, or GMO's, are the result of artificially extracted and enforced DNA from one species to another. In recent years this product has become increasingly present within produce aisles throughout America labeling at least 90% of the soy, cotton, canola, corn, and sugar beets sold in the U.S. as genetically modified. This product acts a cheaper alternative to the organic or all-natural fruits and vegetables that are offered alongside this easy produce. Most GM crops are engineered to be "herbicide tolerant," being designed to survive the application of herbicides. This causes farmers to use even more toxic herbicides every year harming the environment. Although this resistance can be helpful in some cases, the high residue of toxic herbicides that often remain on the crop can lead to harmful consequences, such as sterility, hormone disruption, birth defects, and cancer. A 2015 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine described the recent drastic increases in chemical herbicide use on GM crops even labeling this produce as a "probable human carcinogen."
The current procedures addressing this toxic crop are unable to fully comprehend the extent of harm that this produce will cause to the people. Recent studies in Europe have proven that GMO foods are linked to toxic and allergic reaction, sick sterile, dead livestock, and damage to virtually every organ studied in lab animals. Currently the US Food and Drug Administration does not require a single safety study, does not mandate labeling of GMOs, and allows companies to put their GM foods on the market without even notifying the agency. These loose policy prevent the protection of the health of the citizens within this country. Most developed nations, besides the United States, do not consider GMOs to be safe...including Australia, Japan and all the countries in the European Union where there are significant restriction or outright bans on the production and sale of GMOs. Similarly, these crops cannot only harm us but also can harm birds, insects, amphibians, marine ecosystems, and soil organisms while also reducing biodiversity and polluting water resources.

Proposal for Action:
Reduce the presence of GMOs within the United States
Introduce a safety assessment of the highest possible standard - including proper disposal banks
Clear procedures for risk assessment and authorization of GMOs that are efficient, time-limited, and transparent
Ensure the traceability of GMOs placed on the market
Post-marketing surveillance

Results to be Expected:
Increase the overall health of the United States citizens
Decrease the presence of toxic-linked foods that can lead to possible harms within the population
Prevent the contamination of other gene pools by the GM crop seeds
Improve the state of our ecosystems and the organisms which live within these areas
Decrease the presence of carcinogenic produce
Title:
A proposal to diminish food waste within the United States and improve the environment through national compost facilities.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The environment, the agricultural industry, waste management, food establishments

Justification:
It is very easy to throw away excess food without thinking of the consequences that may come from doing so. According to the USDA, 133 billion pounds of food was wasted in 2010. Not only is this an issue for those who are starving or malnourished, but it is also an issue for the environment. Since about 70% of our water and 50% of our land is devoted to agriculture, when people are not eating that food, it is an extremely unnecessary use of resources. About 33 million cars’ worth of greenhouse gases is produced to grow food that never gets eaten. Also, 20 percent of total U.S. methane emissions come from landfills. The foods that are wasted the most are primarily fruits and vegetables; therefore, instead of this food going towards landfills, it is important to find a new purpose for it. Compost is created by using a variety of unwanted resources, such as tea bags, coffee grounds, fruit waste, vegetable waste, shredded paper, and much more. Many restaurants and other establishments simply throw these useful materials away on a whim when they can be used for something more beneficial to our environment. According to the University of California’s Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, compost saves water by helping the soil retain more moisture and reduces runoff, improves plant growth, and adds nutrients to plants. Thus, the creation of national composting facilities is necessary to help improve our environment and agricultural industry.

Proposal for Action:
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will create compost facilities across the nation. Similar to how we have recycling bins, there will be compost bins provided to establishments and homes that produce food waste. Initially, one will be provided per home and establishments will request the amount they need - this number will be approved by their local waste management. Waste management will obtain these compost bins and transport them to these compost facilities. At these facilities, compost will be created and redistributed for sales purposes. In order to properly fund any additional resources that may be needed for this proposal (depending on each local waste management and if they already have the necessary tools) there shall be an increase on the local property tax which will be up to the discretion of the local government. This tax will cease after the materials are acquired.

Results to be Expected:
With the creation of compost facilities, the abundant food waste that is in our country will be put towards a cycle that will better our environment and our citizens. On the environmental standpoint, compost will strengthen the growth of agriculture in our nation as well as diminish methane emissions. The creation of the compost facilities will also be a good source for jobs and economic growth.
Proposal #110  
Author: Kate Carpenter, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
To decrease the number of drug-related driving accidents by allocating money to increase public awareness.

Major Areas to be Affected:
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Federal Highway Administration, and Vehicle Drivers across the nation.

Justification:
Driving under the influence of drugs is illegal to an extent in all 50 states; however, minimal steps are being taken to promote the hazard of driving drugged. SAMHSA states that in 2014, 10.1 million people drove under the influence of illicit drugs. As a result of drugged driving, 580,000 injuries and 10,322 deaths occur annually. The Institute for Behavior and Health (IBH) explains 20% of all motor vehicle crashes are caused by drugged-impaired driving. In addition, a staggering $59.9 billion in annual costs for insurance, medical bills, and other expenses are a direct result of driving under the influence of drugs.

The epidemic of drugged driving is rapidly increasing; based on a driving study conducted by Liberty Mutual, 1 in 5 teens admit to having driven under the influence of marijuana, and more than one-third of them did not believe that marijuana affected their driving. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCAAD) states, “Americans know the terrible consequences of drunk driving and are becoming more aware of the dangers of distracted driving. Drugged driving poses similar threats to public safety because drugs have adverse effects on judgment, reaction time, motor skills, and memory. When misused, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and illegal drugs can impair perception, judgment, motor skills, and memory.” Without serious publication of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs, countless lives throughout the nation are being put at risk.

Proposal for Action:
Allocate a minimum for 5% of NIDA’s total funding to the creation and execution of a subcommittee of NIDA.

The committee will be called NDDAC (National Drugged-Driving Awareness Committee) and will be based on spreading awareness for the risk of driving under the influence of drugs.

It will be the committee’s responsibility to divide advertising appropriately throughout the nation based on how statistically affected each individual state is. In addition, the subcommittee will be highly encouraged to conduct further research to better understand the causes of drugged driving.

The committee will also be expected to campaign and advocate using the most effective methods.

Methods of promotion may include, but are not limited to: school-based campaigns, social media, posters, radio, television, billboards, advocating for stricter laws, etc.

Results to be Expected:
New ideas will be implemented into the minds of citizens pertaining to the risks of driving under the influence of drugs and their outcomes. Drivers and passengers across the nation will become more aware of the risks of drugged driving, combating an alarming problem before it is too late. This will prevent future collisions, injuries, fatalities, and will decrease the number of cases by an estimated minimum of 20%.
Proposal #125
Author: Landry Baker, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
Set the minimum age requirements for rental cars to 18 and abolish excess underage fees.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Rental car companies, Rental car consumers

Justification:
This proposal would benefit many of the younger people of our nation. This would eliminate the unfair financial restrictions for young adults who require the use of a rental car. About 57 percent of college students live away from home. Many people in this age group function independently without financial support from others. This causes an issue for those who are in a situation where they are not old enough to rent a car, or cannot afford the underage fees. These fees can range from 20 to 60 dollars per day. This can add up for those who need a car for multiple weeks. Currently the protocol for underage renting of a car is not consistent and changes from state to state. Allowing this process to be standardized throughout all states would ensure that there would not be an increased financial burden on this age group where significant financial challenges already exist for many.

Proposal for Action:

Set the minimum age for renting a car to 18 years old.
Repeal the excess fees for drivers who are under the age of 25.

Results to be Expected:

This proposal would allow those who are under the age of 25 to afford and drive a rental car. This would also stop the exploitation and discrimination of people based off age to monetarily benefit car rental companies.
Title:

An Act to Expand Amtrak in the Continental United States in order to Increase Accessibility

Major Areas to be Affected:

Amtrak, Department of Transportation, Amtrak Travellers

Justification:

Today, in the United States, public transportation by train is not readily accessible to the majority of its citizens - especially those living in rural areas. Amtrak was created in 1971 as an inexpensive mechanism of intercity travel. However, Amtrak is not currently available to people who are the most in need of low-cost travel options. Amtrak currently maintains 300 trains with 500 stations in 46 states and the District of Columbia, excluding South Dakota and Wyoming. Amtrak is not profitable, however, it is not designed to be. Its purpose is to provide cheaper, alternate transportation between cities at the expense of the government. Due to the fact that Amtrak is a government corporation, the federal government fixes the price, so the train fare remains affordable. Although Amtrak has never been profitable, a recent increase in ridership has allowed Amtrak to minimize its losses. The losses are currently the lowest they have been since the inception of the program. Riding the train is easier on the wallet than paying a lease or a loan on a car, paying for gas and/or car insurance. This proposal will also create over 23,000 new permanent jobs. This is in addition to the jobs created during the expansion itself, which will stimulate the economy and cause economic growth. Also, this expansion project is a better option for the environment because Amtrak trains run on electricity - this has the potential to decrease carbon emissions electricity becomes increasingly generated from renewable sources. This sustainability makes Amtrak preferable over car or bus transportation.

Proposal for Action:

This Amtrak expansion will construct 3 new Amtrak stations in the 3 most populous cities in each state that does not currently have an Amtrak station. These main stations will have 3 satellite stations in the rural areas around these cities. These satellite stations will be connected to the main stations and railways will be constructed to connect the new stations to the preexisting Amtrak lines. This project will cost $300 billion dollars, and it will be financed by a non-deductible annual property tax of 1.5% on homes valued at more than $1 million dollars. The reason this tax is being put on an exclusive tax margin is due to the fact that the people who will benefit the most from this expansion cannot afford to pay for it themselves. The project will be completed over the course of 10 years, to reduce the effect on budget to $30 billion each year. Once the project is completed, the tax will be reduced to 0.1% to help aid in maintenance costs of the expansion and reduce the federal losses of Amtrak. The tax will be eliminated entirely 15 years after the completion of the project.

Results to be Expected:

1. Increased travel on Amtrak
2. Reduction in Amtrak losses as a result of the increased number of travellers
3. Creation of permanent jobs ranging from custodian to train conductor.
4. Decrease in automobile traffic
5. Decrease in carbon emissions
Title:
The creation of the Food Redistribution Program (FDP) to combat the nationwide hunger epidemic

Major Areas to be Affected:
American citizens that are food insecure, the United States Office of Global Food Security, the United States Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, and grocery stores and food suppliers nationwide.

Justification:
For many of us, being food secure, characterized by knowing where your next meal is coming from, is so familiar that we forget it is a privilege, not a right. In fact, roughly 40 million Americans, around one eighth of the United States population, suffers from food insecurity. While our country is largely affected by this food insecurity epidemic, it is certainly not attributed to a lack in food production. Annually, countries around the globe produce enough food to feed 10 billion people and the United States is one of the top three largest agricultural producers. The problem lies in the large amount of food that agricultural producers, suppliers, and consumers waste each year; America throws away nearly 60 million tons of food annually, which equates to nearly $160 billion of food and constitutes nearly one third of all food products. More specifically, grocery stores and other commercial suppliers contribute to producing roughly a quarter to half of this food waste by discarding food with minor cosmetic blemishes or that pass the “sell-by date” that grocery stores use to label their food.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal is designed to combat food insecurity by reducing the amount of food wasted by grocery stores and other commercial suppliers and redistributing this otherwise wasted food to food banks. The Food Redistribution Agency (FDP) will be established under the Office of Global Food Security in the United States Department of State. A local branch of the FDP is to be established in cities with populations greater than 300,000 people according to the United States census. It is the job of the FDP to form partnerships with grocery store chains and suppliers nationwide that are willing to donate unwanted food and produce to the local branches. Food collected by the FDP will then be redistributed to food banks in the metropolitan regions so that this food can be allocated to shelters to feed people suffering from food insecurity. This proposal also calls for a reallocation of funds from the Department of Agriculture to facilitate the Food Redistribution Program.

Results to be Expected:
With the FDP in place, food insecurity nationwide will slowly be eradicated without the United States needing to bolster the agricultural sector to produce more food.
Proposal #229
Author: Liam Thomas, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
A proposal to eliminate the suspension of driver licenses due to misdemeanor offenses.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Law Enforcement Officers, Departments of Transportation, Department of Corrections

Justification:
According to the Washington Post, nearly 4,000,000 people throughout the nation have their driver’s licenses suspended due to unpaid speeding tickets and court fees. This statistic may be vastly underreported as, in many states, you can have your license suspended for a number of misdemeanor offenses such as nonviolent drug offenses or even failure to pay your student loans. Suspending drivers licenses for minor offenses can create long-term financial instability and plunge people into a cycle of poverty.

Suspending a driver’s license is used as a means of punishment, however, this creates systemic inequities in our law enforcement system, in that, a valid driver’s license is required for obtaining a job. This problem disproportionately affects minorities. In fact, a federal judge in Michigan ruled that when a driver’s license is suspended without assessing the debtor’s ability to pay the fine, it is a violation of due process.

Proposal for Action:
In order to reduce systemic inequities in our criminal justice system, we need to eliminate the suspension of drivers licenses as a punishment for misdemeanor offenses. As a result, people with holds on their licenses as a result of misdemeanor offenses will have their licenses reinstated. Those who commit felony crimes, such as Felony DUI, will not have their license reinstated and will continue to be able to have their license suspended.

Results to be Expected:
After people have their licenses reinstated, they will be able to obtain and keep jobs stability. We will also be able to provide a fix to a fundamental issue in our criminal justice system.
Title:
To create a plan aimed at curbing urban sprawling by bettering public transit and the surrounding areas.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Cities suffering from urban sprawling, local governments and communities

Justification:
The US population is projected to grow by more than 128 million people by 2050. This means that over 40 million people will join cities and towns. The federal government plays a huge role in directing development and has a huge impact on the real estate market. Currently, the government disproportionately favors larger lot homes that are further away from major public transportation rather than opting for smaller homes in areas close to transportation. Urban sprawling is defined as the unrestricted growth of urban areas over large expanses of land with no real urban planning. This has tremendous impacts on the environment. It is estimated that US road transport is responsible for 30% of the increasing air pollution of many densely populated areas. Other environmental impacts include loss of agricultural capacity, increased runoff into rivers and lakes, and loss of natural habitats and wildlife. Quality public transport and communities close by with higher population densities are necessary in order to curb urban sprawling.

In the 2017 American Society for Civil Engineers Infrastructure Report Card, the United States scored a D+ overall on an A-F grading scale regarding the current state of infrastructure. This is largely due to poor maintenance of existing infrastructure, lack of funding for public transports and overall poor management of existing resources. Though many have put the issue to the side, urban sprawling re-entered the national conversation in August of 2017, as the tragic events of Hurricane Harvey were made much worse by the vastly sprawled city structure. The city was so far spread out that the total rainfall with urban buildup led to even deadlier flooding that it would have without urban buildup. This sparked the need to consider environmental factors when developing infrastructure in order to create a more sustainable future. Access to public transport and building cities around them minimizes a community’s carbon footprint, and staying within small distances from transit lines also helps offset the threat to wildlife and depletion of natural resources that urban sprawling also causes. By incentifying communities to form closer to transit lines and stay there, there is hope to curb and prevent urban sprawling in America’s future.

Though tremendous effort is required to see projects like these through, infrastructure and transportation are the backbones of the United States economy and play a tremendous role in reducing the United State’s environmental impact. Since 1998, the D+ average given by the ASCE has remained persistent. The larger problem to be solved is what is at stake if this average remains the same for America in the future. Considering emerging new technologies, and shifting local trends when building new infrastructure will assure long term prosperity. For example, already bike sharing and ride sharing have transformed social ideas about public transport, and electric vehicles are becoming more and more prevalent in American society. Areas of the US that have taken the lead in new environmentally friendly, sustainable public transport such as Brightline in Florida and the Dallas Houston Bullet have already reaped tremendous benefits. To quote only one example, President Eisenhower funded one of the most ambitious projects in United States history, the Interstate Highway Act, during his presidency. This racked up billions of dollars for the federal government, and state and local governments as well. It also had the power to create a new system of life based on cars and urban sprawling. This proves that legislature that transforms public infrastructure today could have just as much of an impact on the layout of Americans everyday lives and the United States economy. However, instead of fostering an increase in urban sprawling, it would have the power would to shift American culture back to greener cities.

Proposal for Action:
The US would create a plan in order to better public transit and surrounding areas in order to incentivize community members, corporations and outsiders to move and stay closer to transit lines rather than sprawl into suburbs. This plan would include:
Federal loans to provide financing for public infrastructure near transit lines and railways, specifically through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Subsidizing private ventures such as the Brightline in South Florida or the Dallas Houston bullet Project in Texas.
Creation of incentives for community members to move towards these areas; these include local tax credits for those that live in apartments close to transit lines, improving parks and amenities that can pull together local communities, and locating assisted living for
the elderly close to the area.
Create incentives for businesses to create or relocate offices from suburbs to areas closer to city and transit lines.
Creating long term, sustainable transportation in areas where communities have accepted to stay within certain boundaries and prove that their population density is increasing

Results to be Expected:
The areas where this is implemented will create liveable public spaces including schools, parks, and other amenities that will foster a sense of community. The higher population densities and higher access to public transport will reduce the cost and impact automobiles and other forms of individual transportation have on the environment. Building new transit lines will create more jobs within the community. Strengthening infrastructure, the backbone of the US economy, will impact business productivity, GDP, employment, personal incomes, and overall strengthen the US economy.
Proposal #260
Author: Austin Preiss, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Decreasing the dependency on automobiles and improving the walkability of high population density cities

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the US Department of Transportation

Justification:
Post-war economic expansion, a newfound ubiquity of automobiles, and an increasing number of people wanting to settle outside a city caused the Eisenhower-ian Federal Highway Act of 1956. The population shift away from urban centers developed into modern suburbia and dependency on cars for transportation. Unfortunately, as realized by governments like France and Japan which are reinvesting their infrastructural commitments into public transport, a population relying solely on cars for commuting and general transportation is not sustainable. Any reliance on automobiles also decreases focus on public transport, making automobile use more mandatory for a functioning economy, creating a positive feedback loop.

The usage of cars provides undeniable dangers for both the population and the environment. Cars are one of the most dangerous modes of transport with 7.1 road fatalities per one billion vehicle-kilometers in the United States. This is much higher than other high-income countries due to the United States’ reliance on automobiles. This more than doubles the United Kingdom’s rate of 3.4 road fatalities per one billion vehicle-kilometers and Sweden’s 3.3 road fatalities per one billion vehicle-kilometers. Highways full of private transportation means like cars and light trucks were responsible for 37,133 deaths in the United States in 2017. Comparably, buses with 44 deaths, transit with 241 deaths, and railroads with 824 deaths are orders of magnitude safer. Trains only have .16 deaths per billion vehicle-kilometers and buses only have .43 deaths per one billion vehicle-kilometers.

Cars, through the burning of hydrocarbons, emit carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, greenhouse gasses, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter, which is responsible for smog. These emissions pose health risks to humans and trap heat from the sun, accelerating the effects of global warming. Collectively, cars and trucks account for one-fifth of all US emissions, industrial or otherwise, emitting about 24 pounds of greenhouse gasses for every gallon of gasoline burned. This is no doubt in part due to the 115 million cars and trucks commuting 150 million workers in 2016.

Specifically, urban sprawl, not just highways themselves, provide a number of issues as well. Rainwater can most easily pick up gasoline, lawn chemicals, heavy metals, paints spills, motor oil, pet wastes, construction site erosion and other pollutants in the medium population density areas supported by urban sprawl that are profuse with lawns, driveways, roads and parking lots. Water distribution issues can be caused by the outlandish distance it must be transported leading to water over-consumption. Tax code dictates that these new communities are subsidized to no end. The size and density mean they cost billions in new schools, infrastructure, water and sewer lines, and emergency service, ultimately increasing taxes.

A shift of focus from the United States Government from automobiles to public transport is the necessary first step in breaking the aforementioned positive feedback loop. As more Americans commute using public transport or through walking, public health and safety will increase, pollution will decrease, and taxes will decrease. With a return to the dichotomy of a city-living population and a rural population, rather than the repugnant middle ground of suburbia, quality of life will be undeniably better.

Proposal for Action:
The US Department of Housing and Urban Development will define certain geographical areas into high, medium, and low population densities based off census information. Each of these areas will have different legislation applied to them in an effort to decrease sprawl and dependency on automobiles.
The US Department of Housing and Urban Development and US Department of Transportation will allocate expert legislators and policymakers to be a part of the Committee to Combat Urban Sprawl and Automobile Dependency (CCUSAD). The CCUSAD will oversee the remainder of this proposal.

High and medium population density areas will have a maximum amount of area allocated to parking space as a percentage of the population of that area during the working day. Higher population density areas will have a lower percentage of their working day population allocated to parking than medium population density. as better public transport accommodations will be expected of those
areas. Exceptions to this parking allocation will fall to the discretion of the CCUSAD, but will generally include places where a commute between population density areas occurs with frequency, such as an airport, because expecting public transportation to supplement said parking, in this case, is unreasonable.

Funding generally allocated into what the CCUSAD deems extensions of the automobile and highway dependency will be appropriately allocated to public transportation budgets, such as that for buses and transit. The CCUSAD will remain mindful of the economic requirement of different areas and budget accordingly.

In pursuit of walkable cities, the CCUSAD will also allocate funding into the cleaning of streets in high population density areas and the development of public amenities like parks where parking would be. The cleaning of streets will include a commitment to prevent petty crime in high population density, such as public urination and train fare evasion. Thus, funding accumulated by the CCUSAD will also go to local police departments with the express goal of preventing such petty crime.

Results to be Expected:

The CCUSAD’s budgeting efforts will result in more people relying on public transport to commute more often. A decrease in the number of cars commuting will decrease traffic, pollution, and automobile deaths. More people will also walk to work and in cities in general, not stopped by crime nor the unwalkable distances of urban sprawl. Public amenities and more walking will increase street-side businesses, stimulate the economy, and improve public disposition.
Proposal #286
Author: Brooke Lorenz, Delegation: Michigan

Title:
A proposal to establish that athletics within public high schools must allow participants to join teams and compete with the gender they identify as.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Athletic teams, competitions, guidelines, public high schools, students and athletes.

Justification:
All American children should have the right to play a sport that allows them to be comfortable with who they are. Nearly 2% of high school students identify as transgender (washingtonpost). The unfair rules that prohibit kids from participating based on their gender identity are nothing but discrimination. High school is a learning experience for all children, it is not a business like professional sports. As nearly 8 million students participate in high school sports with 495,000 going on to playing in the NCAA and a fraction of those students going on to compete professionally (ncaa.org). Proving that high school sports should be a place to create well-rounded people. To do this we need to avoid discriminatory policies and accept these young people for who they are.

Proposal for Action:
Every state must adopt a public high school sports policy which allows participants to compete with the gender they identify as.

Results to be Expected:
This will allow for all participants to compete comfortably within a safe environment.
Proposal #295
Author: Zoe Hughes, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
To establish a National Green Public Transportation Fund

Major Areas to be Affected:
The areas to be affected will be municipal transportation departments of major metropolitan centers of the United States that apply for the National Green Public Transportation Fund.

Justification:
The United States currently suffers from insufficient and inefficient mass public transit systems. As with the current car-dependent society many Americans do not see the need to prioritize other forms of transportation. However, an initiative needs to occur to create more green public transportation systems; right now half of global far exhaust emissions are produced by United States' vehicles.

Car exhaust emissions, as well as fuel consumption of vehicles, have a significant impact on the environment; fuel consumption and exhaust emissions contribute to air pollution and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that climate scientists state are contributing to global warming. According to the National Express Transit, approximately 27% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States are from just car exhaust emissions alone. Climate change and global warming are extremely prevalent issues at this time, and action must be taken to address this issue. By creating a national transportation initiative fund to sponsor advanced green public transportation systems, the issue of climate change can be addressed and the United States can become a leading country in infrastructure and environmental protection.

Proposal for Action:
Dedicate $1 trillion of the United States budget to the National Green Public Transportation Fund. States and cities may apply for funds to establish green public transportation systems. A portion of the $1 trillion budget will also be used to pay for members of a new Green Transportation Committee established within the House of Representatives to oversee implementation.

Results to be Expected:
By creating a national transportation initiative fund to sponsor advanced green public transportation systems, the issue of climate change can be addressed and the United States can become a leading country in infrastructure and environmental protection. Research done by the Environmental Literary Council found that a green public transit system would save an estimated 1.4 billion gallons of gas and decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 1.5 million tons each year, effectively making the United States have an environmentally efficient public transportation system reaching the same level of standards currently used by other countries throughout the world such as China, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, and Switzerland.
Proposal #343
Author: Hannah Laibinis, Delegation: Tennessee

Title:
Curtail the Transportation Security Administration’s Use of Behavioral Pattern Recognition Technologies

Major Areas to be Affected:
Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Airport Passengers

Justification:
The SPOT Program was instituted in airports following the September 11th, 2001 airplane terrorist attacks as another strategy to detect possible terrorists. Behavior detection officers (BDOs) are given a checklist including 94 criteria that rely on identifying and interpreting the micro-expressions and body language of passengers.

However, this program is flawed for multiple reasons. First, the program results in racial profiling due to the implicit biases of the officers. These officers often make assumptions about a given individual, which impacts how they fill out the subjective SPOT form. Thus, people of color are stopped and targeted by the SPOT program at an exponentially high rate. Second, the program has no scientific support. The test is subjective and forces the officers to look for signs of stress in a stressful environment. The logic behind the program is that a potential terrorist would look nervous about being caught while going through the security line. However, individuals can look stressed going through TSA security screenings for a variety of reasons, including being late for their flight or traveling to a stressful environment such as a business trip or funeral. Finally, the SPOT program has never successfully identified a terrorist, which means that there is no real risk of implementing this proposal because current programs are not keeping us safe. Additionally, the program cost American taxpayers over a billion dollars in its first six years.

Proposal for Action:
Eliminate the Transportation Security Administration’s Screening Passengers by Observation Technique (SPOT) Program.

Divert all the funds of the program to screening measures that are scientifically proven to be successful.

Results to be Expected:
With the abolition of the SPOT Program, TSA officers will no longer have a justification based solely off of their implicit racial biases. Consequently, children and adults of color will no longer have to be afraid of being interrogated by a TSA officer. Additionally, the billions of dollars being spent on the TSA SPOT program could be diverted to new technologies that could actually successfully identify terrorists. These better threat detection technologies can be integrated into the TSA with the additional funds generated from the program that would help protect all airport passengers.
A Proposal to Amend the GROW AMERICA Act to Include the Implementation of Dig-once Policies to Improve the American Economy and Marginalize the Digital Divide

Major Areas to be Affected:

The GROW AMERICA Act, Highway Trust Fund, Department of Transportation

Justification:

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 6% of Americans still don't have access to broadband. This percentage is highly deflated mainly because the census doesn't take into account many rural areas of America. Regardless, with the current statistic, approximately 20 million people in the US don't have access to the internet or adequate broadband. Adding a clause that implements dig once policies into the GROW AMERICA Act will greatly reduce the cost of improving broadband access. It has been proven that the cost of implementing Fiber Optic Conduits in urban areas was reduced by 32% and 16% in rural areas. Using thin strands of flexible transparent fibers to transmit communication signals. Fiber optics are an alternative to copper systems. A fiber optic system has nearly 10 times the carrying capacity of copper system. In addition, an modern optical system has far less attenuation than that of electric copper cables meaning that signals are able to travel further distances with the range being anywhere from, 43-93 miles. By installing fiber optic conduits it will bring in an influx of businesses in both urban and rural areas as demonstrated in states and cities that have implemented dig once policies.

Proposal for Action:

Congress will pass an amendment to the GROW AMERICA Act that will do the following: extends the currently existing program by two years, add a clause regarding dig once policies, increase the transition tax from 14% to 20%, change the budget in relation to the increase in the transition tax, and repeal any parts of the law that come in conflict with this amendment.

Results to be Expected:

By extending the GROW AMERICA Act by another two years alone, there will be a great improvement in access to transit and road conditions in the US. In addition, the implementation of dig once policies will create an influx of businesses in both rural and urban areas. State such as New York, California, Massachusetts was met with similar profits of Chattanooga. With an original cost of $216 million, the project generated $1.3 billion in revenue while also creating approximately 5,000 new jobs in this city alone. The economic benefit of the new jobs can be valued at a monetary value of approximately $250 million. This is a return of approximately 700% return on the initial investment. In addition, unrelated to Chattanooga, the average family household income in areas within the range of optic system conduit rose by approximately $5,000 following its installation. With this evidence, we can infer that with the application of dig-once policies there would be approximately a 1.9% increase in the GDP of the United States. This will ultimately elevate the US economy, improve American infrastructure, and increase adequate access to broadband.
Proposal #357
Author: Caleb Korder, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
The Nation-Wide use of special registration plates for DUI offenders.

Major Areas to be Affected:
All US drivers will be affected by this proposal.

Justification:
While driving all drivers have the right to know if they are safe or maybe in danger, and the use of special registration plates, or whiskey plates can help insure the driver that they are safe. It signifies that you have been in DUI incident before and are at risk for it again. Not only does the use of whiskey plates help drivers, it is also a way to punish the offender, as a way of public humiliation or shaming. In 2017 the FBI reported around 990,678 arrested. Another study showed that about a third of all drivers arrested for DUI are repeat offenders. The whiskey plates will directly affect this third of people. Using the special registration whiskey plate around the nation gives the driver an extra right to know who they’re driving around. This is also a way let the law enforcement know to keep an eye on them.

Proposal for Action:
The Impoundment of plates has been attempted in states before, currently Minnesota, and Ohio use this punishment. The process of impoundment of plates is, after receiving a DUI that meets the requirement for plates to be impounded the offenders current car plates are impounded and they must apply for a special plate that clearly shows the plate is for a DUI.

Results to be Expected:
The results from using special registration plates could be huge. This will help the punishment for DUI increase in every state and it will also let people around them know that they are an at risk driver. The nation needs to start enforcing more punishment upon drivers who are under the influence, especially because this crime can be so easily avoided.
Proposal #369
Author: William Burns, Delegation: North Carolina
Title:
Allow High School Athletes to be Exempt From their Physical Education Course

Major Areas to be Affected:
High School Administration and Faculty, Student-Athletes, Student-Athletes Parents/Guardians and Coaches would be the majority affected if this proposal was put into action.

Justification:
Many people participate in sports or have friends that participate in sports at school. That being said it is clear how much of a time commitment playing a sport in high school is and people often don't always have the time they wish they did to work on academic studies. Student-Athletes often spend many hours a week on the practice field or on the game field performing for their school. When most the time Athletes get home from their practices and feel very tired and still have lots of studies to do and often don't feel obligated to get them all done. Therefore I propose that schools have a study hall for student-athletes so that they don't have to participate in PE class so they can work on their studies considering they already spend enough time performing athletic activities for the school. The definition of Study Hall is the period of time in a school curriculum set aside for study and the preparation of schoolwork. With that, the Student-Athletes would be provided with a teacher or administration member to be available to them during this period. It would be mandatory for them to attend as attendance would be taken every day they have this period. If a Student-athlete is not present it would go against his or her PE grade. This is a fair tradeoff considering many of the morals and lessons Athletes learn in physical education class can also be learned while being on a team especially at the high school level. Student-Athletes also are getting way more than the normally recommended physical activity for the day by participating in a sport at school. An article that was done by a young man that got put on the Stanford website stated: “Students Spend Too Much Time In High School Sports Compared To College Prep.” This is so true and this young man was found participating in 3 different sports in one school year, for a combined 529 hours of practice time. While sports are great and they teach lessons and make us better people, it’d be nice if the US Schools would give athletes chances during that certain “Study Hall” period to catch up on their school work instead of being in PE. Student-athletes give their school so much time and energy for sports that to repay them a time to do Homework and Study so they don’t fall behind.

Proposal for Action:
Require every public high school in the United States of America to exempt any student from their Physical Education class if they're participating in one or more sports at there school. They will be able to catch up on their studies in a classroom with a teacher and tutor if they need during this allotted time that was originally for their PE class if they are participating in a sport. Many students spend 2-3 hours per day practicing sports so it would help them stay up to par with academics which is all in all way more important than athletics. Sports cannot carry you, your whole life.

Results to be Expected:
Results to be expected by letting student-athletes do this would be an increase in GPA by the athlete students. According to “Education World,” they saw a half a point increase in Grade Point Average when students were given the opportunity to Study and do Homework recovery in a class period and take it seriously. That is why we would provide athletes with teachers and administration to help them and make sure that they are working. You would also see an increase in SAT and ACT scores from the student-athletes. Financially this will not hurt anything considering this isn't changing or adding onto any already put into place Concepts. All in all, this truly benefits everyone involved, student-athletes would also not run the risk of injury by not being in PE class. According to various citations, the most common injuries come from overusing muscles too often. This break from athletics would benefit athletes in more ways than one.
Proposal #382
Author: Sarah Green, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
Give businesses an incentive (tax credit) for putting in electric car chargers.

Major Areas to be Affected:
All areas and states around the U.S will benefit from the increase in chargers

Justification:
The United States is in need for more electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for the environment. The infrastructure in the United States is not ready for the rapid growth of electric vehicles. There are currently one million EVs in use within the United States. By 2025, the goal for the United States is to have at least 14 million vehicles. To support this, there would need to be in addition of 330,000 EV chargers. Currently in the United States, there are one million electric vehicles and 18,000 EV chargers for public use. Within the United Nations, the United States signed the Paris Accord for environmentally safe options to help prevent climate change with reducing gas emissions and carbon emissions (the U.S withdrew from the Paris Accord but is not yet out of the agreement). With this, the United States needs to reach their part of gaining $2.3 billion to reach 330,000 EV chargers and 14 million EV. Giving a tax incentive to businesses who put in EV chargers will reduce the cost the United States itself has to provide for this source to reach the goal. EV are important because they lower gas emissions in the atmosphere. With the new technology of electric semis, it will save more than $200,000 worth of fuel. Demand for electric vehicles (and soon to be self driving cars) is growing and in need of new electric vehicle chargers.

Proposal for Action:
Any business in the United States will receive a tax credit from the IRS for providing an electric vehicle charger for the public as of 2021. For any amount of level 2, DC fast chargers, or Tesla superchargers, businesses can claim a credit of 20% of the initial capital cost of the charger. The tax credit can be up to 33% if it is within a mile of a federal highway. This tax credit would add on to any state legislation already in place.

Results to be Expected:
With an increase in electric vehicle chargers, the sale of EV themselves will grow tremendously. The increase in electric vehicles will lower the gas emissions and pollution in the atmosphere. The economy will also grow with a higher demand in EV. This will help the growing of EV infrastructure and electric vehicles in the U.S.
Proposal #497  
**Author:** Rachel Blake  
**Delegation:** New York

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**Title:**  
To raise consumer awareness concerning risks of fast food consumption.

**Major Areas to be Affected:**  
Fast food companies, the health industry, and the television industry.

**Justification:**

In America over the past 20 years, a boom of consumerism in relation to food and the rise of fast food industries in addition to a significant overall lack of exercise has directly resulted in obesity and obesity-related diseases becoming the top killer. Approximately 1.4 billion adults and 40 million children in the US are classified as obese. Taxpayers are spending approximately $147 billion a year to pay for the medical costs of diseases which are directly linked to obesity such as cancer, stroke, and diabetes. According to multiple sources, fast food companies have knowingly developed products that are addictive and extremely harmful to people’s physical and mental health. Tobacco related products have the similar effects, and in response to that particular health risk, we have issued many warnings and made it mandatory for all tobacco related products to be labeled very clearly with the health risks associated with its consumption.

When you turn on the TV, a whopping 98% of the ads you see are fast-food related. As impressionable children typically spend more than six hours a day watching a screen, food is a very big part of what they know. As with old cigarette commercials and still used alcohol commercials, what’s depicted is completely leaving out the consequences of consumption. Kids see healthy families laughing and enjoying delicious looking food, and do not see the early deaths, obesity, and other negative effects that accompany long-term consumption of such food. Today, we see many commercials that warn of the evils of smoking, vaping, and drinking, yet nowhere do we see ads that raise awareness for an issue bigger than those three combined.

While it may seem that funding these commercials would be expensive, in comparison to the billions of dollars that could be saved that are normally pricey medical costs and the improvement of millions of human lives it is completely negligible many times over. America would in fact greatly profit from reduced consumption of frankenfood, a term coined to describe the unnatural chemical and sugar combinations that create today’s fast food. Medical costs would be decreased while life expectancies increase. Studies show that schools which have pushed for healthier foods have seen an immediate improvement in academics, attendance, and behavioral issues. Other studies have shown that obesity plays a large role in mental health. The psychological impact of health issues is extremely significant, because in the past 20 years depression and suicide rates have also soared in direct correlation to the frankenfood epidemic. People who consume these foods on a consistent basis are much more likely to be depressed and experience things like migraines, fogginess, and fatigue that also play a large role in mental health issues.

**Proposal for Action:**

All fast food restaurants will be required to label their menus and advertisements with a warning that clearly states how their food affects the body and what the consequences are for choosing to consume it. In addition, commercials are to be funded to raise consumer awareness concerning the health risks of fast food consumption.

**Results to be Expected:**

Medical costs would be decreased while life expectancies increase. Schools will see improvement in academics, attendance, and behavioral issues. The risk of many common mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety will be decreased as physical health improves. The intended effect of this proposal would be to return America to a more healthy, active, and productive nation that is more aware of what is is consuming.
Proposal #526

Author: Ndemazea Fonkem, Delegation: Wisconsin

Title:
The High Speed Railway Act (An act to create a system of transcontinental high speed railways that connects major cities of the United States)

Major Areas to be Affected:

Travelers, citizens, the Department of Transportation, toll booth workers, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, cities with transit ports, the Department of Energy

Justification:

Currently, there are no truly public and accessible modes of cross-country travel. Because of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 under the Eisenhower administration, the concept of interstate public transport vanished as highways sprung up, supporting domestic manufacturing and the growth of a car-dependent society. The American cultural identity is based on the Great American Roadtrip and our societies are backed by foreign oil. Any American citizen without a car is crippled -- deemed stationary and less than.

Proposal for Action:

The High-Speed Railway Act makes it possible for Americans to get across the country on a state-of-the-art rail system, made with American steel by American workers by building on and improving existing rail lines. Not only would this bolster the slowly dying American manufacturing sector from sea to shining sea, we will connect our great nation like never before.

Results to be Expected:

The expected results are an interconnected nation where citizens can travel from New York to Chicago to Houston to Los Angeles to Seattle to Fargo to St. Paul to other major US cities on a public transportation line. The construction would be a major infrastructure project that would stimulate the economy and economic growth by adding new jobs all over the country.
Proposal #527
Author: Harrison Shepich, Delegation: Wisconsin

Title: A Proposal to Improve Public Transportation

Major Areas to be Affected: Impoverished areas in which public transportation is present or deemed necessary. The U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration.

Justification: Impoverished areas and populations within cities are currently reliant on public transportation to seek employment. Many individuals are limited in seeking and maintaining jobs due to poor or unavailable public transportation. An increase in funding to the Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration will allow additional grants to be awarded in order to improve transportation for these impoverished areas. This improved transportation will lead to more jobs being obtained by lower income citizens, and decrease unemployment.

Proposal for Action:
$25,000,000,000.00 will be allocated away from the Department of Defense’s budget to the Department of Transportation’s budget. These funds will specifically be allotted to the Federal Transit Administration within the Department of Transportation. In addition, a focus on improving public transportation for impoverished areas in particular will be encouraged.

Results to be Expected:
The increased funding to the Federal Transit Administration will lead to more accessible and reliable transportation for impoverished areas. In turn, more jobs will be available to citizens, decreasing unemployment and increasing tax revenue.
Title:
Incorporating bioresin into the asphalt requirement for Federal highway construction.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Farming, vehicular traffic, environment, Federal Highway Bill, Federal Department of Highway

Justification:
The incorporation of bioresin into asphalt mixtures will benefit the environment, farmers, and the quality of roads. A bioresin is a resin that derives some or all of its constituent monomers from biological sources and is therefore eco-friendly.

Current manure lagoons located throughout the United States create an environmental pollutant and are a significant cost of disposal to farmers. Bioresin is produced by collecting all of the manure lagoon reserves and processing it into a useable bioresin for construction of asphalt roads.

The use of bioresin in asphalt allows for the incorporation of Recycled Asphalt Products at a significantly increased rate. This not only reduces the cost of the asphalt, but also removes the recycled asphalt product stockpiles from becoming additional environmental pollutants. The asphalt produced with 10% bioresin improves the quality of the pavement surface to allow for increased ductility, which will result in a reduction in premature pavement failure from cracking. Asphalt pavements are degraded from UV exposure and the incorporation of bioresin increases the UV resistance of the pavement, which will extend the pavement life cycle.

This proposal would be similar to the Federal law that currently requires 10% ethanol in gasoline.

Proposal for Action:
Congress shall pass an amendment requiring the inclusion of 10% bioresin into asphalt pavements for Federal highway projects. Bioresin manufacturing companies will pay farmers for the collection of manure.

Results to be Expected:
An increase in revenue to farmers. A significant decrease in environmental pollutants. Inclusive of manure lagoons and recycled asphalt pavement stockpiles. A reduction in the construction costs of new and refurbished Federal highway paving projects. An increase in the expected life cycle of pavements, which will further economically benefit funds spent on pavement reconstruction and refurbishing.
Title:
Trust-Busting the Media

Major Areas to be Affected:
The FCC, News Publishers, Media Corporations, Local TV Stations, the DOJ.

Justification:
Public discourse in the US has devolved, with pundits, lawmakers, and civilians alike now using their own versions of "facts" to promote their own agenda while further entrenching our political gridlock. Ideally, our political parties should mainly be debating solutions, yet they often debate if the issues on the table are actually problems. Substantive societal change cannot be made when both parties move rapidly towards opposite extremes of the political spectrum. Part of this polarization can be attributed to media bias, which is dictated by the bias of whoever owns a news station. Currently, a select few moguls, such as Rupert Murdoch, control large shares of American media companies and, by extension, the media intake and bias of the average American citizen. Acquisitions of local news outlets by large companies force-feed bias into the American household, where television screens, Twitter, and Facebook often define a person's ideology. On an individual, psychological scale, media intake can be seen as the root of many of our country's problems with partisanship and radicalization. Pluralism in the media is one of the most important aspects of a legitimate democracy, yet is nearly impossible as Comcast, the Walt Disney Company, AT&T, Fox Corporation, CBS Corporation, and Viacom collectively control 90% of media. Archaic concessions given by the FCC over the past few decades have encouraged this media consolidation. One such concession is the UHF Discount, which allows TV companies and subsidiaries to officially count only 50% of their ownership of local stations, allowing them to exceed the 39% national cap. The national audience reach cap is a limit on the number of American households one company collectively reaches with all of the local stations it owns. To be clear, this cap only applies to local news holdings, and not national news networks. The UHF discount affects nearly 70% of TV stations counted. For example, ION Media and Sinclair Broadcasting Group have local news stations that collectively reach 65% and 60% of the nation's televisions respectively, yet they are only held accountable for 33% and 30% respectively, falling under the national audience reach cap. Additionally, most local news stations are nationally owned, leading to bias in the form of "must-run" news segments and news scripts, notably seen from corporations such as the Sinclair Broadcast Group. Finally, competitive news publishers are currently unable under existing antitrust laws to band together to negotiate better representation on platforms such as Google and Facebook, who currently give disreputable companies and misinformation better representation than reputable news sources.

Proposal for Action:
Current FCC policy will be amended immediately, but is subject to revisitation either through an act of Congress or through the FCC during its next quadrennial review as mandated by the Communications Act of 1934. The amendments are as follows:
• Eliminate the UHF Discount. Media companies can no longer receive a 50% discount on their national audience reach levels when calculating antitrust limits. Companies that would subsequently violate the national audience reach cap of 39% would be grandfathered in.
• Ban national companies from disseminating "must run" segments and news scripts to their local news holdings.
• Once the reforms and changes in ownership have taken effect, allow for a 48-month safe harbor from antitrust laws for news publishers, allowing them to band together to negotiate with the duopoly of Google and Facebook with regard to how the platforms present the news. Any coordination can only pertain to the diversity, quality, branding, and accuracy of the news. Negotiations must agree on conditions that apply to the entire news industry and not a few exclusive companies.

Results to be Expected:
By further regulating the media market, news publishers will be able to compete on a more equal playing field. Diversifying media ownership will result in a diversity of ideas, further legitimizing our democracy; a free and diverse press acts as a vital check to the government. The chances of one media mogul shifting the entire political climate will be drastically reduced. Local news, an integral part of many communities, will be freer from the direct bias of parent companies. Bias is not by nature a negative, but spoon-fed agendas...
directed by a national corporation should not come from the mouth of a trusted local news anchor. Finally, credible news companies will gain the power to negotiate with Facebook and Google, combating the all too frequent dissemination of blatantly false reporting. By reducing the power of bias and expanding the potential of negotiation, public trust in the media should increase significantly, and cries of “fake news” should cease.
Proposal #100
Author: Emily Hughes, Delegation: Michigan

Title:
Rein in the Robocalls

Major Areas to be Affected:
FCC, FTC, TCPA

Justification:
Robocalls, the one issue in our nation that everyone can take the same stance on. We all want them to stop. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) both have had their hands tied for many years trying to implement services to cut down on these nuisance calls, yet their efforts are not enough. Anti-spoofing policies, caller ID authentication, and even the National Do Not Call Registry aid in the fight against the wave of illegal robocalls plaguing our nation, yet more action is needed. With robocalls being estimated to be a whopping 45% of all mobile calls placed in 2019, most coming from VoIP providers, it is time to fix this problem once and for all before any more sweet old ladies get scammed out of their life long savings. By adding a feature that allows for the individual to distinguish whether or not a message is sincere, it lessens the chance that a mass call sent through a VoIP provider will be able to con a robocall recipient.

Proposal for Action:
To mandate that all VoIP providers must implement technology that will automatically raise the pitch of the audio two full octaves if the source is both blacklisted by a single recipient and is a call going out to ten or more people at once.

Results to be Expected:
All scam and robocalls sent through VoIP will be recognizable by the individual because of the unnatural tone of the recorded message.
Title:
To prevent the spread of online terrorism recruitment in order to ensure the safety of United States citizens and contain the influence of terrorist organizations’ online presence.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Federal Trade Commission, The American public, Terrorist Organizations, The United States Attorney General, Internet Service Providers, Social Media Networks, and Commonwealth Departments of Education

Justification:
An unprecedented change has been rapidly striking the US and the rest of the world. As internet usage becomes less of a privilege and more of a fundamental necessity in the eyes of society, regulations need to be contemplated and implemented. If they are not, the growth of online terrorist recruitment is inevitable.

This has been historically proven when both the efforts of Al-Qaeda and ISIS have included using various social media platforms to recruit for their heinous crimes. The earliest account of this was in 2004 when Hassan Abdel Rahman was recruited through the Muntada al-Ansar forum. Viewed as a hero by his fellow members, he conducted a suicide bombing in Baqubah, Iraq, killing 68 innocent people. Within the last 14 years, however, it has only become more tactical. ISIS uses a relatively seamless algorithm compared to Al-Qaeda, composed of five main steps. These include: finding potential recruits through social networks and/or media services, creating a community and immersing potential recruits with ISIS supporters, isolating the recruit, shifting the communication, and finally encouraging action. In response, the United States’ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has created a website in order to help combat the recruitment of younger people, but it has been heavily criticized by experts such as Arjun Sethi, professor of law at Georgetown University, as it seemed to be more polarizing than proactive. Even the President of the United States, Donald Trump, has publicly stated, “The internet is their main recruitment tool which we must cut off & use better!” Ideally, this could set a precedent for more regulations to be executed in the Western World.

The United Kingdom’s Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, has a more concise plan that includes partnering with these big media platforms to aid with monitoring and expelling content that may lead to terrorist recruitment. Germany takes this a step forward by approving the NetDG law. This law targets any and all terrorist content across all social media, so not only would terrorist recruitment be addressed, but also any “obviously illegal material” would be banned. This action has been opposed because it is relatively vague with an extreme penalty if violated. Albeit a favorable first measure, actions moving forward should be less ambiguous.

Proposal for Action:
To limit terrorist advertisement and propaganda and to limit the terrorist presence on social media the US will:
I. Create a subcommittee within the Federal Trade Commission dedicated to monitoring and eliminating terrorist advertisement. This committee will work to monitor advertisements, track trends in these terrorist organization’s propaganda, and find new ways to prevent the further spread of these ads.
II. Create a statute under the Federal Trade Commission that will directly punish those propagating terrorist activity online. This statute will follow the precedent of other cybercrime laws when it comes to implementation and enforcement.
III. Partner with major social media networks such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and require these platforms to report any knowledge of terrorist recruitment activity to appropriate authorities. These appropriate authorities could be applicable federal agencies such as The Federal Communications Commission or The Federal Trade Commission; state, local, or tribal law enforcements.
IV. Require internet service providers to report any knowledge of terrorist recruitment activity to appropriate authorities.
V. Create an initiative to educate American public on the influence of terrorist organizations that includes (1) working with Commonwealth Departments of Education to incorporate counter terrorism information into their curriculums and (2) stressing the importance of reporting terrorist recruitment content to either the respective social media networks or appropriate authorities.
Results to be Expected:

By enforcing this proposal, the United States will contain these terrorist organization’s online presence. Along with that, it will continually criminalize and devalue the use of the internet to recruit members for these terrorist organizations.
Title:

To create a wholistic department for improving efficiency and defense capability against international cyber-attacks.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States Intelligence Community (NSIC), American People, American cyber defense personnel, global politics

Justification:

In recent years, the cyber threat has grown to an extreme degree due to the constantly improving nature of the technology industry. Major nations, including and especially Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran have cyber attack programs and have attacked the United States in multiple sectors, especially national intelligence and infrastructure. The White House estimates a financial loss between $57 and $109 billion over the course of just one year. Despite this, the United States cyber security is weak and thinly spread, similar to homeland defense before the 9/11 attacks. Dozens of United States departments and sectors have cyber defense programs, but intelligence is not being shared, leading to severe gaps in our cyber security. The United States must take these threats seriously, and while we have the tools and personnel to do so, we do not yet have the infrastructure to properly support these resources and effectively fight the threat.

Proposal for Action:

Create a new executive department, the Department of Cyber Defense, to specifically focus on cyber threats by bringing the top resources from across the federal landscape.

- Consolidate cyber security resources
- Establish executive level Department of Cyber Defense
- Implement 6 month training program before granting full power and effectiveness

Results to be Expected:

This new department will allow for better information sharing and more centralized and effective use of personnel. Seamless communication, immediate plan implementation, and a broad array of intelligence will allow for a substantially more effective cyber security program, and protect U.S money, intelligence, and lives.
Proposal #188
Author: Sebastiane Caballes, Delegation: Texas

Title:
To implement regulations regarding the protection and usage of personal data.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Bureau of Consumer Protection, the American people, corporations, businesses and organizations involved in the collection, storage, and/or use of personal information and data.

Justification:
The use of individual's and consumer data by businesses and other organizations has recently come under heavy scrutiny due to the lack of transparency regarding the collection, storage, and use of sensitive information. Scandals such as the Equifax data breach in 2017 and the Cambridge Analytica breach in 2018 has generated uncertainty among Americans about whether both companies and the government are able to effectively protect their sensitive information. In addition, the United States of America lacks any form of law or policy at the national level regulating and protecting this data. Moreover, policies at the state level are varied and lack in uniformity leading to immense difficulty for corporations and businesses trying to properly meet the different regulations of each state. Other government bodies internationally such as the European Union have taken measures to address this issue through the creation of a General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a sweeping regulation protecting the data of consumers all across the EU.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. Government will implement regulations in order to protect the information of individual Americans and define restrictions on the collection, storage, and usage of this data through the following:
I. Allowing individuals to view all of the data collected by businesses, organizations, and third-parties.
II. Allowing individuals to withhold and refuse the sale of their information by businesses, organizations, and third-parties.
III. Grant individuals the ability to delete and edit data and information they have posted.
IV. Requiring businesses, organizations, and third-parties to inform individuals about the type of data they collect and store as well as the means by which they are used before collection. Individuals must also be informed about any changes made to the aforementioned methods and means.
V. Require businesses, organizations, and third-parties to treat individuals and consumers equally regardless of whether or not they choose to withhold personal information.

Results to be Expected:
By implementing a single national regulation concerning personal and consumer data organizations will benefit from a uniform policy in the collection, storage, and usage of this data. Legal and regulative "grey area" between states will be eliminated. Furthermore, individual Americans will be able to ensure that their personal information is protected and have the right to determine how and what pieces of their data can be used by corporations, organizations, and businesses.
Proposal #200
Author: Cameron Mears, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
Building a Bond with the Future

Major Areas to be Affected:
AI device owners, technology companies

Justification:
Technology is advancing everyday, and more specifically, artificial intelligence (AI). The way that this technology improves is by having a group of humans listen to our responses. These groups can collect a lot of data just from observing the information users put into their device. About 61% of companies are using AI to identify opportunities in data. This is information that people do not typically want disclosed. In a study, most adults consider their movements being monitored in their household as an “unacceptable tradeoff.” (By a 55% to 27% margin). Artificial intelligence has the potential to change the world for the better, but there is also a real risk of having a negative impact on people.

With AI still being a recent advancement in the world, it needs to be regulated. We as humans put everything we know into all of our devices, whether it be at our home, school, or work. This information needs to be protected. As we become more reliant on our devices, we increase the risk of exploitation. Millions of American technology users could lose their information to various corporations, government agencies, and to other individuals. However, if we can manage to use this technology properly, we will be able to acquire the means to defend ourselves from exploitation from people with ill intent. Building a trust with AI will help America advance even further in the world.

Proposal for Action:
Artificial intelligence will be regulated so that it cannot disclose information without the consent of the user. This means that AI will not be allowed to give out any data from an owner without given permission. This will protect user’s privacy. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission will practice this new regulation, since the agency covers data security.

Results to be Expected:
There will be an increase of privacy and safety for Americans who use these products. This will build trust with these companies, which will further advance America’s technology.
Title:
Time for the Metric System

Major Areas to be Affected:
American consumers, American manufacturers, All companies that buy from the United States

Justification:
Currently, the United States is one of three countries that doesn’t use the Metric system of measurement. It measures length, mass, time, electric current, temperature, amount of substance, and luminous intensity (other scientific values are derived from formulas regarding the values of each). The Metric System has been integrated into medical facilities across the US already. Computer algorithms that are meant to convert from the United States Customary System have already been put in place and flaws exist with them including: round-offs/significant figures, decimal placement errors, and randomly occurring errors. Across the United States, many children have died due to error in recording and using measurements. Six years ago, the amount of preventable accidents reached 1.5 million people and continues to climb at an alarming rate. These accidents were caused by mistakes including mistaking Metric measurements for Customary ones (such as Teaspoon instead of mL) and rounding/significant figure errors.

This will not immediately ban the English Customary system, but rather slowly push it out of the United States. Countries including Barbuda and Antigua have had a slow implementation of the Metric system and it has shown to be successful once the process was complete. Some organizations like McNeil Consumer Healthcare have already converted their measuring to the Metric System along with some states; but, this proposal will require the Metric System to be used nationwide.

The plan of how it will be implemented originated from the idea that something this sensitive can’t be implemented instantaneously. Also, people not use to this system will have time to learn how to use it. If this is implemented as stated, then the small population of people in private schools and private businesses and people familiar with the US Customary System will learn the Metric System, due to its requirement in public education, businesses, and goods available.

Proposal for Action:
By the year 2045, the Metric system would be required for use in manufacturing and trading new goods to and for foreign countries. The Metric System will be used to measure items such as consumption products (consumption products include foods, liquids, physical material measurements, and medicines/medical supplies), cars, tools, and containers etc. The integration will occur over the course of 25 years (starting with 2020 being “Year #1”) and will be set forth as follows:

Years #1-5: The Metric system will be required to be taught to teachers that are in the process of renewing their teaching license. The proposal (if passed) will also be known, using news media and a release on the White House’s and General Assembly’s website.

During year #3, public schools will be required to teach the Metric System parallel to the English Customary system.

Years #6-15: A large group of Federal Trades Commission Officials will run a nationwide check to make sure that public businesses are complying with this passed proposal. If a business is not following the policy after Year #9, upon further inquiry, they will receive a $250 to a $5000 fine, payable to the United States Department of Treasury, based on the FTC official’s discretion. In terms of education, public schools will be required teach how to measure in the Metric system and the theory of the English Customary System.

Years #16-25: A final check will be instated, and any business that doesn’t comply will not be allowed to sell incoming products until they have been properly converted their products to the Metric system. The business would be allowed to sell their existing stock to raise money to afford to convert their incoming stock of products. The check will continue with these businesses every other week to keep the business in check. Public schools will be required to teach the Metric System as the official measuring system of the United States.

Results to be Expected:
The United States will be able to more effectively communicate with quantitative data/information to other nations dealing with collaborations in most types of research. The confusion dealing with the two systems will hopefully cease and less accidents will occur. I also expect the English Customary system to still be used for measuring for old things such as automotive products and other products
that were built and sold before this was implemented.
Proposal #300
Author: Derek Tarman, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
A Proposal to change daylight savings.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Technological machines that incorporates a clock will have to be upgraded or replaced if chosen to in order to adjust to new time changes.

Justification:
Everyone hates the loss of sleep during the March 10 forward daylight savings but loves the extra hour of sleep during the November 10 fallback hour. Many proposals talk about the end of daylight savings however there is a big benefit for farmers and other outdoor workers with daylight savings. This proposal makes daylight savings nothing but great for everyone in the nation.

Proposal for Action:
On November 10 the national time will go back 1 hour allowing for an extra hour of sleep, however every month after that the time will automatically move forward 5 minutes every month. This will affect all time zones within the United States. This is a way better action for daylight savings because the gradual loss of sleep is much better than the whole hour that is lost. This will also provide a more accurate and just sunset and sunrise time allowing for field workers to see and continue their tasks. In addition, a Swedish study found that the risk of having a heart attack increases in the first 3 weekdays after switching to DST in the spring. A Danish study found an 11% increase in depression cases after the time seasonal change. The cases dissipated gradually after 10 weeks. On Mondays after the start of DST there were more workplace injuries, and the injuries were of greater severity compared with other Mondays. Adding a gradual loss of sleep will help prevent these accidents and in turn continue helping farmers get up at normal times to get a full sunshine of work.

Results to be Expected:
The results will have a positive impact on both the farmers as well as the average person because there will not be a hour loss of sleep. This may also bring in more people to the United states for the idealism of having this form of daylight savings in place. There will also be a drop in major accidents that occur on the road or workplace.
Title:
A Proposal to Protect Consumer Data

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal Trade Commission, Technology Industry, Consumers

Justification:
The United States lacks a single, comprehensive federal law that regulates the collection and use of personal information. Instead, the government has approached privacy and security by regulating only certain sectors and types of sensitive information (e.g., health and financial), creating overlapping and contradictory protections. Also, incentives for companies to protect their data should skew toward prevention, rather than disclosures that have little impact. Disclosure after the fact only helps the legal and compliance industries that have cropped up in the wake of recent breaches. A preventative measure needs to be implemented in place of the current system of disclosure, which this proposal aims to do.

Proposal for Action:
Implement a nationwide data-breach notification law, overseen by the Federal Trade Commission, which requires individuals to be notified if their personal information is compromised, and require the company to be monetarily responsible for any harms that come to consumers as a result of the data breach.

Results to be Expected:
Private companies across all sectors of the industry will better protect their customers’ data. This proposal will ensure that all companies become responsible and ethical stewards of data, bring the United States in line with global standards, and better protect the data of U.S. citizens.
Title:
A proposal to enact laws governing data security and required steps following a data breach.

Major Areas to be Affected:
CFPB, FCC, Companies, and businesses.

Justification:
The internet is ever growing. With more and more companies taking data online on individuals, the risk for data breaches is ever increasing. Individuals have a right to know that their data is safe, or in the case of a breach, consumers have the right to know if their data has been stolen. While there are laws regarding data breaches in place in all fifty states, there is no unified data breach federal law. In the case of a national or international company where federal regulation would be more suitable, there is no governing body that enforces regulations on data breaches.

This problem is further made apparent when looking at the 2017 Equifax data breach. Over 145.5 million Equifax consumers had personal data such as full names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, and driver license numbers stolen in a data breach. This was due to poor management of data, poor attempts at detection, and outdated software which could have prevented this data breach. It took over 6-weeks before the data breach was revealed to consumers, and during this time consumers were extremely vulnerable to identity theft. To date, no fine was levied at the federal or state level.

Proposal for Action:
Create new requirements for companies to follow to both prevent data breaches and follow the appropriate procedure in the case of a data breach to be overseen and enforced by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

The following will be added with appropriate legislation:
Companies must take reasonable care to stop breaches.
In the case of a breach, the following must happen:
As soon as the breach is known, it must be instantly reported to the FCC and CFPB.
Proper law enforcement agencies must be contacted
The public must be made aware as soon as possible unless it is deemed that it is necessary to delay the notice by law enforcement for investigative purposes
The business provides free credit/identity theft monitoring to those with sensitive information that was stolen
States can add more restrictive policies

Penalties
When the breach is a result of improper treatment of data, the FCC and CFPB will be able to give out appropriate fines

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of this proposal, there will be a larger incentive for companies and businesses to maintain the integrity of their systems. This proposal will also give added protection to consumers and their data.
Title:
Incentivizing Stronger Cybersecurity for the Internet of Things

Major Areas to be Affected:
National Institute of Standards and Technology, Federal Trade Commission, government contractors and vendors, IoT device manufacturers, federal government, consumers

Justification:
The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of internet connected physical devices or everyday objects. There are currently over 8 billion IoT devices worldwide, with over 20 billion projected to exist by 2025. IoT devices are often sold as consumer products, but are also heavily utilized in industries as diverse as healthcare, transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing. Unfortunately, many IoT devices are being manufactured with an appalling lack of basic security features, putting individual privacy and the safety of our nation’s critical infrastructure at risk. The danger of weak IoT security is exemplified by the severity of the 2016 Mirai Botnet attack. Hackers used malware to take advantage of IoT devices with weak security and created a botnet, a collection of internet connected devices, to launch a massive denial of service (DDoS) attack that temporarily restricted internet access for large swatches of the country.

The federal government is a major purchaser of IoT devices, making IoT vulnerabilities a matter of national security. However, there are currently no security frameworks or minimum standards for IoT devices. The National Institute of Science and Technology has issued a cybersecurity framework, but has yet to issue any guidelines for addressing the unique security risks of IoT. Experts testifying in a 2016 house subcommittee hearing emphasized the need for government intervention, stressing that the inadequate security of IoT devices is not a problem that the market will correct on its own. As the number of poorly secured IoT devices increases, so does the threat to our nation’s critical infrastructure. While the damage of cybercrime was once limited to computer screens, the internet of things is composed of physical objects, like cars, drones, or medical devices, that can cause destruction in the real world.

Consumers who purchase IoT devices for household and personal use are especially at risk. Currently, there is no simple way for the average person to judge the security of an IoT device. The European Union and the UK are in the process of addressing this issue by developing certification labels for IoT devices that have met a minimum standard of security. Certification labels allow consumers to make informed decisions and increase public awareness of security risks, therefore pressuring manufacturers to design IoT devices that meet basic security standards.

Due to the diverse characteristics of IoT devices, there is no one-size-fits-all regulatory approach. Technology changes too fast to keep up with the pace of legislation, causing any mandatory regulations to become outdated in a few years. The solution to the IoT security crisis is not to limit innovation with regulations, but to pressure manufacturers to voluntarily design secure devices in accordance with a constantly updating standard. Many countries and organizations have already begun establishing their own IoT standards and norms, making it imperative that the U.S. take action to remain at the forefront of this emerging technology.

Proposal for Action:
1. The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) will develop a cybersecurity framework specific to the Internet of Things. The framework should contain specific sections dedicated to different applications of IoT and should avoid any sweeping generalizations. In addition, the framework will establish a set of minimum security requirements, specific to each federal agency, for any IoT devices purchased by the federal government or federal government contractors.

(a) All vendors or contractors wishing to sell IoT devices to the federal government must demonstrate that their products meet the minimum security standards established in the NIST framework. This requirement will be phased in over a five year period to allow for the publication of the NIST framework and for manufacturers who wish to sell to the federal government to conform to the new standards.
(b) The NIST framework should be updated every three years, with an additional two year period granted for manufacturers to conform to any updated standards.

2. NIST will also develop a set of minimum standards for commercial IoT devices designed for personal or household use. Devices meeting these standards will display a certification label stating that minimum security standards have been met.

(a) IoT devices already subject to federal regulations, entities or devices subject to HIPAA regulations, or any other devices NIST determines inapplicable to the standards are not eligible for the certification label.

(b) The minimum standards should be updated every two years, with manufacturers being given a one year period to update their devices before certification labels are issued following the new guidelines.

Results to be Expected:

Although the guidelines in the NIST IoT framework are not mandatory regulations, they are required for any vendor wishing to sell to the federal government. The buying power of the federal government will encourage all manufacturers to begin to meet the standards in the NIST framework, creating a culture in which security is at the forefront of IoT design. The certification label for personal and household devices will allow consumers to make informed decisions, driving demand for products that are certified to have met minimum security standards. This puts pressure on manufacturers to display the certification label, therefore promoting responsible design without imposing restrictive or outdated regulations. Cybersecurity will always remain an issue, but a baseline of constantly updating standards will make sure our nation is well equipped for a future dominated by the Internet of Things.
Proposal #351
Author: Dahlia Barton, Delegation: Tennessee

Title:
A proposal to implement translation options for all major federally operated websites

Major Areas to be Affected:
USAGov, General Services Administration, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency.

Justification:
From 1980 to 2010, the number of Americans who spoke a language other than English at home has increased by 158.2 percent. In 2011, 20.8 percent of the population over the age of 5 years old spoke a language other than English at home. Considering the increasing numbers of Americans speaking other languages is continuously increasing, it is important that the government adapts its functions to better support its constituents. President Clinton passed Executive Order 13166 in 2000 which requires “federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with limited English proficiency, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so Limited English persons can have meaningful access to them” This same spirit should be applied to our language reform, but with government technology and websites. By updating the most heavily trafficked government websites, freedom of information and equal access to resources is provided.

Proposal for Action:
1. Use Google Translate Software to roughly translate all federal government websites with over 5 million views per 30 days (about 25-30 major government websites)
2. Pay translators (10 translators for a thirty day period at $21.43) to edit the software translations and make the websites sound correct. Translate the two most commonly used languages: Spanish and Mandarin. This will cost roughly $4,500.30.
3. Unveil new translation button options on heavily trafficked federal government websites.

Results to be Expected:
By translating the major government websites, physical government institutions and phone lines will be less overworked, and those with limited proficiency can be given an equal chance to succeed by being granted access to the same resources all other citizens have. Furthermore, government websites will be better accessed internationally.
Proposal #376
Author: Sean O'Brien, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
To increase the effectiveness of the United States on the newest domain of warfare, the Internet, through the creation of an Independent Agency with the sole focus of protecting the citizens of the nation on this front.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
The United States is at a turning point. Many people are unaware of how at risk they are on the internet, and how at risk their credentials and identity are just by participating in the usage of the largest library available. Cyber-security has become a major concern in recent years, specifically with the data breaches of many large companies, and the threats of hacking in recent elections. Many organizations are not aware of the potential implications of a data breach especially on the size that some see today.

This can be seen with the recent breaches of large companies such as Equifax. With Equifax, 145.5 million Americans were affected, one out of every two Americans. Equifax was warned prior to the hack that they were vulnerable as they had an openly accessible employee portal, which was exploited over 74 days. This wasn’t the only failure in their system, as the company failed to fix the multiple points of failure for their security system. Many people had their social security, full names, date of birth and credit card information accessed through this breach.

The threat is too large for any multipurpose agency to handle, this must be a directed effort by a single agency created for the sole intention of tipping the scale into our favor, and saving us from cyber-terrorists and foreign governments alike.

Proposal for Action:
A new independent government agency would be created, The Department of Technology and Digital Communications, henceforth referred to as DTDC. This agency would aim to be insulated from politics, lead by a Director who acts as the leader of the agency and liaison to the Congress and White House. This individual would be chosen by a unanimous vote of a five member board of deputies, each serving a ten-year term, and each member being nominated by the President on the expiration of a term, and approved with a 2/3 majority vote in the Senate. The Director would serve at the discretion of the board, and would require a 4/5 vote of confidence every 6 months to continue working as the director. The board of deputies would serve as department chairs within the agency with assignment under the discretion of the Director.

Data will be defined as the personal information of a user, including but not limited to: First and Last Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, Social Security Number, Phone Number, Usernames, Passwords, Credit Card Information.

This agency would be given the following duties:
1. Regulation of data security practices, and establishment of minimum requirements that all corporations and institutions must abide by when handling any amount of data.
2. Require that organizations that suffer a data breach notify their users of any available information, including what who was affected and what was accessed, within 30 days of realization of said breach, or suffer a $100,000 fine per day, per user affected.
3. Management of an optional, but encouraged certification ranking for organizations to declare to their users of how strong their data management practices are.
4. Expanding the current scope of the Scholarship for Service initiative by the National Science Foundation through a budgetary increase from $103 Million to $300 Million.

5. Create and manage an educational campaign with the goal of raising public awareness of issues with cyber-security through an annual $100 Million budget.

6. Establish a research-grant program to encourage research into better practices of data security and into advances in computer technologies, established with an annual budget of $100 Million.

7. Require that all companies maintain privacy policies that are pro-consumer, with a summary version, written in clear English, easy for consumers to access, and written with under 200 words, as to clearly establish how consumers’ data is being managed.

8. Creating and managing a electronics-waste facility for data deemed confidential for usage by the Federal and State governments through a single time $100 Million allotment for the construction and upkeep of this facility.

9. The personnel, facilities, and general expenditures limit for this agency will be set at a $100 million annual allotment.

Funding for this agency and its sub functions will be raised partly through the absorption of the Department of Homeland Security’s National Cyber Security Division, and through the introduction of a 1% excise tax on imported electronics including but not limited to cell phones, computers, computer hardware, televisions, digital cameras, microchips, and electronic cabling. Any extra funds raised as a result of this excise tax will be split, with 50% of all remaining funds being given to the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the remaining 50% being added to the interest on debt spending.

Results to be Expected:

By creating the Department of Technology and Digital Communications, the United States will be more prepared than ever for a cyber attack, companies and citizens alike will understand how to properly secure their information online and how to respond in the event of a data breach. The government will no longer export our nation’s secrets to the electronic junkyards in third world countries. The number of jobs in the field of cyber security will be increased, and the ability for students to obtain them will be higher than ever.
Title:
To abolish Daylight Savings Time in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
Citizens of the United States of America, US Department of Transportation, US Congress

Justification:
Abolish Daylight Savings Time, you say? But the farmers! We do it for the farmers! Contrary to popular belief, farmers have been the biggest lobbying group against Daylight Savings Time since its implementation in the United States. In addition to this, DST accounts for massive death rates numbering the thousands, including car accidents, heart attacks, strokes, suicides, workplace injuries (more than a million), and miscarriages due to disruptions in body clocks. Economic losses caused by a decrease in productivity are estimated to cost between $434 million-1.7 billion. DST also affects one’s judgment in formal settings; judges have been found out to give harsher sentences — 5 percent longer in duration — the Monday following the time change. Additionally, Daylight Savings Time does not save energy, rather it has been shown to increase energy consumption, by way of things such as more use of air conditioning.

Proposal for Action:
The Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain, Pacific, Alaskan, Hawaii-Aleutian, Samoa, and Chamorro time zones remain on permanent standard time. As the U.S. Department of Transportation oversees the Nation’s time zones and the uniform observance of Daylight Savings Time, an act to amend the US Uniform Time Act of 1966 would need to be passed by the US Congress.

Results to be Expected:
A decrease in death rates, a healthier and more productive workforce, and a stark drop in economic losses are expected after Daylight Savings Time is abolished.
Title:
To remove prejudice in technology by reducing data imbalances

Major Areas to be Affected:
Technology users who are affected by prejudice, for example, people of color.

Justification:
After Google Photos identified two African American men as gorillas and numerous soap dispensers have proved to not operate with darker skin tones, it can be concluded that racism, sexism, and other biases are spreading to technology. For example, dark-skinned hands are not light enough to register to the soap's light sensors. The companies could have discovered and fixed this problem if dark-skinned hands had been used when testing these products and before they were released. There is a lack of variety in the testing data of intelligent machines.

Data imbalances occur when a dataset does not appropriately represent all possible cases. Data bias is introduced when the selection of individuals, groups or data for analysis is in such a way that proper randomization is not achieved, thereby ensuring that the sample obtained is discriminative and not representative of the population intended to be analyzed.

In order for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) machine to become intelligent, it analyzes thousands of data samples to find patterns. However, if these data samples are already bias, then the machine will begin to have the same view as the humans that inputted the data.

Proposal for Action:
Companies creating technology will remove data imbalances and biases when testing and developing products. This includes algorithmic products, such as social media, search engines, and crime prediction software. Awareness of this issue is essential and companies will begin to put forth a conscience effort to make sure that prejudice is not spreading to their technology products. The United States Department of Commerce will oversee the implementation of a tax increase for companies that do not show improvement in data diversity.

Companies ought to be aware of their customer database and prevent issues of discrimination in their products by following regulations to remove imbalances. When framing the problem, collecting the data, and preparing the data, developers should know that they are to be held accountable to fairer outcomes.

Results to be Expected:
Data that is obtained for training and testing technology will no longer be discriminative, but representative of the population intended to be users of the product. Machines will not have the bias of the humans that developed it.
Title:
To require all mobile manufacturing companies to lower the cost of their devices if such is recycled for the reduction of E-Waste

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Environment, Mobile Manufacturing Companies

Justification:
The production of electronic waste (E-waste) begins near the end of an electronics’ useful life. Currently, 60% of electronics are being transferred into local and state-mandated landfills which can lead to toxins invading the environment. The toxins being released into surrounding habitats include mercury, lead, arsenic, and polybrominated flame retardants. These harmful toxins leach into the environment where they leave negative effects on organisms and their habitats. The toxins can also be detrimental to the human body through the kidneys, blood, and peripheral and central nervous systems.

The inefficient effort behind reducing E-waste is a leading issue that connects to environmental dangers. More than 1.6 billion mobile devices are purchased each year, while only 30% of the electronics are being recycled after the product reaches its threshold viability standard. Americans generate around 3.4 million tons of e-waste yearly which is proliferating into the environment causing habitats to be reduced in size and adding to the destruction of the stratosphere which contains the ozone layer.

Proposal for Action:
Require mobile manufacturing companies to create a protocol that alleviates the over-production of E-waste by reducing the price of products if previously purchased items are sent back for recycling. After the device is recycled, the company will reduce the targeted price of the next upcoming purchase for that consumer. The reduced price of the future purchase of a product will be at the company’s discretion. The specified amount is only effective when purchasing from the same company that the previous product was purchased from. The consumer can only use the reduced amount when purchasing a new product, it will not be a separate flow of profit that the consumer will receive.

Requiring all mobile manufacturing companies to use the Basal Action Network (BAN) to appropriately recycle e-waste within the Electronics Stewardship standards.

Results to be Expected:
Convincing consumers to recycle electronics that have reached the threshold viability standard will reduce the amount of E-waste being sanctioned back into the environment. The consumption of recycled electronics will truncate the amount of E-waste that is being dispersed into the environment. Mobile manufacturing companies will obtain recycled materials that can be used for the development of new products. The action will benefit a company’s incoming profit due to the use of previously recycled materials for the company to not constantly purchase materials for electronics.
Proposal #448

Author: Johnathan Hurley, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
To upgrade US cyber-security with the intent of protecting future elections from illegal foreign and domestic influence.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States government, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Communications Commission, the American people, cyberspace, and global politics.

Justification:
During his investigation into the 2016 presidential election, special counsel Robert Mueller found numerous instances through which foreign governments made it a point to directly interfere with American politics. This included, but was not limited to, posing as U.S. citizens on social media, breaching state election agencies, and hacking the Democratic National Committee to find incriminating information on one particular candidate. In addition, the special counsel found traces of the organization Wikileaks attempting to do the same with a more domestic agenda in mind. As a result, one thing was made painfully clear: U.S. cybersecurity is simply not up to par in the modern world and steps must be taken to combat our ineffectiveness.

Proposal for Action:
Mandate the Department of Homeland Security to work directly in tandem with state Departments of Elections, or the equivalent thereof, to regularly upgrade their voting systems to protect against illegal outside influence. This shall include, but won't be limited to, the regular enhancement to the cybersecurity of all servers used to store voter information, patching potential software issues of the technology used to cast an individual ballot, and creating more secure means through which to exchange data between states on the topic of elections. Further, the Federal Communications Commission shall be instructed to introduce and enforce a set of regulations on social media companies that mandate the termination of accounts suspected of illegally impersonating U.S. citizens.

Results to be Expected:
The only way to effectively combat a threat that impacts every person in our nation is through collective action, and this proposal seeks to do just that. Assuming that the 50 states and the Department of Homeland Security can reach some sort of tangible agreement on electoral cybersecurity, it is highly likely that any sort of fear regarding hacking or the like could be substantially reduced in the buildup to the 2020 election. Additionally, if social media companies are held accountable, the risk of foreign influence directly over the internet would dramatically decrease, allowing for a cleaner electoral cycle.
Title:

To Prevent Violent Hate Speech and the Spread of Hate Crime Through Social Media

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Congress, United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, United States Constitution, Social media companies with over 1 million users, Social media companies with over 10 million users, the Internet, and hate crime laws

Justification:

Currently, the Supreme Court only qualifies speech that directly threatens or provokes a specific person as violating constitutional rights. This exception is important, however it does not cover hate speech. Hate speech is classified as “speech that attacks a person or group based on attributes such as race, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, origin, or other types of discrimination”. Hate speech singles out a person or group, making them feel unwanted or uncomfortable. According to a study by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), those who constantly used hate speech in the media often purposefully did so, in order to promote hate crime.

Hate crime is defined as “crime that intentionally affects a person or group based on attributes such as race, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, origin, or other types of discrimination” and has only recently been prosecuted as a special type of crime in the Civil Rights Act of 1968 signed by Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration. Hate speech in the United States is not prosecuted, a vast difference from the majority of highly developed areas such as Canada and Europe. Officially defining hate speech in U.S. law will mean that the promotion of hate crimes will decrease, and less hates crimes will be committed.

A major factor in hate speech and the promotion of hate is social media. All countries use social media, and those who seek to inflict violence often will find a community who agrees with them. Social media also offers the opportunity for attackers to publicize an attack and become infamous. However, social media companies have not been doing anything major to fight against these crimes. Facebook announced that it will spend billions on policing content and it has to an extent, yet apps like Whatsapp (which is owned by Facebook) continue to promote mob mentality in countries like India where religious conflict is commonplace. Social media companies and CEOs should face serious fines for the promotion of hate speech and failure to remove dangerous content. If a social media company’s platform was found to be a cause of a hate crime, that company would pay a hefty fee. Companies with more users (above 10 million) would be faced with heavier fees, as the hate speech/hate crime would’ve reached more users.

Proposal for Action:

I. Pass an amendment to the First Amendment to define hate speech as “speech that discriminates and promotes violence against a person or group of people on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, religion, disability, and/or origin”. This change will also include amending the First Amendment to classify hate speech (using the above definition) as not protected under the Constitution.

II. A law will be passed to punish those who are found to have used hate speech to promote hate crime. Violators will face a punishment similar to charges of endangerment.

III. A law will be passed that punishes social media companies if they are found to have been a cause of a hate crime (i.e. hate speech that radicalized the attacker and advised them to commit violence). This punishment will include fees of up to $5 million for social media companies with over 1 million users and $50 million for companies with over 10 million users.

Results to be Expected:

A decrease in hate speech on social media will lead to a decrease in hate crime across the U.S. Any attacks motivated by hate speech that do occur won’t be publicized on social media, and will lead to less copycats and similar attacks. Social media companies will also have a legal obligation to prevent violent hate speech on their platforms.
Proposal #505
Author: Terra Pilch-Bisson, Delegation: Washington

Title:
To increase citizen environmental awareness and protection through a federally funded ad campaign.

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Department of Treasury, Environmental Protection Agency, the American people, fossil fuel industry.

Justification:
According to the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, 70% of Americans believe climate change is happening, but only 41% believe it will affect them personally. This is because the majority of people have adopted a disconnection between their personal lifestyles and the greater environmental impacts of an affluent society. A federally funded ad campaign would raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change and other environmental problems, illustrating how they are created by the individual as well as at an industrial level. This campaign would be funded by a reduction in spending on fossil fuel research, therefore discouraging future use of nonrenewable energy sources without crippling the industry.

While there are many similar private campaigns in place, a federally funded one would increase credibility and make sure that these messages are seen and understood by everyone, not just those that smaller private organizations are able to reach. Since the US is the largest per capita contributor in the world to climate change, among other environmental problems, action is crucial. The campaign would highlight and inform about lifestyle changes that people can make in order to initiate that action. While the costs of such a campaign may seem high, the irreparable damage to coastal infrastructure by rising sea levels (equal to $118 billion each year), as well as a decrease in outdoor working efficiency (costing the economy $155 billion) and many other resulting issues, render the cost of the campaign pale in comparison.

Proposal for Action:
Beginning in January 2020, the US government will increase annual funding of the EPA by $100 million to create and distribute advertisements containing informational messages (highlighting how actions affect the citizen personally, ex. mass consumption of red meat results in atmospheric warming which causes forest fires) and specific solutions for the individual (such as composting, or shopping for more locally grown food). These messages will come in the form of billboards, commercials, publicly accessible videos, and informative websites. They will be developed by persons employed as part of the EPA; the EPA may also use part of their increased funding to hire new employees as needed, or to conduct further research about effects and solutions for climate change. The effectiveness of this campaign will be evaluated each year by the EPA, who will measure the environmental footprint of persons and/or geographical locations that are known to have been reached by the campaign. This evaluation will be taken into consideration by the EPA each year to continue developing a relevant and effective campaign. The two main focuses of the campaign will be to 1) establish connections between consumer decisions and resulting environmental issues and 2) inform citizens of specific actions that can be taken to reduce negative environmental impact. Environmental problem areas the campaign will cover will include but are not limited to: renewable energy, greenhouse gas emissions, waste disposal, and conservation of unsustainable resources. Beginning in January 2020, all costs will be taken directly from the current US expenditure on further fossil fuel extraction research, which currently equates to about $2.5 billion.

Results to be Expected:
In areas/by persons reached by the campaign, we should see less environmental degradation; including decreased greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in quantities of unnecessary waste and/or unsafe waste disposal. The American people should generally be more informed on the direct environmental consequences of their actions, as well as specific solutions which they can implement to be more conscious in supporting a sustainable future.
Proposal #544
Author: Stephanie Sesenu, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
To prohibit the United States from exporting e-waste to other countries, specifically third world countries.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Technology Industry, Global Health, Environmental Concerns and Global Economics.

Justification:
According to npr.org, the United States produces the largest e-waste. With this entails most United States exports being e-waste that are shipped to countries like Ghana, India, China and Pakistan. Ghana's Agbogbloshie region is notorious for being a digital waste dump where most of the e-waste hails from the United States. Similar to many countries, the workers in the Agbogbloshie region are forced to burn unrecyclable technological devices in order to get rid of the waste; as a result, dangerous toxins and flame retardant chemicals are released into the atmosphere thus posing environmental threats. In addition, these same workers do not wear proper attire or proper equipment so the exposure to the flames also poses health concerns as well. In 2001 alone, Guiya, China had more than 1,000 workers die due to the continuous exposure to the toxins released from burning devices.
In 2013, the H.R. 2791 bill was introduced to Congress and this bill prohibits The United States from exporting e-waste to countries outside of the European Union, the OECD or the Liechtenstein region. However, the bill was not fully enforced and many U.S. businesses in the technology industry continue to export e-waste to many places around the world, including a place like Renovación, Mexico whose country happens to be part of the OECD organization.

Proposal for Action:
Every Company, Business, or Corporation involved with recycling, distributing, selling or manufacturing any technological device should register under the U.S. department of Justice website and obtain a license. Any prospective company, business or corporation in the technology industry must also register under the U.S. department of Justice website and obtain a license. A registration and license allows the U.S. Department of Justice to track the activity of these businesses and it also grants permission to these businesses to operate.
Any U.S. Business, Company or Corporation in the Technology Industry that is caught exporting e-waste of any kind, be it recyclable or non-recyclable, will face a fine of $1 million and the license will be revoked. With a revoked license, the U.S. Business, Company or Corporation will not be allowed to sell, distribute or manufacture any of their products.
If a U.S. Business, Company or Corporation wishes to eliminate e-waste, the must submit their e-waste to any e-waste recyclable program within the United States as that recyclable program will also be monitored by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of the United States being prohibited from exporting e-waste to other countries, many countries around the world will have a lower likelihood of producing toxins into the atmosphere. In addition, workers around the world will have better working conditions as a result of the decline in technological devices being transported to digital dumps. Finally, the implementation of this solution will also promote awareness in the technology industry in terms of recycling e-waste effectively.
Proposal #558

Author: Juan Patterson, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
Changing Daylight Savings Time in America

Major Areas to be Affected:
For All states to no longer observe Daylight Savings Time.

Justification:
Switching sleep patterns, even by just one hour, will go against a person’s natural circadian rhythms and has negative consequences for health.

Proposal for Action:
To have all states stop observing Daylights Savings time

Results to be Expected:
For citizens in the United States be healthier and increase productivity rates
Proposal #585
Author: Catherine Edge, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
Copyright Reform

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Digital Media Copyright Act, The Economy

Justification:
American copyright law as it stands is deeply flawed. When the system of protection for intellectual property was first created it was nowhere near prepared to handle the onslaught of creation and theft that is the World Wide Web. Originally it was determined that registering for a copyright would place too much burden on creators. With the Internet, that burden is practically nonexistent. As it stands, it is near impossible to dispute a civilian copyright given the difficulty people have establishing proof of origin. This has led to injustices beyond counting, as assets have been seized for months or years in hazy claims of what is the truth. Establishing hard facts of ownership is the fastest way to ensure the intellectual property of individuals both civilian and corporate.

Proposal for Action:
Create a database through the Library of Congress that registers copyright to the original creators. Registration will cost the user 1 US cent. This database will be able to take:

- Images
- Music
- Writing
- Film
- Choreography
- Software

The database will cross reference any new copyright registrations through audio, image, and string recognition software. Copyrights will be public and the database will be searchable. Should a previously registered copyright be found by the system, the new one will be rejected. If this is thought to be an error by the registrant they may take it to court via a Digital Media Copyright Act (DMCA) subpoena.

Results to be Expected:
Decrease in frivolous copyright lawsuits and unjust asset seizure
A Proposal to Define Sexual Contact between Detainees and Law Enforcement Officers as Nonconsensual.

Major Areas to be Affected:

All federal, statewide, and local law enforcement agencies and officers, Individuals held in custody.

Justification:

Laws in 35 states have allowed police officers to argue that sexual contact can be consensual and that their standing as an arresting officer is essentially a non-factor in such allegations. Consent can be the difference between a rape conviction and an acquittal at trial, and experts say that allowing police to have consensual sex with those in their custody — an inherently off-balance relationship — makes it nearly impossible to determine whether someone consented or instead went along with the sexual contact out of fear or because they believed it was their only option. “The definition of consent for someone who is in handcuffs is in a different playing field,” said Brenda V. Smith, a law professor at American University and a former commissioner of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission.

Officers who rape have plenty of weapons at their disposal: the threat of arrest, the access to a victim’s personal records, and the aura of immunity that comes from carrying a badge.

Members of law enforcement and the policing community largely have agreed with this view — that a detainee cannot consent while in custody.

Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a Washington think tank that advises departments on best practices and policy, said that any professional exercising authority should know not to engage in sexual contact with someone they have in custody, regardless of whether there are specified rules governing such behavior. “There’s no way a police officer could reasonably view the actions of a detainee as consensual,” Wexler said. “The notion that a department needs to have a policy or a law to prohibit what’s obviously unacceptable when holding a person in custody is just wrong.”

Authorities have long held that law enforcement officials should not have sexual relationships with inmates in the nation’s jails and prisons, and Congress unanimously passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act in September 2003, promoting the development of a “zero tolerance” policy for rape in all custodial corrections settings, at both the federal and state levels. It also encouraged the passage of criminal legislation, in large part based on the imbalance of power between inmates and those responsible for their care and control.

All 50 states have since criminalized custodial sexual conduct between prison or parole officers and their inmates or parolees, who are legally unable to consent to sexual contact with their custodians. Recently released data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics suggests that prison rape allegations have soared since national standards under PREA were developed in 2012.

Although there has been a focus on prisons, many states have not specifically barred sexual conduct between police officers and those they arrest. 35 states have not explicitly defined sexual contact between detainees and officers as nonconsensual.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal would make it a criminal offense for a law enforcement officer to engage in a sexual act with anyone in his or her custody or while exercising their authority under color of law, regardless of consent. This would include federal, statewide, and local agents, probation officers, judges, and prosecutors.

Results to be Expected:

This would eliminate the current loophole in the system that allows officers to claim that sexual contact with detainees is consensual. This would therefore substantially decrease the number of detainees whose accounts are ignored because of the use of “consent” by officers as a defense in the courts. This would also hold law enforcement officers accountable for their actions. Ultimately, this would bar sexual conduct between police officers and those they arrest.
Proposal #086

Committee:  K

Title:

Amend the Constitution of the United States to impose term limits on Members of the United States Congress.

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States government, Members of Congress, elections, the Constitution

Justification:

The approval rating for Congress is currently around 20%. Part of this reason this has happened is due to term limits. Currently, Members of Congress aren’t subject to any term limits. This has lead to some people to be in Congress for multiple decades. These members have disconnected with the American people. Instead, these people serve at the pleasure of lobbyists and the big interest groups. These groups then donate money to the members Congressional campaigns so that they can keep serving in Congress.

Imposing term limits on Members of Congress, just like the President, are a vital step in preserving democracy, as it would allow for a fresh set of people to serve in Congress every few years, who can represent the American people, and pass laws that are important to this country.

Proposal for Action:

The following words is proposed as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution:

-No person shall be elected as a Member of the United States House of Representatives more than six consecutive terms and no person shall be elected as a Member of the United States Senate more than two consecutive terms.
-A person who has served six consecutive terms in the House of Representatives or two consecutive terms in the Senate must wait for at least 4 Sessions of Congress (4 years) before being allowed to run for the House of Representatives or Senate again.
-The terms that any person shall have served or is serving upon the passage of this legislation, shall not count towards the limit of terms he or she may serve in Congress.

Results to be Expected:

Congress will do a better job representing the American people. Since Members of Congress would not have to always their time on getting reelected, they can do a better job representing their constituents. As a result, more legislation that the American people seriously care about would be debated and voted on, making our government more productive.
Proposal #092

Author: Britton Gustafson, Delegation: Michigan

Title: A proposal to reform the UN Security Council

Major Areas to be Affected:

Every nation on Earth, particularly those in conflicts and wars

Justification:

France and the United Kingdom have lost their roles as dominant powers in the global stage. China and Russia are ruthless dictatorships that shouldn’t represent military actions meant to maintain world peace and stability by propping up governments that are undemocratic and violating human rights. These four permanent members shouldn’t have permanent status due to these issues and it only being determined by them being the victors after WWII. Many nations since WWII have become democratic, stable, and maintain human rights. Therefore these many nations should be able to serve on the UN Security Council for temporary terms as they represent the values and goals of the UN. They also can guide and help other nations in turmoil to become politically and economically stable like they are.

Proposal for Action:

Remove France, the United Kingdom, Russia, and China as permanent members and leave the United States as the sole permanent member. Instead four nations will be elected by UN member states for four year terms on the UN Security Council. They are able to be re elected for another four year term only ten years after their last term. Current UN member states are able to run for terms if they meet certain criteria. Those criteria are states that adhere to the basic human rights defined by the UN Human Rights Council, have at least a level 5 score on the Polity IV Scale to represent they are democratic, and be a politically and economically stable and peaceful nation as determined by the UN Charter and the International Monetary Fund.

Results to be Expected:

The UN Security Council now under US leadership will have temporary members that reflect the modern and democratic and free values that many states possess. With these criteria met temporary members are able to vote and give input that will positively affect the various nations that are affected by the UN Security Council’s decisions. It will encourage nations in conflicts to develop democratic, free, peaceful, political and economic stable governments that respect human rights. Therefore spreading core values and goals of the UN and to further the world into a more free and peaceful future.
Title:
Term limits on members of Congress.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congress
all U.S Citizens
election processes in all States

Justification:
There are members of congress who have been in office for too long. With new times, come new ideas. When the same people are in
office for 30 plus years, their ideas are outdated. Nancy Pelosi has been a member of Congress for three decades. 2010 was the last
time she helped to pass a bill, the Healthcare reform bill. Ever since, she has been unactive. There are plenty more members of
congress who are simply filling seats. We need members who have ideas and have a plan of action in our congress.

Proposal for Action:
Both Senators and Representatives shall be in office for a total of 16 years. Every 4 years they shall be up for reelection. In all, they
shall have 4, 4 year terms. The first election cycle that takes effect, 1/3 of the seats will be up for election. After 2 years another 1/3 shall
be up for elections. And 2 years after that, the final 1/3 will be up for election.

Results to be Expected:
There needs to be new ideas, and new outlooks on the issues in America. The people want new members of congress in office, as well
as members who will get things done.
Proposal #123
Author: Krislyn Sherer, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
To ratify and enforce the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Major Areas to be Affected:
Children around the world, and the United Nations

Justification:
The amount of children in low-income countries that are forced to work for nearly no wages, simply because of their socioeconomic status, is larger than suspected. Children are coerced into this by corporations taking advantage of their need for money, and lack of a full-time public education. Alongside their lack of education, children in developing countries face the bitter truth that is, their country does not do more to combat the horrific crime of child labor. Across sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 25% of primary aged children are not in school. In Equatorial Guinea, 46% of children are not being educated. In South Asia, progress has generally been impressive, but 34% of Pakistan’s primary aged children are not in school. More than 60% of adults in low-income countries can read and write, whereas in 1962, just one-third were literate. The worst educational outcomes occur in the nations that rank among the most poorly governed. Children born to educated mothers are less likely to be stunted or malnourished. In fact, each additional year of maternal education helps reduce the child mortality rate by 2%. The African continent has areas with less than 50% literacy among children ages 18 and under. In comparison, the youth literacy rates in South American and European countries are among the highest with 90-100% literacy. Many children in the countries mentioned do not go to school because of their lack of ability to pay for schooling, (tuition, textbooks, etc.) but of the many reasons, their distance from school is a main reason behind why they do not attend. Due to the ratio of kids to teacher, there is a high number of kids in a single classroom with one teacher. In Malawi, they have about 130 students per classroom.
The United Nations have discussed and signed two conventions in the past specifically regarding child labor, the Minimum Age Convention, (C-138; 1973), and the Worst Forms of Child Labor, (C-182; 1999). The Minimum Age Convention was designed to pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labour and to raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment or work to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons. The Convention established a legal age in which a young individual could begin to work for an employer, which was adopted to be 14 years of age. The Convention was signed and ratified by all nations. The Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention defines the worst forms of child labor as all types of slavery, including the sale and trafficking of children; forced labour to pay off a debt; any other type of forced labour, including using children in war and armed conflict; all activities which sexually exploit children, such as prostitution, pornography or pornographic performances; any involvement in illegal activities, especially the production or trafficking of drugs; Any work which could damage the health, safety or well-being of children (so called “hazardous work”). The Convention was signed by all countries, and ratified by all but the United States. The United States are already in compliance with the convention. By ratifying the convention, the United States must make sure that the law forbids the worst forms of child labour, and do everything possible to ensure that the law is respected. If a country comes across instances of the worst forms of child labour, it must take action to punish the people responsible for these criminal acts.

Proposal for Action:
Have the United States Congress ratify the United Nations Convention no. 182, accepting the terms in which qualify the Worst Forms of Child Labor.
Provide money through the United Nations to low-income countries on the condition that they, in turn, use it for conditional cash transfers to families for their children to school and remain enrolled through at least secondary schooling.

Results to be Expected:
More children in low-income countries to be enrolled in primary and secondary school.
Less children forced to work at extremely young ages, for extremely large amounts of time.
Proposal #131
Author: Dylan Rexroth, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
Establishing the UN Parliamentary Assembly

Major Areas to be Affected:
The world economy
The UN General Assembly
All nations on Earth.

Justification:
The history of the world has been defined by disunity. However, with the establishment of the UN in 1945, there was hope that the world could come together. Yet, the UN has only found mild success when it comes to pulling the resources of the world together in order to overcome major world issues. It is now 2019 and the world is becoming closer with the dawn of universal culture, an increasingly globalized economy, and more international involvement than ever. The time has come for the world to create a democratic government that has the power to bring the world together and finally unify mankind towards greater goals.

Supernational governments such as the EU have led to economic growth, better living conditions, and peace on the continent of Europe. The pulling together of resources had made many big issues more easily approachable. Despite it's problems, the EU model shows that a government of this type and scale is possible and needed in order to progress humanity.

Proposal for Action:
The UN Secretary General of the UN will appoint and oversee a committee of the UN to create a constitution that will establish the sovereignty of the government, divisions of power within the government, a bill of rights, checks and balances and any other constitutional provisions as needed. Funding for the committee will come from the current UN budget.

Following the creation of the constitution, the committee will begin lobbying and campaigning in various countries to ratify the constitution. After either 1/2 of UN recognized states/non-member observer states ratify the constitution or 1/2 of the world economy is under the jurisdiction of nations who have ratified the constitution the parliament will be created.

Non-member nations will have one year to join the parliament before they will be economically sanctioned by states of the assembly. States will have discretion in how they wish to send members to the parliament, however, democratic elections will be encouraged. Seats will be apportioned on the principle of degressive proportionality (while the nations do not elect an equal number of delegates, smaller nations are allocated more seats than would be allocated strictly in proportion to their population). Every 20 years a census will be taken of each nation of Earth and reapportionment will occur.

Results to be Expected:
International violence will decrease due to a more democratic process of conflict resolution. The world economy will grow due to barriers to trade being removed. International crisis such as famine, disease and lack of development are will be more easily addressed due to world unification.
Title:

To decrease the number of human lives lost to disease pandemics with a United Nations-sanctioned vault to store cures for known diseases and a laboratory to aid in the research for cures that can be used in mobilized pandemic control efforts from the United Nations

Major Areas to be Affected:

United Nations, the host state of vault/laboratory complex, states with pandemic outbreaks, epidemiology field, humanity

Justification:

The threat of a disease outbreak is imminent at any given time. Discovered, researched, and cured diseases like measles are vaccinated for every year, but in 2018 the number of measles cases rose by 75% from the previous year worldwide (Vaccines Today). North, Central, and South America had a combined number of 6,629 cases of measles in 2018, with 72 known deaths (Pan-American Health Organization). The Center for Disease Control in the United States has 15 locations that oversee dozens of laboratories designed to handle the researching of infectious diseases (CDC). Some countries are not able to maintain such a high level of cure research, including third world countries like Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Nigeria. In these countries, the Lassa Fever still ravages the land and the only solution that their government can afford is to isolate the infected from the rest of the population in Lassa Wards where most eventually die of the disease. From January 1st to February 25th of 2018, over 1000 cases of Lassa Fever broke out in Nigeria, making over 12,000 cases in the year alone (WHO). 10% of all infected with Lassa Fever die, which means 1,200 people died from a disease that many first world countries have a cure for, known as Ribavirin, but the country where the disease strikes most cannot afford the cure (WHO). The threat of pandemics does not only threaten third world countries but developed ones like the United States. The United States suffered in 2009 one of the most infectious pandemics of the 21st century. The H1N1 flu pandemic infected between 43 million and 89 million, as estimated by the CDC. 203,000 of those people died (CDC). In a time where modern medicine should be able to prevent the loss of lives, the number of deaths to illness new or old is staggeringly high. By creating a place for countries to submit cures to known diseases and allow countries to collaborate on cures for diseases without cures, not limited to infectious diseases, like HIV/AIDS, cancer, Ebola, and new strains of influenza, the loss of human lives can be minimized and prevented. Saving human lives should not be a matter of economics. This proposal puts saving human lives at the forefront of human endeavors, following the American idea that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed…certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Proposal for Action:

The following action shall be taken with the passage of this proposal:

- A United States committee in either the House or Senate shall draft a proposal to the United Nations outlining the investment for building a secure infectious disease cure vault and research laboratory to store known cures for diseases across the globe and allow for research to be conducted in a secure laboratory
- Cures for diseases that are treated with medication like Lassa Fever, Yellow Fever, and H1N1 are to be stored in the vault. Contamination-caused diseases like cholera are cured with saline intravenous (IV) drips and are not to be stored in the vault.
- States will be allowed to send government approved researchers to research in the lab, paid for by the state sending the researcher
- A runway will be built near the vault to aid in the mobilization of cures. Cures will be replicated in the lab near the vault and will be mobilized at the discretion of the United Nations Council
- The United Nations will be in charge of gathering funds from member states to build, maintain, and protect the vault
- The United Nations will be tasked with ensuring cures are mobilized to states suffering from pandemic outbreaks of diseases that have known cures at no cost to member states. The United Nations will work with the government of the state to ensure the effective administration of the cure. Nonmember states will help with alleviating the cost of mobilization at the discretion of the United Nations
- One of the member states will host the vault, similar to the proposition to Norway with the Svalbard Global Seed Vault
Results to be Expected:
The following results are to be expected with the passage of this proposal:
- Proposal submitted to the United Nations
- The building of a secure, protected vault with research facility attached or within a 3-mile radius of the vault
- Creation of more cures to diseases
- Ease in cure mobilization during pandemics
- Advancements in the field of epidemiology
- Economic increase through the field of epidemiology and increased interest in epidemiology
Title:

To encourage sustainable economic growth while combating global poverty, neocolonialism, and financial corruption in developing nations by providing foreign aid through microfinance grants, offering credit to the poor

Major Areas to be Affected:

735 million individuals living below global poverty level (earning less than $1.90 per day), World Bank- International Finance Corporation, International Monetary Fund, Low Income and Low-Middle Income Economies (GNI per capita < $4000), UN Member nations, UN ECOSOC, USAID

Justification:

In the 2017 Fiscal Year, the United States Government spent $49.87 billion in foreign aid, putting itself at the forefront of all other nations giving aid. However the question still remains, with what intention was this money given and furthermore how effectively is the money being spent. Modern U.S. aid originated in Cold War geopolitics with the Marshall Plan, Latin American Alliance for Progress, and Truman Doctrine all being designed to blunt the influence of rising Communist political forces. Throughout this era, national security concerns have continued to drive U.S. assistance policy, especially in the Middle East and Latin America, aiming to bolster allies, protect valuable economic resources, or preserve American held assets abroad. This focus on American economic and political needs over humanitarian needs of the individuals within the country has lead to perverse incentives which have ultimately caused the propping up of ineffective foreign governments and the waste of billions in US aid.

One of the major issues seen in foreign aid is the misuse of World Bank and IMF loans by government regimes. In the name of supporting economic development and industrialization, governments will take out large loans and oftentimes use that money to partake in pork barrel politics, bolster military operations, and enrich those close to the ruling party. In an analysis of cases between 2007 and 2012, the World Bank’s Sanctions Evaluation and Suspension Office found sanctionable fraud or corruption in 157 contracts worth $245 million. One instance of this fraud was seen in Tunisia where former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali used an infrastructure grant from the UN to pay off $15 million+ of debt held by private Tunisian companies owned by Ben Ali’s friends and relatives.

Additionally, the United States has continually engaged in authoritarian development where countries with oppressive dictatorship regimes have received considerable foreign aid and support from the U.S. For instance, in the 1953 Iranian coup d’état, the United States bankrolled and provided arms supplies to the oppressive Monarch Reza Pahlavi under the guise of foreign aid to topple the democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. Though Mosaddegh was freely elected, the US in Operation AJAX overthrew him because he was attempting to audit the British oil company AIOC and reduce their control over Iranian oil fields. One major takeaway from the Iranian situation is the contradictory action taken in foreign aid with $14.8 billion, roughly 32% of all aid, being dedicated to military expenditures that are often not in the best interest of citizens living in the country.

The underlying issue within misspent foreign aid dollars is the fact that the money is offering temporary relief rather than a permanent solution. Offering credit is the greatest gift that any individual can receive to break the cycle of poverty. This is because credit enables an individual with startup capital to open small business enterprises of paddy husking, lime-making, or manufacturing such as pottery, weaving, and garment sewing. It additionally allows them to pay for emergency expenditures such as medical costs or house reconstruction without forfeiting assets.

However acquiring credit is most difficult for individuals in poverty as studies from the UN show that less than 1% of individuals living in poverty have access to bank loans. This inhibits their accessibility to not only loans but savings as well, handcuffing individuals from economic opportunities afforded to others. This inspired Economist Muhammad Yunnis to establish the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which is a microfinance institution dedicated to offering loans to the poor. The results of the bank are astounding loaning approximately $17.4 billion to more than 8.9 million borrowers, majority of which are women. These loans have enabled these individuals to achieve greater economic success, with the average Grameen Borrower having a household income 150% higher than those who do not utilize credit. Further, the bank’s financial health is incredibly stable with a repayment rate of 98.3%, almost 10% higher than the industry
average. Additionally, since its inception in 1990, the bank has faced only 3 years operating in a loss, further evidence of the stability of microfinance.

Foreign aid is a critical tool that can be utilized by the United States to provide assistance to other countries in hopes to support global peace, security, and development efforts. Offering microcredit is a true solution to solving poverty, enabling individuals to help themselves.

**Proposal for Action:**

This proposal calls for the creation of an International Microfinance Organization (IMFO) within the World Bank. This Organization will serve as a subsidiary bank dedicated to providing microcredit to individuals in poverty under the World Bank International Finance Corporation. The following steps will be followed to ensure success:

1. **Initial Funding** - Initial funding for the bank will draw upon World Bank reserves within the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and an initial loan from the International Monetary Fund. This proposal further calls for the United States to allocate funds within their foreign aid budget dedicated to private investment to be provided as an initial grant within the newly founded Microfinance Organization.

2. **International Support** - Investment requests to United Nations member states will be issued via the action of the UN Economic and Social Council. Member states that invest will be provided shares of the bank but will have no influence in how the money is spent. All administrative decision making will be deferred to the IMFO.

3. **Establishment of the Organization** - The International Microfinance Organization will be created under the administrative authority of the World Bank. The IMFO will work within Low Income and Low-Middle Income Economies where economic development efforts are currently being made by the World Bank IBRD while utilizing the distributive resources of local banks.

The following steps outline the specifics of the credit delivery system within the IMFO:

1. There will be an exclusive focus within the IMFO to offer loans to those who meet criteria as living in poverty with special focuses towards women. Furthermore, borrowers will be organized into small homogeneous groups to encourage engagement with one another.

2. **Loan requirements will be as follows**
   - (A) Loans given without any collateral.
   - (B) Loans repayable in weekly instalments spread over a year.
   - (C) Eligibility for a subsequent loan depends upon repayment of first loan
   - (D) Loans will be offered to small business enterprises in simple income activities

3. As the IMFO grows and the borrowers become familiar with credit discipline, other loan programs will be introduced to meet growing social and economic development needs. Such programs include credit for housing, sanitary latrines, and tube wells for drinking water and irrigation.

4. Borrowers will also be encouraged to repurchase shares in their local bank, now financing loans and thereby transferring ownership of the IMFO from international governments to everyday individuals.

**Results to be Expected:**

Individuals living within poverty in lowly developed countries will now be able to have access to credit. Using this credit, individuals can start small businesses, pay for their children’s education, have access to loans for any emergency expenditures and lift themselves out of poverty.
Title:
Criminalization of Obstetric Violence

Major Areas to be Affected:
Hospitals, obstetricians, gynecologists, pregnant individuals

Justification:
Obstetric violence is defined as: “the appropriation of the body and reproductive processes of women by health personnel, which is expressed as dehumanized treatment, an abuse of medication,” and “coercion or arbitrary deprivation of freedom, and the threat of executing such acts” (that are) “likely to result in harm or physical, sexual, psychological, emotional (or) economic... suffering.” The World Health Organization predicts that cesarean sections are only necessary for 10-15% of all births globally, yet Approximately one in three births in the United States occur via C-section, making it the nation’s most common surgical procedure. According to a 2017 Consumer Reports study, about 26 percent of healthy women with low-risk pregnancies and full-term babies positioned headfirst— and therefore typically considered equipped to deliver vaginally—end up undergoing c-sections.

The risks of delivering via c-section are much higher than vaginal birth, with a 6% higher maternal death rate, threat of bladder perforation, higher risk of major infections to the wound or womb lining, blood clots or injury, risk of postpartum hemorrhage, problems getting pregnant in the future, problems in future pregnancies/births, and a higher risk of respiratory issues in infants.

Since the 1970s, the national average of births occurring via c-section has risen by 540%, a trend which should be attributed to the increase in coercion, manipulation, and fear-mongering of mothers from healthcare personnel. The motivation behind this phenomenon ranges from a loss in skill and confidence in the medical community surrounding vaginal births, to impatience, to the fact that doctors are paid more to perform the surgery than they are paid to deliver vaginally (since the rise in c-sections, the annual medical costs of childbirth in the U.S. have grown by $3 billion annually). Any surgery that lacks the consent of those being operated on is a violent act in its nature, and the bullying and coercion of mothers in the hospital is a form of institutionalized violence towards women and is a violation of civil liberties.

Proposal for Action:
Any physician found guilty of obstetric violence would have their medical license revoked and would face criminal charges.

Results to be Expected:
Rates of obstetric violence would decrease significantly and the exploitation of mothers who are placing their trust in the medical community by affirming the rights of protection for pregnant women and women in labor.
Proposal #232  
Author: Preston Andrews, Delegation: Model UN

Title:
Installation of Congressional Term Limits Amendment

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congressional representatives, Senators, and the Federal Election Committee (FEC)

Justification:
Currently in the United States of America representatives and senators are able to run for reelection after every term; they serve indefinitely. United States representatives serve two year terms representing the districts in their home states, while United States senators serve six year terms representing the entirety of their home state. Congressman and women have the ability to be some of the most powerful people in the country for decades if they choose. While it may be seen as the will of people being carried out, people should not be complacent while the same politicians are in control of the country. The country realized before the creating the 22nd amendment that a country cannot have political leaders in office for too long. Not only is it a waste but it is extremely detrimental for the country as a whole.

The average years of service for Members of the 116th Congress, as of January 3, 2019, when the Congress convened, was 8.6 years for the House and 10.1 years for the Senate. In comparison, the average years of service for Members of the 115th Congress, as of January 3, 2017, when the Congress convened, was 9.4 years for the House and 10.1 years for the Senate. The current congressmen and congresswomen are spending on average around a decade in the public office. These numbers are far too high considering about half of all people in congress are serving more than ten years.

New politicians are essential for so many reasons. It is vital that we have new ideas being brought into our government, so our government and citizens will want to bring about change. Change from new laws can benefit the country, and we as citizens should never become complacent, when the country can always be strengthened. Additionally, it is important that the United States government has the ability to elect more legislators who have yet to be so heavily influenced by the people in Washington. Also, politicians will be more likely to vote in accordance with their actual beliefs if they are no longer worried about losing reeleations.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will introduce the 28th amendment to the United States Constitution. This new amendment will create a limit of four terms for United States representatives and two terms for United States senators. Legislators will be able to hold both positions if elected, and he or she may serve no more than twenty years in the legislative branch of the federal government. The Federal Election committee will keep track of the terms and total years served by all federal congressmen and women.

Results to be Expected:
Creating term limits will ensure that political leaders are unable to be in control for too long. The use of term limits will allow for new candidates with varying ideas to enter positions of power that will shape the future of the country. It will also make sure that politicians do not attempt to stay in power for too long.
Title:

Regulating gerrymandering in order to create voter equality and fairness

Major Areas to be Affected:

U.S. State Legislatures, U.S. Political Parties

Justification:

Each state has a certain number of representative seats allocated to them in the U.S. House of Representatives based on population. While gerrymandering is not a high profile issue, it is definitely an issue that needs to be addressed. Gerrymandering can be defined as the practice of redrawing districts in order to allocate votes in a way that favors a political party. Gerrymandering is a political strategy used by party members in order to protect incumbents, and gain more powers in a certain geographical area of states. The main idea behind gerrymandering is to pack the opposing political party’s voters into more compact, and fewer districts. Surrounding districts will be seemingly more balanced, however still give favor to the party orchestrating this act. For example, North Carolina, had half of their votes cast for the Democratic party in the past 2018 midterm elections. However, they were able retain their Congressional delegation as 10 Republicans to 3 Democrats. Due to gerrymandering techniques, North Carolina is now composed of three predominantly and large Democrat districts, while others are smaller but hold a Republican majority. Gerrymandering strategy usually occurs during the redistricting process. New maps are drawn by the state legislature and then approved by the governor. If there is complete party control, then map redrawing can go unchecked. If not, compromising between two parties usually occurs. However, some states have adopted alternative methods. Commissions have been created that are independent from partisan bodies, and oversee the redistricting process. However, most of the time these commissions are just a partisan body. Gerrymandering makes it difficult for accurate voter representation, and for geographical and regional views to be accurately depicted. Districts have the tendency to span across areas that are not relative to a geographic area, causing much misrepresentation. Gerrymandering can be innately racial, as it has the power to dilute the voting power of certain racial groups or demographic groups, in an effort to attain partisan power. For example, if a minority group were to be spread across a state, they may never be able to collectively elect a favorable representative as gerrymandering will spread them too apart. Gerrymandering is a tampering of our democratic system, and must be regulated in order to maintain equitable and fair voter representation. With gerrymandering, legislators are picking their voters, and voters are not picking their legislators.

Proposal for Action:

I: Enact legislation that will establish a non-partisan, independent committee that will oversee the redistricting process and creation of new maps. They will oversee the process of population censuses as well. This committee will oversee the development of software to digitize redistricting processes. This software will be able to create districts that

II: The commission will comprise of members who present a general un bias, and must be reappointed every 5 years. Members are appointed by governors, and must be confirmed by state legislatures. Each state will elect 3 members, who will oversee their designated state’s redistricting process, and will coordinate with other state commission members if needed.

III: Maps will be redrawn every 5 years according to census data in order to keep up with changes in population demographics and to ensure accurate representation. Map redrawing will be supplemented with the computational software being developed.

IV: If redistricting occurs, the state’s commission members must submit the newly drawn map to members of all other 49 states in order to gain approval. Approval requires a ? majority.

Results to be Expected:

District allocation will be much more geographically natural. By being more geographically natural, populations will be accurately represented and voters will not be undermined through partisan gerrymandering.
Proposal #277
Author: Jennifer Bailey, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
Congressional Term Limits

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congressional Elections, Membership of Congress

Justification:
Currently, there is no term limit for members of Congress. One of the results of this lack of term limits is that members gradually lose touch with the changing issues that are important to the American society. A second result is that incumbents have a huge electoral advantage and because of that they are often reelected in overwhelming numbers. Even though the approval rating of Congress is around 20-25%, approximately 90% of incumbent members are reelected. This incumbent advantage is undemocratic because it makes it almost impossible to challenge a current member. Another outcome is the increase in polarization between the two political parties. Members know that if they receive their party's nomination, they are likely to win reelection. Because of that, during the primaries, Democrats tend to move further to the left and Republicans further to the right in order to secure their nomination. This increased polarization makes compromise difficult and ultimately harms our political system.

Proposal for Action:
Congress should propose and the states should ratify a constitutional amendment limiting the number of congressional terms. Members of the house will be limited to three terms. Members of the senate will only be able to serve one term.

Results to be Expected:
Lawmakers will serve less time than they currently serve today. This will allow them to stay better in touch with those that elect them into the office they hold. It will also allow more people to serve, which will in turn generate new ideas into Congress. It should also make it less likely to have extremely polarized members of Congress making it more likely to reach a compromise.
Title:
A proposal to combat racial and political gerrymandering by placing congressional districting responsibilities to an Independent Federal Commission.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Congress, United States Congressional Districts, Article I Section IV of the US Constitution, Racial minorities, 1st Amendment of US Constitution, underrepresented American Citizens.

Justification:
In order to proportionately represent US citizens in Congress, each state gets a population-based number of members in the House of Representatives. Representatives are elected through congressional districts. North Carolina, for instance, has 13 representatives and therefore has 13 congressional districts. As population and demographics change, so do the numbers of representatives and the map of the congressional districts in each state. This is typically done after a census, where population and demographics are quantified and analyzed. The job of redrawing the districts so that they remain equal in population originally was left to the legislature of each state. This led to the unfair drawing of districts, known as “gerrymandering”.

Gerrymandering is the manipulation of the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor one political party or race. Gerrymandering is widely condemned because it results in districts that do not reflect the political composition of a state at all.

In 2016, 37% of Maryland citizens voted Republican in congressional elections, but 7 out of the 8 seats went to Democrats. This means that even though 37% of votes were for Republicans, they only had had 12.8% of Representation in Congress, hardly over a third of what they truly voted for. In 2014, 44% of Pennsylvania citizens voted Democrat in congressional elections, but 13 of the 18 districts went Republican. This means that Pennsylvania Democrats had 28% representation in Congress when truly the should have had 44%.

Gerrymandering has also been applied to dilute the power of racial minorities. Two principal tactics, “packing” and “cracking” are used under racial gerrymandering. “Packing” refers to drawing maps so that racial minorities are compacted into the least amount of districts so they have fewer representatives in office. “Cracking” refers to drawing maps that split racial minorities into as many districts as possible, making sure they cannot reach a majority in any district, thereby diluting their vote.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made racial gerrymandering illegal, but because it is complicated to track, and it usually takes place in states with an overwhelming partisan majority, it happens to a large extent today. Former Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy stated in a concurring opinion that “Partisan gerrymandering is incompatible with democracy.” It has been the opinion of many judges that gerrymandering violates the 1st amendment, as voting is a form of political speech, and gerrymandering suppresses it. Realizing this, states such as Idaho, Washington, and Arizona have given the power of drawing districts to independent committees.

Proposal for Action:
The Federal Election Commission will work in conjunction with the United States Census Bureau to create an Independent Commission that will be responsible for the redrawing of districts after receiving census information every 10 years following the principles of:
A. Contiguity
B. Compactness
C. Equal Size
The above principles will be ensured by the use of algorithms to draw congressional district maps. Using the parameters of the constitution and the Voter right’s acts, algorithms can be used in order to draw gerrymander-free districts. The maps created by the algorithm will provide transparency to how districts were drawn, as they would be available to the public. The maps drawn by the algorithm would be subject to review by the Independent Commission if deemed unfair.

The grounds for the creation of the committee are found in that:

A. Racial gerrymandering is illegal, yet it still happens
B. Political and racial gerrymandering dilute votes of those affected, violating the 1st amendment on the ground that voting is considered a speech protected by it
C. Section I Article 4 of the constitution states that: “the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations” regarding how elections are organized
D. Supreme Court Case Baker v. Carr which ruled that redistricting issues present justiciable questions, thus enabling the federal government to decide redistricting cases.
E. Supreme Court Case Shaw v. Reno which ruled that redistricting based on race must be held to a standard of strict scrutiny under the equal protection clause.

Results to be Expected:

General: Having an Independent Federal commission will result in uniform districting procedures for all 50 states. Having these standards will ensure that congressional districts are not gerrymandered, that no political party will have control of how districts are drawn, and that the voting power of individuals is protected to the greatest extent possible.

Direct: In states gerrymandered to favor Democrats, such as Maryland, Republican voting power will be increased to be representative of the political composition of the state. In states gerrymandered to favor Republicans, such as Pennsylvania, Democratic voting power will be increased to be representative of the true political composition of the state. In states gerrymandered to suppress African American, Hispanic, and other racial minorities, such as Texas, voting power of the minorities will be increased to be representative of the true political composition of the state.

Constitutional: Provides more efficient enforcement for Voting Rights Act of 1965; Provides protection for the 1st amendment; Provides protection for the 14th amendment.
Title:

Introduce a U.N. resolution to expand the Kimberley Process to include requirements regarding worker and human rights.

Major Areas to be Affected:

United Nations, Kimberley Certification Scheme applicants and members, African governments and rebel opposition, and the international diamond industry.

Justification:

When the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) was implemented via a U.N. resolution in 2003, the international community was hopeful that it would put an end to diamond-funded attempts on overthrowing legitimate governments and institutions, primarily taking place in Africa. The United Nations planned to achieve this by inhibiting the rebel groups’ ability to fund their efforts with the sale and distribution of unethically-sourced diamonds. While the process did create a greater sense of transparency by creating a system where diamonds could be classified as "conflict-free", the international legislation left many issues out of the final version, creating a multitude of exploits for rebel groups to utilize in their favor, all due to an absence of any text within the resolution regarding human rights abuses. This has allowed for various crimes against humanity, including but not limited to: unsafe working environments, child labor, physical abuse, and murder.

Proposal for Action:

An expanded KPCS would be presented via U.N. resolution, including the following:

I. Set a standardized age, physical, and mental ableness requirement for all diamond laborers.
II. Require proper equipment and safety precautions to cultivate a healthy, sustainable, and legal working environment.
III. Prohibit physical abuse towards all diamond laborers.
IV. Commission a division of U.N. officials to oversee that all these requirements are being met without collusion from any and all malcontented parties.
V. Advocate for the use of U.N. peacekeeping forces to conduct diplomatic and military sanctions against any non-cooperative groups if necessary.
VI. Require compliance from all members and pending applicants of the KPCS.

Results to be Expected:

With the U.N. continuing their use of the KPCS, along with the new revisions that would ensure the transparency, legality, and humanity of the process, the diamond industry would no longer serve as a tool for violent militant groups to fund their efforts at instability and political takeover. Human rights abuses would decrease dramatically and working conditions would drastically improve for the now legal, physically and mentally capable laborers. Ultimately, safer mining environments, a lack of monetary means for anti-democratic rebel opposition, and cooperation from the United Nations and its resources would ensure stability in traditionally unstable regions of the world.
Proposal #411
Author: Alex Young, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
To require the establishment of a nonpartisan or bipartisan redistricting commission or committee by each state legislature for United States Congressional elections.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congress of the United States of America, state legislatures and governments, the American people.

Justification:
The voters of the United States of America are being cheated of fair and free congressional elections through the practice of partisan gerrymandering. Congressional gerrymandering is the method in which a political party forms congressional districts in order to benefit themselves and increase their political success. This practice is common in most states and is utilized by both major political parties. Gerrymandering, throughout recent and distant American history, has been a way for politicians and partisans to play with citizens’ votes. Parties have used race, demographics, and ideological beliefs in order to manipulate voters by placing them into districts that will create the best outcome for them.

In a 2019 Supreme Court Case, Virginia House of Delegates v. Bethune-Hill, it was argued that some African-American voters were illegally packed into one district, based off party assumption, in order to benefit the Republican Party of Virginia. This case displays the prevalence of racial gerrymandering in the 21st century. Earlier this year, oral arguments were heard by the Supreme Court in which it was argued that North Carolina Republicans drew districts to their advantage, and Maryland Democrats did the same for their districts. The court has not yet made a ruling, but it is unlikely to hand down a definitive opinion. While this issue has been fought about in our judicial system for years, the legislative branch of our nation has the power to make elections more fair for all voters through ending the unethical method for Congressional races.

For the purposes of this proposal, a “redistricting commission” shall refer to a body of unelected individuals tasked with drawing congressional lines (including but not limited to, legislative staff and/or citizen applicants); a “redistricting committee” shall refer to a body of legislators or other officials tasked with drawing congressional lines.

Proposal for Action:
Through the power vested in Congress by Article I, Section 4 of The Constitution of the United States, Congress shall require that:

I. State legislatures shall institute a redistricting commission or committee that is either non-partisan or that consists of an equal number of members from both major political parties and at least one (1) member that is not affiliated with either major party for the purpose of establishing congressional districts.

   A. If the amount of individuals not affiliated with either major political party is to decidedly outnumber the amount major parties are entitled to, the number of members from a single non-major political party cannot be equal to or more than the amount a major party is allowed. (I.e. Parties like the Green or Libertarian Party should not have equal, or more, representation than either major party, as that is not reflective of voter demographics).

II. State legislatures shall be allowed to determine whether to establish a non-partisan or bipartisan commission or committee.

III. State legislatures shall be allowed to establish laws for creating the composure of its commission or committee in following the aforementioned requirements, subject to federal regulation as necessary.
IV. State legislatures shall determine the process for the approval of congressional districts established by the commission or committee.

V. States and territories with a single congressional delegate are not to be affected by this, as congressional races are held at large (statewide or territory-wide) in their respective state or territory.

**Results to be Expected:**

Citizens of the United States of America will be able to participate in more free congressional elections, as partisanship will play a decreased role in determining the gravity of votes and a congressional district. Requiring nonpartisan and bipartisan redistricting commissions and committees for congressional races will increase ethics standards and hold true to the democratic principles existing in the foundation of our nation. Ending congressional gerrymandering will help eliminate unfair biases that exist within our election processes. Ending congressional gerrymandering will help display a nation that many Americans yearn for, a nation that is continually working to ensure that power resides with the people, and not just those in power.

By requiring independent commissions for congressional races, a precedent of ethics will hopefully be set, leading to the independent commissions also being utilized for state and local legislative elections. Overall, the abolition of congressional gerrymandering will create a more free and democratic America.
Proposal #412
Author: Emma Brasher, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
Appropriating funds for a project-formula categorical grant to restore dilapidated areas and avoid gentrification

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congressional Budget Office, White House Office of Management and Budget, State Governments, Office of State Budget Director, United States citizens, Low-income Residents, Low-Income Neighborhoods, Developers

Justification:
As time goes on the standard of living for the American people is dramatically decreasing. Low income individuals live in places where mold has taken over, streets are not safe, and running water is a luxury. According to the United States Census, 12.3% of Americans are below the poverty level and live in these types of situations. People can hardly afford basic housing, let alone median income housing. Many of the United States low income workers are living in areas of concentrated poverty. Often times third parties come into low income neighborhoods to make the area more marketable for more affluent members of society. The third parties change the socioeconomic status of the neighborhood in hopes of turning a profit. The reality of the situation is that the developer/contractors coming in leave the neighborhood more decimated than they found it due to gentrification.

Gentrification is defined as the intentional process of renovating deteriorating neighborhoods to increase the influx of more affluent members of society, which in turn displaces the low income residents. Developers are able to turn a profit of these areas due to the low cost in real estate and the ability to use outside sources to reinvigorate the economy. The individuals who have resided in these areas for decades are being pushed out because they can no longer afford the rent the new landlords have imposed on them. Developers are buying inexpensive real estate to increase the market value and make a profit. In doing this, they push out longtime residents which results in the culture of the community being destroyed.

Often to “fix” concentrated poverty in neighborhoods, individuals turn toward gentrification. Gentrification leads to the displacement of the longtime residents. I am proposing a project-formula categorical grant to avoid gentrifying an area which allows longtime residents to remain in the community. Congress must appropriate a percentage of money from the discretionary spending budget subcategory of housing. Once appropriated, the money may be distributed to the states in the form of a formula-project grant. A formula is drawn up for specific factors such as household income, per capita income, poverty and others to find eligible recipients. The formula can also be adjusted for different locations and demographics. Following the formula process, the grant then moves into the project grant stage, where each state allocates funds on a competitive basis among local governments or organizations. Although this type of grant moves through multiple stages of the government, the process is needed to allocate funds appropriately.

Proposal for Action:
To address the problem at hand, a project-formula categorical grant will be distributed to the states where local governments or organization may apply for a portion of money to revitalize low income areas. The local governments/organizations must present a revitalization plan which includes facade updates, safety improvements, home/building value increase, and investment in business area to bring more employment options to the area. They must also provide a radius of the area of improvement as well as a structured time plan. The grant may be renewed at later times, but as of this moment the grant will last between 15 to 30 years.

Once local government is approved for the grant, then they may classify the area as under revitalization. In the “under revitalization zone,” businesses who provide additional funding for the revitalization efforts will receive up to a 5% tax break, based on the level of contribution. This initiative will increase investment in the area by businesses that are already present in the community rather than outside corporations attempting to gentrify neighborhoods. The zone will also be on priority for public transit. Anyone looking to purchase a residential building in this zone will be subject to the terms and conditions present below:
1) Buyers are expected to put 15% of purchase price towards facade and apartment improvements.
2) Buyers of a residential building in this zone must agree to contract continuances for the current residents. Meaning the residents leases will remain the same until their expiration date.
3) New landlords, established by the buyer, may increase rent once every 12 months by 1.8% or less. However, they may not increase the rent until the lease for the older landlord is up.

Throughout the project the local government/organization are required to show signs of success and improvements. If the money
allocated to these areas is not used accordingly, then the state governments are allowed to terminate the use of the fund and redirect
the money elsewhere. The money in this project will only be used for revitalization efforts, nothing else.

Results to be Expected:

In hopes of increasing the standard of living in these neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, the project-formula categorical may
provide local governments with the ability to do so. It is expected the areas under revilization will experience a surge of job opportunities
as well as improvements in the economy and the facade. In the past, areas which have experienced revilization often push out long time
residents; however, with the terms and conditions applied the long-time residents will hopefully remain in the area. We want to increase
opportunity to existing residents without displacing them from the area. These projects throughout low-income areas will hopefully boost
the economy, giving people a more stable market.
Title:
A Proposal to Impose Specific Term-Limits on US Congresspersons

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Since its inception, the US Congress has been largely misrepresentative of the actual US population. For example, the average age of Congresspeople in the 116th Congress is 58.6 years old, as opposed to the average age of US citizens, about 37 years. Only 24% of congressional seats are held by women, while 51% of the country is female. Hispanic people make up 18% of the US population but only 8% of the Congress. The explanation for all of these discrepancies lies in the current demographic of the US Congress, it is dominated by senior or long-term incumbent politicians. In fact, in the 116th Senate, only 9 Senators are serving their first term, and the average age of those Senators is 58 years. This seniority is a result of the state of elections in the US at current, as they are largely decided by name recognition and incumbency. This can lead to several consequences, most dangerously a Congress dominated by corruption and government stagnation. The most effective and realistic way to resolve all of these problems would be to impose term limits on members of Congress.

Proposal for Action:
An amendment should be made to Article 1 Section 3 of the Constitution, defining term limits of US Congresspeople as 12 consecutive years (Two senatorial terms, Six representative terms) and 24 non-consecutive years (Four senatorial terms, 12 representative terms).

Results to be Expected:
The US Congress will see a far more diverse assembly, which will likely be more representative of the US population as a whole. Congressional administrations will be curtailed sooner, which would prevent long-term government corruption and allow more politicians to hold the seat of US Senator or Congressperson. Congressional elections will be more based on charisma and inspiration than name recognition and incumbency. The separate limits for consecutive and non-consecutive terms should create a balance between experience and innovation within the Legislative branch.
Proposal #486
Author: Kiara Mantz, Delegation: New York

Title:
Ratify the 1989 United Nations General Assembly resolution ‘Convention on the Rights of the Child’ to effectively prohibit the marriage of United States Citizens and United States permanent residents under the age of eighteen.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Citizens, United States permanent residents, the United Nations, Judicial System of the United States.

Justification:
As of 2019, The United States has signed, but is one of the few countries to have not yet ratified, the 1989 United Nations General Assembly resolution ‘Convention on the Rights of the Child’, which sets a minimum age of eighteen.

Child marriage is internationally recognized as a violation of human rights and an obstruction to the social and economic success of any nation. At the global level, child marriage is included in Goal 5 of the UNICEF goals for sustainable development “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” under Target 5.3 “Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation”. In 2016, UNICEF and UNFPA joined forces through a Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage in 12 countries with the highest rates of child brides.

The United States is often considered one of the most developed nations in the world but has yet to nationally restrict marriages in which at least one party is a minor. Because of this, between 2000 and 2015, over 200,000 minors were legally married in the United States, as reported by Frontline, 86% percent of minors granted a marriage license married an adult, with the majority of marriages involving a female minor and a male adult.

In 23 states, there’s no minimum marriage age, according to the Tahirih Justice Center. Children in those states can get married at any age if certain conditions are met. Laws in nine states allow minors to marry before the age of 16 with a judge’s approval if the bride is pregnant. When pregnancy is involved, parental consent is not always necessary. Parental consent does not automatically mean that marriage is appropriate for the child in question, rather it is indicative of child abuse and maltreatment.

Proposal for Action:
Ratify the already signed (in 1995) United Nations General Assembly Resolution ‘Convention on the Rights of the Child’ to effectively prohibit child marriage within the United States and for United States citizens. Parents and guardians proven to be exploiting or attempting to exploit their child(ren) through the act of child marriage and adults pursuing marriage with a child will be processed to the full extent of the law. Exceptions will only be made for emancipated minors over the age of sixteen. Pregnancy and or parental consent will not be legally recognized as exempt circumstances.

Results to be Expected:
Due to greater protections for the children of the United States, we can expect to experience: a decrease in child marriages, incarceration of predators pursuing marriage with a child, decrease in birth rates of minors, as well as a decrease of instances of inter-marital rape.
Title:
To limit the number of terms a federal official may serve in a house of Congress

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congress, US politicians, Citizens of the United States

Justification:
As of 2019, the average age of a House Representative is 57.8 years and the average age of a Senator is 61.8 years. This means the 116th Congress is one of the oldest in history, and over the past 30 years, the average age of Congress has continuously risen. It has come to the point where the average American is 20 years younger than their own representative. Still, 50% of Americans believe that their own representative deserves to be reelected while 29% say that other representatives deserve to be reelected. This trend is nothing new. For example, in 2013, 16% of Americans approved of Congress as a whole while 62% approved of their own representative.

Between 1990 and 1994, 17 states used initiative to set state term limits and 23 states set federal limits. In the 17 states with state term limits, favor for term limits has risen between 63 and 71 percent and approval of the Assembly's job has increased by 23% on average. Limiting terms is nothing new either, even for the United States. Prior to the Civil War, candidates would limit their own number of terms because homesteading, or holding a lifelong term, was not widely accepted or used. Therefore, a system of term limits in the United States Congress can be considered feasible as it is just reinstituting a previous practice.

Proposal for Action:
The number of terms a public official may hold in the United States Congress will be limited so that, within their lifetime, an individual may serve no more than:
Three terms (18 years) in the Senate and
Eight terms (16 years) in the House of Representatives.

Results to be Expected:
By limiting the number of terms of a public official may hold, democracy is upheld by adding new, equally qualified candidates on the ballots. Politicians will be able to remain within the political theater as a career, however their responsibilities will change as they serve in different houses. In the 2020 elections, only 12 Senatorial seats would be in violation of this limit, however only 7 of those seats would have to be given up, as each currently seated Senator would be allowed to fulfill his current term in office. Similarly, 92 Representative seats would have to be given up, which is less than 25% of the House.
Title:
To add a committee to curb population to the main committees of the United Nations

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United Nations, Countries with above a 4.2 total fertility rate, Countries with over 1 billion people

Justification:
Currently, the world is facing global problems unlike any other in its history. Problems such as global warming, ocean acidification, famine, loss of biodiversity, an ever increasing list of endangered species, water and ocean pollution, air pollution, deforestation, climate change, etc. all have one underlying cause. These immense problems are all caused by the exponential increase in the human population as well as the human standard of living. In 2017 the population was 7.6 billion and is projected to grow to 9.8 billion by 2050. This is 2,200,000 more people that the world must provide for when currently we as a global society are unable to inhabit the earth in sustainable ways.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will advocate that the U.N. input a committee on population growth that would be added to the major committees of the U.N. (as listed in U.N. rule 98) at the next appropriate meeting of the U.N. security council meeting to establish the provisional agenda of the U.N. General assembly. This committee’s function will be to curb the exponential population growth rate, resume the current responsibilities of the Population Division (currently under the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs), incorporate and oversee the U.N. Population Fund’s work, and other functions the U.N. deems necessary. This new committee shall receive the funding currently allocated to the Population Division and the U.N. Population Fund. All U.N. recognized countries with a total fertility rate above 4.2 or a population over 1 billion will be required to work to create a plan with this committee to decrease their population growth as well as any other countries that wish to cooperate under the condition that the committee deems it a worthwhile use of resources. The United States will also give 11 Billion annually from its discretionary budget to this committee reallocated from a combination of primarily the military budget and if appropriate the international budget or any other source the United States deems appropriate in its budgets.

Results to be Expected:
With this enacted, we should expect to see a decrease in population growth most prominently in developing countries that have currently have the most extreme population growth. This proposal should help decrease nearly all human created problem in terms of nature while the standard of living increases.
Proposal #515

Author: Elise Bormann, Delegation: Wisconsin

Committee: K

Title:

A proposal to institute term limits in the legislative branch

Major Areas to be Affected:

Citizens of the United States, congressional members, lobbyists, all American citizens eligible to vote, legislative branch of the United States

Justification:

Established congressional term limits would prevent members from developing deep, long-term relationships with lobbyists, thus stopping the formation of a permanent political block. This change would encourage more competition, more diversity, and a greater focus on policy change. When incumbents serve for 20, 30, or even 40 years, how can they be creative, disruptive, and motivated to serve their constituents? Instead, they are motivated to maintain the status quo and follow the institutional culture.

The current proposed Cruz-Rooney constitutional amendment would limit senators to two six-year terms and congressmen to three two-year terms. The following proposal is more conservative; it allows for three Senate terms and up to six terms in the House of Representatives. Term limits should not be so restrictive that members of Congress are forced to leave as soon as they become competent to the role. Instead, term limits should provide enough time for congressional members to learn to navigate the complexities of writing effective legislation and making informed policy decisions.

74 percent of likely voters are in favor of congressional term limits.

Proposal for Action:

No person who has served six terms as a Representative shall be eligible for election to the House of Representatives. No person who has served three terms as a Senator shall be eligible for appointment or election to the Senate.

For the purposes of this section, the election of a person to fill a vacancy in the House of Representatives or the Senate shall be included as 1 term in determining the number of terms that such a person has served, should the person fill the vacancy for more than 1 year in the House of Representatives or 3 years in the Senate.

No term beginning before the ratification of this article shall be taken into account in determining the eligibility for election or appointment under this article.

Results to be Expected:

By establishing term limits in the Senate and House of Representatives, the influence of partisan politics will decrease, as well as excessive lobbying. An increase in turnover will lead to many American citizens having their voices heard for the first time. Congress will have a stronger level of motivation to bring about positive change and legislation.
Title:
The Elimination of Gerrymandering

Major Areas to be Affected:
Voters and Political Candidates

Justification:
In October of 2017, Wisconsin Democrats were tried for Gerrymandering in Gill v. Whitford. In April of 2019, the state of Ohio went to trial after accusations were made that Democratic voters’ rights were restricted by Gerrymandering. Both sides of the political spectrum are affected by this unjust practice of political districting. By creating a fair system of voter districts, the prejudice practice can come to an end the US can continue to practice fair Democracy.

Proposal for Action:
1. A grid system will be implemented to divide up voting districts.
2. Gerrymandering will be defined as the manipulation of boundaries of an electoral constituency which favors a party or class.
3. Gerrymandering may not be practiced by any state or territory of the United States.
4. Any state or territory that participates in the practice of Gerrymandering will face a lawsuit and re-districting done by the federal government.

Results to be Expected:
Fair representation and equality for voters.
Proposal #003
Author: Jeremiah Franklin, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
Restrict Solitary Confinement Punishment in Federal and Private prisons.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal and private prisons and incarcerated inmates.

Justification:
Solitary confinement is a cruel and often unjust punishment that is far unchecked. It used as a disciplinary tool and separates violent
and/or those who are deemed “problematic” to those employed at the facility, including the mentally ill. Solitary confinement has been
linked to erratic and problematic behavior, post-traumatic stress disorder, and many or psychological issues and distresses. This is
extremely precarious to the prison environment because it puts not only other inmates at risk but guards and employees’ who have to
handle these possibly unstable persons. Solitary confinement should only be used as a last resort and never as punishment because of
its abusive nature on the mental health of the victims. If the separation of an inmate is deemed necessary, his/her psychological and
physical needs must be met because their human dignity must be preserved.

Proposal for Action:
Solitary confinement is prohibited from being used as the first option of punishment for incarcerated individuals and should only be
utilized to ensure the safety of the individual and/or others. Their time in solitary confinement should be kept brief (10 days maximum) In
the cases it is necessary to be used, the inmate is entitled to amenities and accommodations such as basic plumbing, food, water, and
mental and physical health care.

Results to be Expected:
Reduce the use of solitary confinement as a tool for punishment in Federal and private prisons.
Proposal #062
Author: Bayli Moran, Delegation: Florida

Title:
A proposal to provide equitable access to feminine hygiene products in federal and state prisons

Major Areas to be Affected:
Bureau of Prisons, Federal and State prisons, product distributors, and female inmates

Justification:
On December 22nd, 2010 a set of directives for female prisoners was passed by the United Nations called the Bangkok rules. Rule number five is that women must be provided with all their sanitary needs—tampons or pads—and the ability to clean themselves while menstruating. But, the U.S. has not met this simple standard for nearly 219,000 women housed in prison today. Some female prisoners earn only about $5 a month, and only two tampons in federal prison cost $5.55 according to the Marshall Project. Furthermore, a 2015 study by the Correctional Association of New York, found that 54% of women don’t get enough sanitary supplies.

The Department of Justice established The National Institute of Corrections (NIC), to aid state prisons to improve their correctional facilities. The NIC has a prison division that is dedicated to gender-response and the management of women’s prisons. In addition, having access to sanitary supplies is a basic right and should be treated as such in our criminal justice system. Women without proper sanitary materials can suffer from a number of health effects like rashes and urinary tract infections, that can cause permanent damage. Women deserve the right to basic hygiene.

Proposal for Action:
The Department of Justice in congruence with the National Institute for Corrections will provide equitable resources to prisons across the nation in order to ensure that each woman is provided with at least 20 of either tampons, pads, panty liners, or a menstrual cup per menstrual cycle, and has adequate time to clean herself. In addition, women during their cycle will be issued a new pair of underwear per day. Money will be distributed equitably depending on the need of the prison, and every three months an employee from the Department of Justice will conduct random inspections to be sure that this is carried out efficiently.

Results to be Expected:
Not only will women be equipped with the sanitary products that they need, but they will be free from the health ramifications associated with lack of quality hygiene products; rashes, vaginal yeast infections, urinary tract infections, fungal infections, and makes you vulnerable to infertility. This will allow women to continue their lives without the scar of prison because they didn’t get the hygiene products they needed.
Proposal #074
Author: Steve Nguyen, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
Phase in inmate rehabilitation programs in Federal Prisons for nonviolent inmates from the ages of 18-25

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Department of Justice, Federal prison inmates from the age of 18-25, Federal prison systems

Justification:
The federal prison system is completely broken. When the majority of prisoners in federal prisons are there for nonviolent drug offenses, there is not as large of a need for the prison to be solely a punishment center. Rather, because of prison being mainly focused on punishment, the incarceration rate of federal prisoners is absurdly high.
The U.S. incarceration rate is 693 per 100,000 residents —compared to 76 per 100,000 in Germany (Vera.com). Hence why not look towards Germany as a model from which to base our Federal prison systems.
According to Warden Scott Erfe of a CT maximum security prison where the program is being implemented in, the incident rate within a very similar program is lower than of general population (CBSnews.com).
It's simple. If nonviolent offenders in prison are not given the tools to assimilate into the general population, then they are simply being doomed to falling into the same habits which got them into jail in the first place.

Proposal for Action:
The steps to be taken for this proposal are simple.
Name for the program: T.R.U.E., for truthful, respectful, understanding and elevating to success.
Who would benefit from the program: nonviolent offenders within the federal prison system from the ages of 18-25
Why ages 18-25: The human brain is more susceptible to change and as a result to maximize the impact, people from the ages of 18-25 are allowed to benefit from the program.
Who runs the program: Correction officers in addition to inmates who are approved by the correction officers
How many people are in the program: 50 inmates per 1500 inmate ratio
Where does the funding come from: There will be a reallocation of prison funding where as a result of a lesser number prisoners in other costly prison programs (ie prisoners who would be in solitary confinement) funds will be able to be allocated for the training and implementation of the program.
How does an inmate get into the program: They must apply through a written form or be chosen by correctional officers.
What does the program consist of:
Group mentoring led by correctional officers and prisoners serving life terms.
Inmates will be allowed out of their cells from morning until night and allowed to mingle with each other and correctional officers.
The majority of their days will consist of counseling, exercise, and classes:
Counseling is done with correctional officers and longer-term serving prisoners
Classes will consist of focuses such as yoga and culinary
Exercise will consist of sports such as organized basketball with a coach
Additionally, prisoners will be given prison jobs which could include coaching the basketball team

Results to be Expected:
Three are to be definitely expected due to the precedent set by similar programs:
Recidivism rates at these prisons will decrease in that fewer people will be returning to prison upon their release.
The physical incident rate within prisons will decrease in that inmates are less likely to perform violent acts.
Prisoners will become more productive upon their release due to valuable life skills learned during their prison sentence
These are only three results to be expected but there exists a large number of other less quantifiable benefits to the participants of this program.
Title:
To shift the focus of the United States prison system from punishment to rehabilitation/education in order to reduce recidivism.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States government, the United States Department of Justice, and the incarcerated population.

Justification:
The current United States prison system fails to prepare incarcerated individuals for life after release. According to a study conducted by the Pew Charitable Trusts' Center on the States, "...43 percent of prisoners nationally return to the lockup within three years." This is primarily due to the conditions in which prisoners live while incarcerated. Prisons generally focus on cutting costs and keeping individuals incarcerated instead of preparing them with skills to utilize after they have finished their sentences.

If more United States prisons offered resources for inmates such as educational programs or vocational training, recidivism would dramatically decrease. The aforementioned study also found that "...the 41 states covered in the study would reap a significant savings — $635 million in the first year — if they managed to cut their recidivism rates by just 10 percent." The United States would benefit substantially from newfound funds to decrease the national budget deficit. If states manage to decrease recidivism through education and vocational training, a considerable sum of money could be saved and the well-being of the nation would improve.

Proposal for Action:
Require all federal, state, and local prisons to offer GED programs, community college courses, and National Certified Peer Specialist training. Prisons must also offer comprehensive vocational education in various fields including but not limited to construction, auto mechanics, carpentry, electricity, business, and custodial maintenance.

Results to be Expected:
By preparing the incarcerated population with skills to utilize after release, the recidivism rate will decrease, thus reducing costs and providing employment for previously incarcerated individuals who may have otherwise struggled to obtain employment.
Incarceration Reform for Juveniles

Major Areas to be Affected:

Prisons, Appeals court system, juveniles with pending appeals cases, juveniles in prison with the death penalty or death-in-prison sentences, prosecutors and judges

Justification:

In 2016, the Supreme Court ruled in Montgomery v. Louisiana that the states must retroactively apply the decision of Miller v. Alabama which banned death-in-prison sentences (life without the possibility of parole). In 2005, The Supreme Court ruled in Roper v. Simmons that capital punishment (or death penalty) is unconstitutional because it is considered cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th amendment. However, as of 2016, 8 states use the death penalty or death-in-prison sentences for juveniles.

On any given day, there are 10,000 juveniles (17 years and under) housed in adult prisons or jails. These children are 36 times more likely to commit suicide than children housed in juvenile facilities, and 19 times more likely to commit suicide than the general public. 47% of juveniles in adult prison report being physically abused and children are five times more likely to be victims of sexual violence by adult inmates and staff of adult prisons. Research has also shown that placing children in adult prisons increases the likelihood they will re-offend.

Proposal for Action:

Congress will pass a three-part legislation that will enforce the Supreme Court rulings regarding the death penalty and death-in-prison as well as establish new rules regarding the trying and housing of juvenile offenders.

States will be forced to comply with the ruling of Montgomery v. Louisiana (the United States Supreme Court decided that states must retroactively apply the ban on mandatory death-in-prison sentences for juveniles) and the ruling of Roper v. Simmons (the Supreme Court ruled capital punishment for juveniles is unconstitutional) by the beginning of the 2020 fiscal year of each state. All pending cases of appeal regarding Montgomery v. Louisiana and Roper v. Simmons must be heard by the end of the 2020 fiscal year. States will provide counsel if requested by the defendant. If states fail to comply, federal grant and assistance will be cut.

Juvenile offenders who have not been convicted of capital murder or first-degree murder cannot be housed in adult prisons.

Results to be Expected:

Consistency of juvenile sentencing regardless of state, reduction in recidivism, and decrease of suicide rates and physical and sexual abuse of juvenile offenders.
Proposal #180
Author: Amaris-Lynn Joubert, Delegation: Texas

Title:
To decrease recidivism through giving ex-felons the right to vote and phasing out federal use of privatized prisons.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Department of Justice; Federal Prisoners; Private Prison Industry; The American People; Bureau of Justice; State Congress

Justification:
The United States represents about 4.4% of the world’s population, but it houses about 22% of the world’s prisoners. The increase of
the U.S. prison population from 500,000 people in 1980 to over 2 million by 2007, is supported and incentivized by U.S. legislation. This
incentive and subsequent boom in prison population is based in the addition of a profit motive to the prison system.
Private prison corporations that own and manage private prisons and detention centers go against the fundamental nature and original
purpose of the prison system. The purpose of the prison is to rehabilitate socially deviant individuals so that upon their release they can
become productive and law-abiding American citizens. Given that if the prison populations are minimized, private prisons will be out of
business, private prison corporations have an incentive to contribute to increases in prison population. This conflict of interest is even
more horrific given that these corporations (such as CoreCivic and Geo Group) are acquiring billions of dollars in revenue every year,
meaning they have the financial backing to continue to effectively create corruption.
Furthermore, even when operating under the belief that prisons should be used for punishment, it is unjust to continue punishing ex-
felons who have served their time. There is absolutely no valid research that provides any level of reasoning or foundation for
disenfranchising ex-felons. There is no data that proves it directly improve the safety, happiness, health, or economic success of any
community. On the contrary, compared to non-voters, voters have increased social well-being, motivation to volunteer, and contact
elected officials more often (factors that contribute to decreasing recidivism).

Proposal for Action:
Ex-felons will be granted the right to vote by Congress. The U.S. Department of Justice will require the Bureau of Prisons to decline
opportunities to renew contracts with private prison companies or substantially reduce the term of the contract in a manner consistent
with law and the overall decline of the bureau’s inmate population until the contract can be completely declined. The disparity of
sentencing between the amount of crack and the amount of powder cocaine needed to trigger certain federal criminal penalties from a
100:1 weight ratio to an 1:1 weight ratio, therefore making that section of The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 retroactive. The three strikes
law will be eliminated.

Results to be Expected:
Federal prisoners will serve their prison sentence in safer, properly regulated facilities. Prisoner Rehabilitation will increase and
recidivism will decrease. Private prison companies will no longer be able to profit from the increase in prisoners, therefore removing
incentive for legislators to design legislation that contributes to mass incarceration (which may also eventually lessen the burden on
taxpayers). Ex-felons will be able to become active citizens in their community, impacting their community through voting and sharing
knowledge about legislation.
Title:
To extend the FIRST STEP Act to include a Job Transition Program (JTP) for federal prisoners.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Federal Prison, United States legislation, United States Justice system, Federal Prisoners, the general public, business owners/companies.

Justification:
Currently, the FIRST STEP Act serves as the front-lining piece of legislation on prison reform, but the key issue with the FIRST STEP Act is that it does not address the issue of recidivism. According to researchers at College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University, “Roughly two-thirds of released offenders are rearrested within 3 years of release,” and that “released prisoners who return to resource-deprived areas are significantly more likely to be [recidivated] of a violent crime.” These resource-deprived areas are areas that have “limited housing and employment prospects [of released prisoners].”

Under the current provisions of the FIRST STEP Act, the only text relative to the transition between prison and public living is: “Private entities that will— deliver vocational training and certifications; provide equipment to facilitate vocational training or employment opportunities for prisoners; employ prisoners; or assist prisoners in prerelease custody or supervised release in finding employment. Industry-sponsored organizations that will deliver workforce development and training, on a paid or volunteer basis.” This is in reference to recidivism reduction partnerships currently provided under the FIRST STEP Act and does not include a specific plan on how to fully execute the said provisions.

Given the fact that, according to the United States Sentencing Commission, most of the sentenced felons are low-level offenders (48.1% offenses being drug-related, 5.8% being fraud, and 8.2% being immigration), the United States needs to focus more on rehabilitation so that felons do not end up reoffending. This step towards a brighter society begins with a program that allows for low-level felons who are towards the end of their sentence to apply for and receive jobs, learn about how to manage finances, and become educated on how to build a stable ethic standard.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will extend the FIRST STEP Act to include a Job Transition Program (JTP) that will assist with the transition between prison and public living. The JTP will work in the following ways:

1. Federal prisoners may apply to the JTP if he or she has:
   - Five (5) months or fewer left on his/her sentence and who has:
     - Been determined to have a “minimum” or “low-risk” chance of recidivating under the provisions of the “Risk and Needs Assessment Tool” outlined in the FIRST STEP Act.
   - Participated in evidence-based recidivism reduction programs, productive activities, rehabilitation sessions, and partnerships until determined a “minimum” or “low-risk” chance of recidivating.
   - Continues to show effort in good faith to participate in evidence-based reduction programs, productive activities, rehabilitation sessions, and partnerships through reevaluations under the provisions of the “Risk and Assessment Tool” outlined in the FIRST STEP Act.

2. As already written under the provisions of the FIRST STEP Act, the Job Transition Program will extend into the Recidivism Reduction Partnership to work with private entities that will provide: “vocational training and equipment to facilitate employment opportunities for prisoners; employ prisoners; or assist prisoners in prerelease custody or supervised release in finding employment. Industry-sponsored organizations will deliver workforce development and training on a paid or volunteer basis.”

3. The JTP will include a Life Readiness course, in which the following subjects will be covered:
   - Applying for, interviewing for, and receiving a job
   - Finance management
   - Life management and ethics courses
   - Psychological and physical health

Participants who are accepted into the Job Transition Program and are on probation, in residence at a halfway house, or confined to house-arrest will be required to show proof of employment in order to receive the benefits and be protected by the provisions provided.
Results to be Expected:

By creating a specific program that encompasses a holistic approach to preventing recidivism, the United States will begin to see a decline in reoffending felons. In turn, the general public will see a rise in employment and a decrease in recurring crime that damages a community. Not only this, but rehabilitating prisoners causes for a societal peace of mind due to an increase in public safety.
Proposal #206
Author: Irene Thornton, Delegation: Virginia

Title:
Allowing Inmates on Death Row to be Organ Donors

Major Areas to be Affected:
Death row inmates, physicians, transplant patients, prison wardens

Justification:
Currently, there is nothing to legally deny an inmate on death row from being an organ donor except a warden with an inconsistent view of what is ethical. So far there have been fourteen reported cases in which a prisoner has attempted to do good by the world and be an organ donor but was not given the option to. There were more than 31,000 kidney, liver, lung, pancreas, and intestine transplants in 2018 yet, right now, there are more than 113,000 people waiting on the transplant list. As well in 2018, 23 of the 25 inmates on death row were executed by means of lethal injection – which causes death through cardiac arrest. In this case, organ donation is still possible assuming there is a turnaround time of 4-6 hours for the entire organ recovery process. In 2014, organ donation after cardiac death accounted for about five percent of all organ donations. Altogether in 2018, there could have been 115 transplant donations after cardiac death – with the assumption that these inmates were viable candidates. The number 115 cannot compare to 31,000, but that is still 115 more lives that could have been saved. If an inmate on death row is viable for organ donation and willingly offers to be a donor, an ethical responsibility to save lives would determine that their wish for donation be met.

Proposal for Action:
Inmates on death row would be allowed to donate their viable organs post-execution if they voluntarily offer. This is assuming the inmates pass all the tests a regular organ donor would have to go through.

Results to be Expected:
With an average of 34.9 executions each year over the last eleven years, it is expected that there will be around 80 possible kidney, liver, lung, pancreas, and intestine transplants – suspecting a little less than half of the inmates will be viable donors that consent to donation after death.
Proposal #213
Author: Oliver Joyce, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
To establish psychiatric care in federal prisons

Major Areas to be Affected:
American federal and state prisons, American federal and state prisoners

Justification:
A lot of people think of anyone in prison as less deserving of a lot of human rights. People in prison are still just that -- people. They get happy, sad, angry, depressed, and just like people living their lives outside of prison, deserve a way to be able to cope with that. Not to mention, living in prison is harder than living outside of prison, so in fact inmates are actually more deserving of mental health care. Pre-existing mental health conditions can be especially irritated during incarceration, and inmates who never sought out help outside of prison will need it more desperately than ever. Although these people lost their right to liberty, the rest of their human rights must be defended. Correctional facilities must fulfill their duty to protect their inmates from harm, including harm done by their own mental struggles. In Estelle v. Gamble, a 1976 court case, the prison was not held liable for not providing mental health care, because it could not be proven that the prison was “deliberately indifferent” to the inmate’s needs. This changed in 2011, in Brown v. Plata, where 40,000 prisoners were released due to not providing even the minimum level of mental health care required by the US Constitution. This was significant because it proved to prisons that they need to provide at least the minimum, but these institutions need to provide more than the bare minimum for these people, because they are not any less deserving of safety than people who aren’t incarcerated.

Proposal for Action:
Every federal and state prison must hire a psychologist for every 40 inmates, and a psychiatrist for every 500 inmates. These doctors will work from 9-5 five days a week, treating inmates as they see fit. The yearly salary of the psychologists should average $67,440, while the average yearly for the psychiatrists should be $126,000. Prisoners will be screened for mental health problems when first admitted to the prison, and follow up will be as needed. A full range of care should be available, including sessions with these professionals and access to medication as needed. Staff should be trained to minimize the use of intrusive and restrictive control measures. Prisoners who show suicidal or homicidal ideation should be transferred to a mental care unit and not returned to the prison population until cleared by a doctor.

Results to be Expected:
Prisons with good mental health care are expected to be less violent. When people are able to talk over how they are feeling with a psychologist, and even have a psychiatrist on hand to evaluate them and determine if they should be on medication, they are benefiting greatly.
Title:
To relocate the entirety US prison population and infrastructure to the North-Slope borough of Alaska.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public and private facilities, states’ department of corrections, incarcerated prisoners, and corrections staff, the North-Slope

Justification:
The United States is known for its massive prison population. It has resulted in prisons popping up all over the country, with approximately 1800 prisons containing 2.3 million inmates. This has put a strain on the communities prisons are in, demanding resources from the surrounding area. According to the US Department of Justice and National Institute of Science, citizens have an overall negative outlook on prisons being located near them. Because of the perceived security risk as well as the stigma associated with prisons, residents would rather have them moved. They believe they are unsafe due to the close proximity to the prison and the inmates, fearing a prison break could cause them harm. This stigma also has an adverse effect on land value in the region. The population of the North-Slope borough is less than 10,000 so the number of people negatively affected by the prisons would be minimal to almost none because of the very low density. Additionally, the borough is almost entirely barren with cheap land due to no existing demand. Because it is more than 95,000 sq miles it would easily be able to support the 2.3 million prisoner population as smaller areas of the US currently support far greater populations. In the US hundreds of thousands live within 50 miles of a prison, and that number could be greatly reduced by the relocation of facilities to the North-Slope borough. These people would then no longer be afraid of the prisons living near them.

Proposal for Action:
Require that all US prison facilities be moved to the North-Slope borough of Alaska. This would involve the retirement of current US prison facilities and construction of new facilities in the North-Slope of Alaska. Prison staff would have the option of keeping their jobs in the new facilities. Additionally, new support infrastructure would be constructed as needed for the purpose of supplying and maintaining the prison facilities. After the construction of the facilities is finished, the process of moving the prisoners from the current facilities to the new ones would begin, and once completed the North-Slope would contain the entire prison population.

Results to be Expected:
As prisons are relocated to the North-Slope, land values would rise in the communities where they were previously located due to the perceived threat and perceptions imposed by prisons leave. Additionally, the proximity between prisons will allow for easier management and greater efficiency. Jobs would also be brought to the North-Slope region via infrastructure.
Title:

Affirmative Action for Criminal Offenders Requesting Education (AACORN)

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States institutions of education, degree-seeking citizens who have criminal records

Justification:

College admissions are becoming increasingly difficult and youth arrests are becoming increasingly common. The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that by the age of 23, the cumulative arrest prevalence rate lies between 25.3% and 41.4%. With this, recidivism, or a person's relapse into criminal behavior, becomes a problem not only to our nation's safety, but also a burden to the American taxpayer. The Federal Bureau of Prisons reported that the average cost of incarceration for Federal inmates was $34,704.12 in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. These costs increase with more prisoners and criminals with repeated offenses. A Bureau of Justice Statistics report found that within three years of release, 67.8% of released prisoners were rearrested. One way to counter this is through education. However, past criminals seeking admittance into institutions of higher education often face many difficulties, like being required to produce official documents for their criminal records. These difficulties can cause application attrition rates to increase. The Center for Community Alternatives estimates that around two-thirds of SUNY applicants who indicate felony conviction do not complete the application. Furthermore, difficulties may arise in discrimination against past criminals. A University of Minnesota experiment shows that the rejection rate for applicants with felony convictions was more than double the rate of those without. This proposal aims to prevent the limitation of students' educational opportunities due to their criminal histories. GTL Education Solutions states in a study that recidivism rate drops to about 30% with vocational training, 13.7% with an associate degree, 5.6% with a Bachelor's degree, and to effectively 0% with a Master’s degree. If past criminals are able to apply to a fair college admissions system, recidivism rates will fall, and the national well-being of our country’s people can be improved.

Proposal for Action:

Require that admissions offices delay consideration of past criminal records until the merit of the student has been determined to be fit for the school.

Revamp the official record collection system for increased efficiency and decreased attrition rates. Prohibit admissions offices from requesting official criminal records from students unless they have been admitted. If students check, “yes” to having a criminal record, they will be able to self-report their past records in a brief statement. Once a student has been admitted, the institution will then be able to request official criminal records in a final review in a similar way 12th grade high school transcripts are reviewed. After this final review, the institution has the right to rescind applications if there is a drastic difference between what is self-reported and what is described in provided documents or anything that may deemed noteworthy at their discretion.

Utilize decreased prison costs to incentivize institutions. For each student admitted (up until 2% of the class size), the government will pay the school $3,750. For example, if a university had 8,000 students in a class, and 160 of them were past criminals, the school would receive $600,000. However, because 160 is 2% of the class size, any more admittance of criminal offenders would not receive the monetary bonus. Ballpark figures: If the entire US undergraduate population was 20 million, and 2% of them were past criminals, this monetary incentive would only take 5% of the roughly $30 billion in grants the government financed in 2017, while benefiting 800,000 people.

Results to be Expected:

By making the higher education institution application process more equitable for past criminals, we can expect to see less people in prison, a safer society, and a lighter burden on the American taxpayer.
Title:

Removing the United States Government’s prerogative of detaining individuals pending asylum privileges in prisons or in their origin country.

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Citizenship and Immigration, United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Justification:

The United States of America, despite being a beacon of hope and opportunity for many individuals, actively rejected and imprisons individuals seeking refuge within its borders. Under the Trump administration’s new policy of “Migrant Protection Protocol”, individuals seeking refuge within the United States from Mexico would not be granted amnesty from deportation within the United States and would, however, be forced back into Mexico where they would remain until their court hearing dates for asylum privileges. While in theory, this protects the United States against imminent threats within its borders, in reality, it poses various issues. The most blatant is the sheer quantity of application on backlog for review, and this number is only increasing. From 2016 to 2018, the number of cases pending review from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services rose from 516,000 to 746,000, an increase of 230,000 cases. The National Immigration Forum estimates that the entire asylum process typically takes between 6 and months and several years. With this, the fallacious intent of the Migrant Protection Protocol becomes increasingly clear: individuals attempting to escape whatever persecution in their respective countries would be forced to remain there until their case, amongst the other hundreds of thousands on backlog, is heard. This greatly increases the chances of whatever threat they are facing to, in the best case, catch up to them and in the worst case, kill them. Beyond that, the United States reserves the right to detain individuals at the borders that lack proper documentation. In 2016, there were 44,270 detained asylum seekers. This unjust malpractice contradicts the entire purpose of individuals seeking out the United States for asylum privileges. On top of their immense fear and stress from their respective persecution, the United States, on grounds of improper documentation or a “threat to national security” can amplify that fear by detaining them. This practice is protected under Section 235(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which states that “if an individual stopped at the border is believed to be an undocumented immigrant or a threat to national security, they are considered “inadmissible” and classified as an “arriving alien.” Many of these individuals are marginalized or oppressed groups from other countries and have no viable means of obtaining the proper documentation that the United States requires and will inevitably be detained upon arrival. The United States must abolish this unjust practice in order to protect the sanctity of the hope that oppressed individuals see in the United States when they abandon their homes to seek our refuge and asylum in the United States.

Proposal for Action:

I: Abolish the ability of the United States Government to detain individuals seeking asylum in the United States
II: Abolish the “Migrant Protection Policy” established by the Trump Administration
III: Employ new asylum officers and immigration judges in order to decrease the backlog of pending applications.

Results to be Expected:

The benefits of this proposal will be overwhelming. The prison population within immigration detention centers would decrease and individuals seeking asylum worldwide would decrease. This would allow the United States to uphold its founding beliefs of providing liberty to those facing persecution.
Proposal #262
Author: Wilson Wu, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Increasing Access to Mental Health Care Services in Federal Prisons

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Correctional Institutions and Penitentiaries

Justification:
Substandard mental health care has long plagued U.S. federal prisons. The degrading quality of mental health care in these correctional facilities can largely be attributed to a severe lack of trained staff. Inmates have, for some time, suffered the resultant ramifications; misdiagnosis has become conventional. In the absence of sufficient personnel, psychiatrists have resorted to misdiagnosing several mental health illnesses as being negligible, demanding less treatment, if any. As a result, a substantial number of inmates have been pushed to lower care levels.

In February of 2017, the Federal Bureau of Prisons released a report in which it was revealed that only 3% of inmates had a mental illness considered severe enough to mandate routine treatment. Juxtaposing, more than 30% of California state prisoners have been diagnosed with a “serious mental health disorder” and receive appropriate mental health care services. In New York, 21% of those incarcerated receive such care; in Texas, treatment is provided for approximately 20%. The aforementioned discrepancy proved so concerning that the Federal Bureau of Prisons, conceding to public pressure, issued a policy change requiring improved and expanded care for inmates suffering from mental health issues. However, rather than expanding mental health care, the number of inmates admitted to higher care levels has decreased by 35% to accommodate for a significant lack of employed mental health professionals. In some areas, the consequences have proved even more severe; a federal penitentiary stationed in West Virginia experienced a drop greater than 80% since 2014.

In a review of court documents, interviews with retired prison psychiatrists, and medical records, it was revealed that the Federal Bureau of Prisons had not imposed any policy encouraging an expansion of staff. Essentially, the Bureau of Prisons had introduced legislation mandating more mental health care, but had not provided correctional facilities with the personnel necessary to implement such care, forcing employees to designate inmates to lower care levels. Unfortunately, since many U.S. correctional facilities and penitentiaries are located in remote areas, even retaining employed staff is extremely difficult; most psychologists, having undergone the time and financial expenses of required training, are not fond of living in a remote area. Thus, more than half of rural U.S. communities do not have access to a local psychiatrist. In several federal prisons, staffing shortages have forced mental health professionals to take on odd jobs, an outcome which has only further hindered the quality of mental health care in those facilities.

The situation has only worsened under the Trump administration, which, in an attempt to cut government spending, has discouraged hiring more mental health workers. Without action, U.S. correctional institutions will have to continue subjecting their inmates to substandard care. Therefore, through establishing new employee benefits, this proposal seeks to incentivize trained mental health professionals to work in federal prisons such that understaffing will cease to be an issue. In doing so, employed mental health workers will no longer be forced to station inmates to lower care levels; understaffing will stop obstructing prisoners from gaining access to the mental health care they need.

Proposal for Action:
I: Enact new legislation establishing the Mental Health Worker’s Loan Reduction Program. Under this program, mental health professionals who have worked in U.S. correctional institutions for five complete and consecutive years will be granted eligibility for forgiveness of up to $30,000 on student loans.

II: A guaranteed, non-taxable scholarship of $3,000 or $3,000 in additional subsidized loans for a graduate or professional degree shall be granted to mental health professionals for each year of their service in a federal correctional institution.
III: Deem mental health professionals working in U.S. correctional institutions eligible to claim a new Expense Deduction. A singular mental health professional may claim a maximum deduction of $250. Two married mental health professionals filing a joint return are eligible for a deduction of $250 apiece, a maximum deduction of $500 collectively. The Expense Deduction will function as a supplement to the mental health professional’s standard or itemized tax deduction.

IV: Offer life insurance coverage of up to $200,000 in $5,000 increments, an insurance plan reminiscent of that offered under Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI). A mental health professional may enroll for a maximum coverage equal to that of their coverage under their previous insurance provider. Once enrolled, the mental health professional may increase their coverage by $20,000 every five years until the $200,000 maximum is reached.

Results to be Expected:

In short, by working in a federal prison, mental health professionals will receive federal student aid, tax deductions, life insurance coverage, and a significant reduction in their student loans. With the establishment of these employee benefits, more psychiatrists will be inclined to work in U.S. correctional institutions. As a result, the main ramifications resulting from understaffing - misdiagnosis and low quality treatment - will be largely mitigated; currently employed mental health workers will be tasked with a substantially smaller workload, augmenting the quality of individualized diagnosis and treatment. As such, mental health care services in federal prisons will be of higher quality and more accessible.
Proposal #291
Author: Virginia Millsap, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
To resolve that the United States rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council (UN HRC).

Major Areas to be Affected:
Member Nations of the United Nations, citizens in member countries, as well as U.S. citizens, international relations, and international diplomacy.

Justification:
The goal of the human rights council is to promote and protect human rights around the world. A group of 12 organizations including Save the Children, Freedom House, and the United Nations Association have stated many concerns with President Trump’s decision to leave the council. The organizations put out a joint statement saying “This decision is counterproductive to American national security and foreign policy interests and will make it more difficult to advance human rights priorities and aid victims of abuse around the world.” The council has been very effective in targeting a variety of issues, for example, the council adopted eight resolutions, to extend mandates on Yemen, Central African Republic, Sudan, and Somalia. Rejoining may also be critical to our international relations. Many countries criticize the U.S. for leaving; including Boris Johnson, the secretary on behalf of Great Britain. He believes it was a “regrettable” decision on the United States behalf and that the council, “is the best tool the international community has to address impunity in an imperfect world and to advance many of our international goals.”

Proposal for Action:
For the United States to rejoin the UN HRC, they must first foster support within the U.S. administration. Then they must declare eligibility, which is based on the equitable geographical distribution. The regional groups review this, for the U.S. this is the Western Europe and Other Group (WEOP). The regional group then would nominate the United States, who must be elected through the General Assembly. The General Assembly must vote on a secret ballot an absolute majority is required to be elected. The next election is scheduled for late 2019. Until then the U.S. will begin by gathering support and later obtaining a nomination from the WEOP.

Results to be Expected:
With the U.S. rejoining the UN HRC we will see a boost in our international relations among other council members. We will once again be working alongside our allies to better human rights around the world. This will help to regain their trust and strengthen our relationships. The U.S. will also be more progressive as a whole and be able to influence decisions and resolutions passed. The United States was a significant influence within the UN HRC and thus critical in writing and passing resolutions. By rejoining we will improve the council itself by using our power to create and write effective proposals. The U.S. will get a say in future reforms to the council, and it can be expected changes will be made to accommodate, and the fix the flaws that caused the U.S. to leave in the first place. By joining we can encourage and incentivize other democratic and diplomatic countries to join which we can expect to re-emphasize the focus on human rights within the council and account for the power imbalance within the council. With the joining of more democratic and diplomatic countries, the power will be taken away from the human rights abuser within the council and more evenly distributed between the other countries. This way we can reinstate the meaning of the council and reestablish the power of the UN as a whole.
Proposal #316 Committee: L
Author: Anna Sadie, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
To Establish Reformation Programs in States for Well-Behaved Prisoners

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Prisons, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Justification:
In a 9-year study, the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 68% of US prisoners returned to prison after 3 years of being released and 77% returned after 5 years of being released. The main goal of incarceration should be reformation not recidivism. With little to no opportunity for learning a new trade in prison, many inmates leave without a means of making money. As a result, many recently-released prisoners engage in crimes resulting in a return to prison.

Proposal for Action:
To create reformation programs in states where well-behaved prisoners may be transferred in order to obtain technical degrees. Each state may define the prisoners for allowing prisoners to attend the reformation programs.

Results to be Expected:
From this program, the results to be expected would be a lower recidivism rate. Instead of returning to prisons for crimes, prisoners would now be getting jobs after being released and would be able to support themselves.
Title:

A proposal to encourage fair and reasonable compensation to those wrongly imprisoned (exonerees).

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Department of Justice (DOJ), US Citizens who have been wrongly imprisoned, Innocence Protection Act, Federal Prisons

Justification:

According to the National Registry of Exonations, over 2,400 US citizens have been wrongly convicted and exonerated since the year 1989, with 8.8 years being the average amount of time lost. Out of those over 2,400 wrongly convicted, over 100 were sentenced to the death penalty, spending an average of 14 years on death row for a crime which they did not commit.

The second wave of suffering for US exonerees comes upon their release. After losing years of their life that they can never get back, exonerees are far too often left with nothing. Many states provide exonerees with compensation which is insufficient in covering their recovery, and an insult to their years lost, and 17 states do not provide exonerees with any sort of compensation whatsoever. This translates to hundreds of Americans struggling to get by, as a direct result of suffering for a crime which they did not commit.

While we cannot give back the years of life which we have taken, we can do our best to ensure that life after exoneration is better. When our justice system has failed our citizens, and innocent Americans suffer as a result of our inaccuracies, it is our utmost responsibility to make things right to the best of our abilities. Not only do exonerees deserve to live comfortably after their release, but they also deserve reasonable compensation for their traumatic experiences, and for the time lost.

Proposal for Action:

All states which meet the following will be eligible for a state match program, in which the US Federal government shall match any and all compensation to those wrongfully exonerated at a one to one ratio, meaning the Federal Reserve will not only meet the minimum 25,000 compensation but any further compensation which the state elects to provide.

Qualifications for this program include:

Provide a minimum compensation of 50,000 USD per year of wrongful incarceration to all exonerees, with no maximum, a rate which shall be increased to 100,000 USD a year for any and all years spent on death row, with no minimum.

Compensation shall be given to the exoneree in a timely fashion, with a portion of their compensation being made immediately so as to cover reasonable living expenses.

In addition to 50,000 minimum compensation, exonerees shall not be held responsible for covering the cost or any court fees related to their exoneration.

Exoneration compensation shall always be accompanied by an official acknowledgement of wrongful convictions.

Exonerees remain eligible despite previous unrelated convictions,

Exonerees remain eligible despite contributing to their wrongful conviction, such as through false confession, or guilty plea.

In the event the wrongfully convicted is exonerated prior to serving a full year in prison, or is being released after serving a sentence between exact years, they shall be compensated for the remaining months at a rate matching the 50,000 a year, rounded up to 4,167 a month, or 8,334 a month for time spent wrongly on death row.

In states which the minimum compensation statutes are not upheld, Federal DOJ funding for Federal Prisons shall be reduced by 10%.

Results to be Expected:

One of the most direct and intended outcomes of this proposal is an increase in support for and an improved quality of life for those wrongly imprisoned. Citizens will less frequently be held financially responsible for court cases involving crimes they have not committed. Compensation will also become easier to access, as compensation is expected to arrive to the exoneree in a reasonable time frame, and leave no gap where exoneree would be without support after exoneration. Compensation will also no longer be withheld from any citizen wrongly imprisoned, in accordance with their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. States will be indirectly encouraged to be more careful in convictions so as to avoid future false imprisonments.
Proposal #355

Author: Charles Schumer, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
Ending Felony Disenfranchisement

Major Areas to be Affected:
Prisoners, Prisons, Candidates for Office, Federal Elections Commission, Secretary of States' Offices

Justification:
According to The Sentencing Project, 6.1 million Americans cannot vote because of a felony conviction; 1.3 million potential voters are currently in state and federal prisons. This figure represents 2.5% of American adults. Despite criminals committing terrible acts, the right to vote is an inalienable and universal principle that should apply to all adults. Those in prison still have a right to elect the politicians that represent them.

Systemic biases cause African Americans to be disproportionately disenfranchised. According to The Sentencing Project, 1 in 13 African American adults are unable to vote compared to 1 in 56 Non-African Americans. In four states, over 20% of African Americans are disenfranchised.

Proposal for Action:
The right of citizens of the United States shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of conviction for any crime. In addition, all states shall allow eligible prisoners to request an absentee ballot. Prisons will communicate this option to their residents.

Results to be Expected:
Under this proposal, there will be greater participation in American elections as the electorate grows. Specifically, under this proposal there will be more participation from minority groups and impoverished backgrounds that constitute a disproportionate amount of the prison population. By offering voting opportunities, convicts will be able to develop a habit of voting which promotes community engagement.
Title:
An Act to Decriminalize Simple Drug Possession Under Federal Law and to Expunge the Criminal Records of Those Convicted Under Such Laws

Major Areas to be Affected:
The ATF, The American Court System, Local Law Enforcement, the FBI

Justification:
America is facing the worst opioid epidemic in our history; overdose deaths killed 70,000 people in 2017 indiscriminate of gender, age, or race; this number has risen 316% since 1999. This crisis situation has dramatically worsened since the advent of the War on Drugs. Despite $150 billion being spent to combat drug use, America’s current practice of penalizing drug addiction, while failing to effectively stem the flow of narcotics has thus effectively failed. Proponents of criminal law reform have argued that this points to a fundamental need to redefine how we view and treat drug addiction. The Opioid Epidemic is in fact a medical crisis, not a criminal one. According to the CDC, drug addiction is a disease that can be linked to genetic and socio-economic factors as well as to improper prescription of opiate painkillers by physicians. Drug abuse must thus be addressed on a healthcare basis. In 2017 1,394,514 people in the United States were arrested for simply for drug possession for personal use (simple possession). Almost none of the money allocated towards addressing the opioid crisis is spent on life-saving harm reduction services, such as Narcan or rehabilitation services, whereas a significant majority is devoted to the enforcement of incredibly arcane and severe simple possession laws. For example, a first time drug offender possessing marijuana in any amount may be sentenced to one year of time in America’s already overcrowded prisons. Minority communities are disproportionately affected by the enforcement of these laws, resulting in severe over policing and mass incarceration within implicated groups. Many countries, such as Portugal, have effectively combated similar drug crises by decriminalizing the possession of all drugs, thus freeing up governmental time and monetary resources towards harm reduction and healthcare policies. These policies which address the root of the issue by addressing the health implications of drug addiction have led countries such as Portugal to drastically lower drug addiction rates. By differentiating between drug users and dealers and thus decriminalizing drug use, the United States could thus more efficaciously address the Opioid Crisis.

Proposal for Action:
Decriminalize the simple possession of all illicit substances on a federal level under the Controlled Substances Act
Expunge the federal criminal records and wave prison sentences of those affected by this change in law

Results to be Expected:
Drug deaths associated with opiate use and overdose will be lowered as health resources are improved in both quality and availability due to budget reallocation. The socio-economic effects of mass incarceration will be greatly lessened. Police will have greater resources and time to address drug trafficking as well as other crimes.
Proposal #427  
**Author:** Allaura Osborne, **Delegation:** North Carolina  

**Title:** Aiding the Overpopulation Crisis in Prisons  

**Major Areas to be Affected:**  
- Overcrowded Prisons  
- Lower Income Citizens  
- Citizens with Drug Addictions  

**Justification:**  
With almost three million people in the prison system, and almost half of Federal Prisoners in for drug use or trafficking, one can agree that drug sentencing is unreasonable and uses up American tax dollars that could be better spent somewhere else. Not to mention that eighteen states have exceeded 100% capacity in their prisons. There has also been an extreme rise in the amount of drug-related arrests from 1980-2016 and this shows that the way that America has been handling these issues has only made it worse. In Washington, if you are found with any amount of heroin, you could get up to five years and/or have to pay a fine up to $10,000, and the punishment doubles for subsequent offenses. In Texas, one gram of cocaine gets you between six months to one year in prison and one to four grams is between two to twenty years in jail. These sentences do not fit the crime and are sending more and more people into the prison system. This will save countless tax dollars and this money could be used to build substance abuse treatment centers starting in the most populated areas (i.e. California, New York, Florida, Mississippi, Washington, etc…).  

**Proposal for Action:**  
Replace prison time for nonviolent drug offenses, including use and possession, with court mandated community service. Any tax dollars saved from these actions will be reallocated to build substance abuse treatment centers.  

**Results to be Expected:**  
Prisons will be less crowded due to the decrease of inmates coming in. Americans who need rehabilitation will find it for a reasonable price. Homelessness and drug use will decrease and morale in America will rise. Lower income citizens will be able to work through their sentences without wasting away in a prison cell.
Title:
A proposal to eliminate the use of the death penalty.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Justice, State Legislatures, Taxpayers, Death Row Inmates, Public Prisons, Private Prisons

Justification:
The modern criminal justice system is designed to promote rehabilitation, retribution, and deterrence of criminals. However, the current state of capital punishment is inconsistent with these goals. Rehabilitation is the reintegration into society of a convicted person, with the main objective of countering recidivism. Sentencing defendants to death, on the other hand, does not rehabilitate defendants. Retribution is the idea that guilty people deserve to be punished. However, since 1973, only 144 people on death row have been exonerated. As a percentage of all death sentences, that is just 1.6 percent. But the innocence rate is 4.1 percent, more than twice the rate of exoneration; clearly, an alarming amount of innocent people are sentenced to death and executed often due to unreliable and biased eyewitness testimony. Finally, the idea behind deterrence is to prevent future crimes. There is no evidence that capital punishment achieves this. In fact, the United Nations Committee that studied capital punishment found that “it is generally agreed between the retentionists and abolitionists, whatever their opinion about the validity of comparative studies of deterrence, that the data which now exist show no correlation between the existence of capital punishment and lower rates of capital crime.” Furthermore, the cost of imposing the death penalty is significantly higher than imposing the alternate life in prison without parole sentence. In financially strapped California, one report estimated that the state could save $90 million each year by abolishing capital punishment. The New York Department of Correctional Services estimated that implementing the death penalty would cost the state about $118 million annually. Using the alternative life in prison without parole, Florida would save approximately $51 million each year and approximately $24 million for each execution. Imposing the death penalty costs hundreds of millions of dollars to taxpayers each year; this is money that, if put elsewhere, would benefit society. Imposing capital punishment for crimes is inconsistent with the values of the criminal justice system and extremely costly, and, therefore, should be abolished in favor of other initiatives that encourage rehabilitation.

Proposal for Action:
Immediately overturn all state laws, statutes, and referendums that allow capital punishment. Allow for a review of the sentences of current death row inmates to determine an alternate punishment from the following:
- Life without parole
- Life without parole plus restitution
- Life with parole
- Life with parole with restitution

Redistribute the funds that would have been used for Federal capital punishment cases to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to be used towards reducing juvenile recidivism.

Results to be Expected:
The death penalty will be abolished, and current death row inmates will be given an alternative sentence. Additionally, the money saved would be redistributed to the OJJDP would result in a reduced recidivism rate for juveniles.
Proposal #478
Author: Zahraa Abdul, Delegation: New York

Title:
To allow for access for female hygiene products in female correctional facilities.

Major Areas to be Affected:
State Prisons that house females, Federal Government Budget, State Prisons' Annual Budget

Justification:

Today, around 99,000 women have to face the monthly struggle of having their menstrual cycle in state prisons. Ever since 1873, which is when the first female prison opened, no impactful reforms have been pursued to improve the living conditions of women in prisons. Incarcerated women also face health risks, particularly when they are forced to improvise menstrual hygiene supplies such as using toilet paper or maxi pads as tampons. The average women needs about 20 tampons or pads per cycle. The average price of tampons can range from $5.00 for 2 tampons to $4.00 for 8. The average price of pads can range from about $8.00 for a pack of 28 to $4.00 for a pack of 20. This is all based on what state prison that the inmates will be placed in.

There are still states that require prisoners to work with no pay, and in the other states, when they do get paid, the pay ranges from 0.14 to 0.63 cents for regular jobs that are non-industry and 0.33 to 1.41 for jobs in state owned businesses. That amount is the gross amount and each state has different requirements regarding tax. Often times, prisoners end up with a lot less than what they actually made. Prisoners are actually getting paid less daily then they were paid in 2001. In 2001, the average for non-industry jobs was 93 cents, and in 2019, it’s down to 86 cents for the daily amount of the average minimum. The daily average maximum amount declined from $4.73 to $3.45 before tax.

The amount of money that they earn should go towards certain things they want, and not items that they need. This also targets women that do not qualify to get a job in prison, and women who do not have people sending them money while they are in prison. Women should simply not feel less than human because they cannot afford or obtain products that is a necessity rather than a want.

Proposal for Action:

Female hygiene products will be free and unlimited for females in state prisons. When the inmates ask for such items, they will be given to them with no questions asked. This includes pads, tampons, cups and sponges. The amount of money needed for this will be set aside using a grant program that will be run by the Federal Government which will allocate money for female hygiene products that will be added onto the budgets of the prisons on the condition of that this money will solely be used to provide good quality female hygiene products. From each state, a worker from the department of corrections will be given the duty to go and verify that the money is being used properly. The distribution of the money will be based on how many female inmates are located in each prison. Overall, the grant would be around 12 million, taking into account new prisoners. That amount of money will be needed yearly, and will be added onto the state prisons' annual budgets.

Results to be Expected:

Having access to such products would increase mental and physical health for inmates. It will also decrease the rate of recidivism, and increase the rate of good behavior in prison.
Title:

Prison System Reform For Drug Charges

Major Areas to be Affected:

Private Prisons, Drug Laws for Mandatory Minimums, State Legislatures, Currently Imprisoned People, Future people to be caught doing drugs or caught with drugs.

Justification:

In the United States, 2,298,300 people or 0.7% of the American population is behind bars, which disproportionately accounts for 24.7% of the international prison population. This extremely high incarceration rate is due to the excessive imprisonment of non-violent drug charges at 45.5% of the currently jailed are imprisoned on a drug offense. These laws are based on the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. Non-violent drug charges are handed unreasonably harsh mandatory minimums and are prioritized in governmental organizations. Recidivism rates balloon due to these profligate laws: According to the National Institute of Justice, about 68 percent of 405,000 prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 were arrested for a new crime within three years of their release from prison, and 77 percent were arrested within five years. Instead of rehabilitation, the cycle of drugs use continues. Portugal in recent years has been successful in treating their drug crisis as a medical one rather than a criminal. Instead of sending a person charged with possession of drugs to jail, they immediately send them to rehabilitation to receive treatment. This has resulted in drug use being reduced by nearly half, and drug-related deaths dropping to some of the lowest in Europe. Additionally, Federal Grant Programs like Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, reward police for the number of people they arrest. Through asset forfeiture laws, law enforcement profit from arresting nonviolent drug offenders, which leads the local police to neglect violent offenders like rapists.

Proposal for Action:

Drug possession will no longer culminate in an imprisonment charge, but instead will lead to government-funded drug rehab.

Eliminate mandatory minimum laws on all drug charges, including drug possession and distribution. Power to impose sentences will be handed back to a judge, the traditional and proper authority to account for the circumstances of the crime and characteristics of the specific defendant.

Federal grant programs like JAG will be eliminated regarding non-violent crime.

Assets gained through asset forfeiture laws will be assigned to the federal government instead of local law enforcement.

Implement drug rehabilitation centers into prisons for addicts who are in prison on a different charge that requires imprisonment.

Results to be Expected:

Recidivism rates for drug use will drastically drop. Those convicted with drug charges will no longer be sent to prison but will be given the proper care that will assist them into integrating themselves back into society. Eliminating mandatory minimum laws will ensure each drug case will be charged according to the context of the crime. Less non-violent small time offenders will be sentenced to exorbitant amounts of time in prison. Removing programs like JAG and assigning assets gained to the federal government will end the prioritizing of non-violent crime in local law enforcement.
Proposal #21
Author: Madison Kellum, Delegation: California

Title:
Remove the SNAP loophole that restricts access to low-income college students

Major Areas to be Affected:
College students from low-income families, especially racial and ethnic minorities. U.S Department of Agriculture

Justification:
Students enrolled at least half-time at an institution of higher education are currently ineligible for SNAP, unless they meet one of the following exceptions:
- Under age 18 or age 50 or older
- Parent caring for a child under age 6
- Single parent caring for a child under 12 years old and enrolled full-time
- Working for pay at least 20 hours per week
- Receiving any work-study funds
- Receiving TANF benefits
- Unable to work because of a mental or physical disability
- Enrolled in certain programs aimed at employment

Because few college students meet these exceptions, the Government Accountability Office cites research indicating more than 30% of college students lack adequate access to food. Another study, surveyed a national sample of students at two- and four-year institutions, and found that 57 percent of black students and 56 percent of Latino students reported food insecurity compared to 40 percent of white and 45 percent of Asian students.

Of students who reported either hunger or housing instability in “Hunger on Campus”, 81 percent said that the problems harmed their academic performance. The most common effects were missing class (53 percent), missing study sessions (54 percent), opting out of extracurricular activities (55 percent), and not buying textbooks (55 percent). A quarter reported dropping a class.

Struggling to Survive reported that 8 percent of community college students with food insecurity planned to drop out entirely, while only 3 percent of other students planned to do so.

Neither student efforts to earn money, nor financial aid have been successful in solving the food insecurity crisis. According to “Hunger on Campus”, students with food insecurity either had paying jobs (56 percent), enrolled in meal plans (43 percent at four-year institutions), received Pell Grants (52 percent), or took out loans (37 percent).

Proposal for Action:
Strike subsection e of Section 4007 of H.R. 2642 (the Agricultural Act of 2014). Amend SNAP so that if a student’s family qualifies to receive SNAP benefits, then students pursuing either an undergraduate, graduate, or trade school degree are also eligible for SNAP benefits.

Results to be Expected:
Reduced hunger among students will improve overall academic performance and health among students. This will increase graduation rates and reduce dropout rates.
Title:
Abolishing Race Based Affirmative Action

Major Areas to be Affected:
College/University Admissions, Workplace Diversity, College/University Diversity, and Minorities

Justification:
“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” This is a quotation from Martin Luther King Jr’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Nearly 60 years later, students are being judged by the color of their skin over the contents of their character. Today, race-based affirmative action allows colleges to judge students by their race. Currently, nine states have banned judging college applicants on the basis of race. These states are Florida (1999), New Hampshire (2011), Washington (1998), Michigan (2006), Nebraska (2008), Arizona (2010), Oklahoma (2012) and California (1996) (NationalConference of State Legislatures). All states passed these via voter referendum except Florida, which was enacted by an executive order in 1999 by Jeb Bush. The number of states who have already adopted this shows that this is not an unpopular idea. Even a traditionally progressive state such as California passed this legislation, showing this can be a bipartisan effort. A Pew Research study revealed 73% of American agree that race should not play a role in college admissions (“Most Americans say colleges should not consider race or ethnicity in admissions” 2019). African American Economist Tomas Sowell states, “more fortunate American blacks receive a disproportionate share of the benefits going to blacks as a whole in the United States,” (Affirmative Action around the World, 2004). The 2014, “Benevolent racism: upholding racial inequality in the name of Black empowerment,” by Barry University sociology professors, Luigi Esposito and Victor Romano states that “affirmative action is a bad policy predicated on the idea that Black folks are inferior and incapable of competing with Whites as equals.” A Texas college student, Jordan Drake comes up with the idea, “If affirmative action must exist, let the consideration be a socioeconomic status so that no one is harmed by the color of their skin. This was the vision of the civil rights era,” ( Race should not factor into college admissions, 2018). Race-Based Affirmative Action praises itself on increasing diversity, yet is discriminatory by nature. Additionally, in 1996, when affirmative action was used University of Texas recorded that 4.1% of its student population was African American and another 14.5% was Hispanic. In 2004, only socioeconomic status and class rank were used and produced a student body in which 4.5% were African American and 16.9% were Hispanic.Helping students based on socioeconomic status rather than race will more effectively help students who do not have the same resources as those who are middle or upper class. Race does not equal class.

Proposal for Action:
In order to ensure fairness, race-based affirmative action should be abolished and replaced by judgement based off socioeconomic status and class rank. The federal government will ensure that that each state develops a ten percent plan and to use socioeconomic status as a factor in admissions in order to replace Race-Based Affirmative Action. The only judgement allowed would be that of socioeconomic status. Those who are lower class would be treated like minorities under the current standards of race-based affirmative action in order to promote first generation college students. Instead of giving assistance based on race, assistance would be given by socioeconomic status.

Results to be Expected:
The focus on socioeconomic diversity rather than racial diversity will ensure that race does not play a role in the any admissions process. This diversity will enable those with a lack of resources to stay competitive on the college level. Race does not define socioeconomic status, and this action will make state and national legislation align with this perspective. States that have banned race-based affirmative action still see racial diversity on their campuses, therefore, this new way of admitting students is equally as effective and has no bias on the basis of race (The Texas Ten Percent Plan’s Impact on College Enrollment, educationnext.org, 2014).
Title:
To protect funding of the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA).

Major Areas to be Affected:
The NEH, the NEA, NEH and NEA grantees, colleges and schools that apply for grants, the American public, the American economy

Justification:
Since 1965, the NEH has provided valuable research grants across the country, allowing professors and students alike to preserve American history, languages, and creative works. Since that same year, the NEA has also provided similar grants to schools across the country, becoming a valuable tool for the arts in all its forms.

According to Valerie Strauss, a reporter for The Washington Post, “through studying the humanities, one has the opportunity to get to know oneself and others better, the opportunity to become better able to understand and grapple with complex moral issues, [as well as] the complexities and intricacies of humanity.”

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), an educational leadership organization with 160,000 members in 148 countries, reported that “studies also show that participating in the arts can actually boost student achievement in other academic areas.” The association further states that “arts groups are partnering with schools to provide professional development for teachers interested in integrating arts instruction across content areas.”

Research on students involved in arts education shows that they learn how to communicate effectively, practice constructive criticism and listen better. In a large-scale study, arts programming helped to prepare youth to apply their skills directly to employment opportunities. Another study showed that students who participate in arts education as youth stay in their local communities as adults and contribute to economic and civic growth.

The ability to process information and to deal with difficult situations is vital to everyday living. It is also critical to considering local, national, and international approaches to contemporary global issues. It is the NEA- and NEH-funded Humanities and Arts that provide such skills. While mathematics, the sciences, engineering, and technology are equally critical, their scientific natures may not emphasize the empathetic considerations of important issues; the arts and humanities do. Better decisions are made when diverse opinions and ideas are considered. We must preserve these abilities, and the simplest way to do so is providing grants to professors and researchers.

Proposal for Action:
In each budget proposal, an adequate allotment of money must be provided to the NEH and NEA.

Results to be Expected:
More American history, art, and literature will be preserved. More research jobs will be created, and students will perform better in schools, leading them to go to better colleges, and from that, get better jobs.
Title:

To preempt mass automation and preserve American economic stability through the “21st Century Adjustment Administration.”

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States federal government and state governments. American industries and workers corporations affected by the rise of mass automation. Buyers and sellers of consumer and patient data.

Justification:

The United States has experienced economic transitions before. But none will be as far-reaching as the transition to mass automation, which, according to the International Society for Automation, comprises “the creation and application of technology to monitor and control the production and delivery of products and services.”

According to consultancy firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers, 3% of human-occupied jobs will be at risk of elimination by automation in the early 2020s. That figure is expected to balloon to 30% by the mid 2030s, with 44% of low-educated workers at risk of becoming displaced and/or unemployed. Despite the risks, the economic benefits of automation--close to an extra $15 trillion in growth worldwide--are abundant. Automation also serves as an issue of national security. According to Steve Levine of Axios, “China is in a headlong push to deploy as many robots as it can” into its economy; the transition to automation is not only an economic paradigm shift but a “tech race.” To win the race, ensure continuing dominance over China on the world stage, and grow economically, the United States must not only allow for increased automation but embrace this New Industrial Revolution.

The United States can ensure that its economy stays agile and advanced while also ensuring that the transition to automation does not cause the decline of entire communities. As Levine says, the United States must “decide to keep humans in the mix with robots” as automation becomes prevalent and “initiate aggressive, long-term job training and upskilling” to keep workers competitive. The federal government must take the lead to train, protect, and help reemploy American employees. Just as the United States assisted workers displaced by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) through Trade Adjustment Assistance, America can financially support workers displaced by the rising tide of robots in factories and workplaces. The transition to automation can be managed, workers can be retrained, and the displaced can be aided by a new Federal agency devoted to the task of curtailing automation’s economic disruption. Such an agency, such a program can be funded: meet the 21st Century Adjustment Administration.

Proposal for Action:

The 21st Century Adjustment Administration (21 CAA) will be established as a new department of the federal government by Congress. The Administration, under the presidentially-appointed and senate-confirmed Administrator, shall...

1. Publish a biannual report examining, on a state-by-state basis, the increasing adoption of automation in industry and its impacts on the labor force.
2. Brief the President, National Economic Council, and Congress monthly about the ‘automation transition.’
3. Distribute categorical grants for states to establish job training/reemployment programs for workers displaced by mass automation.
4. Create a program to provide means-tested monthly financial assistance to those enrolled in a state-level job training/reemployment program funded by the Administration.
5. Be funded by a 5% federal sales tax on all sales of de-identified medical data to third-parties by hospital systems, healthcare providers, pharmacies, and electronic health record (EHR) vendors.
6. Be funded by a 5% federal sales tax on all sales of consumer data to buyers from data vendors, along with general federal appropriations.

Results to be Expected:

Policymakers and American leaders will be able to make economic policies that account for the impacts of increasing automation. Displaced workers will be able to find gainful reemployment. Communities reliant on labor-intensive industry and manufacturing will be able to discover new economic bases. The United States will be able to effectively adapt to the 21st century’s economic realities.
Proposal #087
Author: Elizabeth Mastromonaco, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
To regulate prices posed by the College Entrance Examination Board for exams by limiting the amount of money provided by the US Department of Defense if the price of exams exceeds $50 for any exam (AP or SAT) before fee waivers.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Defense Department, students applying to college, families in the United States, foster students

Justification:
Despite the fee waivers offered to some of the 50 states, it is still difficult for some students to pay for AP Exams and SATs. In our modern world, it is expected that students taking Advanced Placement courses at their high school take the respective exam in the following May. This past year, the College Entrance Examination Board (better known as “The College Board”) received $5.17 million from the Department of Defense, $1.62 million from the Department of Education, $41,676 from the Department of Homeland Security and $4,000 from the Department of Interior. This money excludes other various donations from other private organizations such as $32.2 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. Some states such as Alaska, California, Idaho and Maine will not provide funding for exams for low income students and it can cost them over $100 to take an AP Exam. Putting a cap of $50 on both AP Exams and SATs would give more students the opportunity to take these exams necessary for college.

States will continue to have the ability to give low-income families a cheaper alternative to the $50. Approximately 78% of colleges and universities in the nation require SAT scores or value them in the college admissions process. Being such a vital and necessary part of going to school after high school, every student should be given an equal opportunity to take these tests, despite their yearly income.

Proposal for Action:
The US Department of Defense will stop funding the College Entrance Examination Board unless they abide by a $50 cap on all AP Exams and SATs. If prices for exams are $50 for all students with the fee waiver, US Department of Defense will continue to fund the normal yearly amount. States will continue to have the option to provide fee waivers to low income families.

Results to be Expected:
With the decrease in funding to the College Entrance Examination Board, the company will be more apt to abide by the $50 price cap. Lower prices on SATs and AP Exams will give more students the opportunity to take these exams, aiding in their college admissions process. This will allow for a more diverse and educated workforce in the future.
Proposal #090  
Author: Alfie Tsang, Delegation: Massachusetts  
Title: An act to allow division one and two colleges to pay student athletes and allow college student athletes to license their name.

Major Areas to be Affected:  
The NCAA, colleges, college athletes, businesses

Justification:
It takes countless hours of relentless, hard work, determination, networking, and even luck, to have the opportunity of playing a sport for a division one or two college. According to scholarship stats, high school student athletes have a slim 1.8% chance at playing a sport at a division one college. That percentage gets even smaller when looking at high school student athletes who play a sport at a division two college (1.3%). All in all, there are around 450,000 division one and two college student athletes. Of these 450,000 student athletes, only 33% (150,000) of them receive any sort of athletic based scholarship. This means around 250,000 skilled, talented student athletes must face the improbable task of taking college courses, training at a high level to maintain athletic prowess, and working to pay off student loans all at the same time. More importantly, many student athletes must support and provide for their families. However, under current legislation, the NCAA prohibits and payments to student athletes of any college level. The NCAA drowns in their billion dollar industry, while the products of the industry (the hard working student athletes) get no share of the revenue.  
*Some may argue that an athletic based scholarship is payment enough for student athletes, however...  
1. Not all student athletes receive athletic based scholarships  
2. Some top college student athletes don’t receive athletic based scholarships out of high school because they don’t develop into world class student athletes until college  
3. Scholarships do not provide short term financial support

Proposal for Action:  
- Override the NCAA policy that prohibits division one and two colleges to pay student athletes.  
- Payments may come in the form of cash, check, monetary possessions (houses, cars, jewelry, phones, etc.)  
- If the payment is an hourly wage, it must be at least $7.50 per hour (federal min. wage)  
- If the payment is a salary, it must be at least $47,476 a year (federal min salary)  
- A student athlete’s wage/salary will not carry over from one college to another if he or she chooses to transfer. The student athlete’s “new” college will have the choice of paying the athlete or not.  
- All student athletes who pay taxes will have the help of his or her respective college if necessary.  
- For an example, tax preparation and tax assistance classes  
- All student athletes will be eligible to receive payments from their respective college. This includes international students, transfer students, and graduate students.  
- This DOES NOT REQUIRE colleges to pay all student athletes.  
- All student athletes are given the right to license their name. This means that they can sign endorsement deals, sell their autograph, etc.  
- College endorsements hold priority over student athlete endorsements (ie. A student athlete who attends a Nike sponsored college cannot sign an endorsement deal with Adidas because it would create a conflict between college and student athlete)  
- All student athletes who receive money from college must achieve at least a 2.67 gpa in school (B- grade average)  
- Student athletes who fail to do so will be suspended from their respective sports team and have any payments they are receiving freezed until their grades have improved.

Results to be Expected:  
By allowing division one and two colleges to pay student athletes, many student athletes will receive much needed income to cover tuition, purchase bare necessities, and support their families. Big-time talents such as Zion Williamson or Katie Ledecky deserve to be and will finally be compensated for their role in increasing college/NCAA revenue and increasing college application numbers due to
their college’s athletic success. Requiring paid student athletes to achieve above average academic scores will help student athletes excel in the classroom and prepare for life after sports. Overall, participation in sports will only increase with the possibility of making money through playing college sports. Allowing division one and two colleges to pay student athletes will also convince many top student athletes to stay in school longer in order to improve their professional stock and further their education. The reason being, student athletes are no longer rushed to make money at the professional level. For an example, a baseball player who is drafted in the 50th round of the MLB draft out of high school will not have pressure to sign with the major league team. Instead, he can go to college, develop his baseball skills, make some money, get an education and potentially get drafted even earlier the next year (earlier draft pick = more money).
Proposal #109
Author: Rohan Rajeev, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
To reform the role of affirmative action in the undergraduate admissions process of universities in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
High school students, low-income families, universities/colleges

Justification:
The college admissions process has long been characterized by taking into account race as one of the determining factors for admission. Rightfully so, these higher education institutions seek to diversify the college environment that will also replicate the workplace. Additionally, such a policy provides traditionally marginalized group such as African Americans and Latinos an equal playing field for admission into universities. However, the racial benefits of affirmative action have come at the expense of other groups that have for years, questioned the validity of the practice. At the brunt of the supposed disadvantages of affirmative action are the population of students whose merit qualifies them for low-admissions rate universities, yet whose race proves as an obstacle for admissions. In 2018, an organization known as Students for Fair Admissions made a lawsuit against Harvard University that brought to light the intricate admissions process for the esteemed Ivy League institution. According to the Washington Post, Harvard in particular rates each applicant on scale from 1-4 on the following scales: academic, extracurricular, athletic, and personal. The lawsuit yielded numerous evaluations that consistently rated Asian Americans, for instance, with lower personal ratings as compared with the remainder of the applicant pool. Affirmative action that considers students’ socioeconomic backgrounds allows for a better means of providing equal opportunity than affirmative action based exclusively on race does. Furthermore, doing so would have a limited effect on demographic diversity, creating a compromise that benefits both the proposition and opposition of affirmative action. Implementing this form would additionally not put certain demographics at a disadvantage on the sole basis of race.

Proposal for Action:
No longer require applicants to fill out the “Race/Ethnicity” section under the Common App, Coalition App, and Universal App. Implement additional required fields similar to those in applications for universities in the eight states that have banned affirmative action; i.e., that further consider students’ potential financial obstacles or familial issues.

Results to be Expected:
Allow students from low-income backgrounds equal opportunity to their more affluent peers to succeed via undergraduate studies Give increased validation to merit-based admission into selective universities Preserve racial diversity within higher education institutions
Proposal #118  
Author: Aishwarya Swamidurai, Delegation: Oklahoma  

Title:  
To revise certain work restrictions for international students holding F-1 visas  

Major Areas to be Affected:  
international students across America, educational institutions across America, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  

Justification:  
International students are one of the biggest assets to the United States economy. They provide immense amounts of money to the U.S. every year. According to NAFSA (National Association for Foreign Student Affairs), in the 2017-2018 academic year, international students provided approximately $39 billion and supported more than 455,000 jobs to the U.S. economy. However, international students have a more difficult time in the United States than most think. There are many cultural and economic barriers that international students must cross. The financial barrier is the most difficult of them all. Fees for international students are very high compared to local students. According to the University of Florida, their university, international graduate students must pay $971.48 per credit hour while graduate students who are Florida residents only need to pay $341.29 per credit. This costly gap is where financial hardship forms for international students. Many international students cannot sustain themselves due to the high tuition. A job is the best way they can try to sustain themselves.  

Many post-secondary students here in the United States rely on a job outside of school to sustain themselves while attending school full time. International students, however, cannot do this easily and have very limited options. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, international students holding an F-1 visa cannot work off-campus their first academic year under any circumstances, but “may accept on-campus employment subject to certain conditions and restrictions.” Starting their second academic year, F-1 visa holders are able to pursue three restricted academic off-campus job options that are all linked with their universities and specific academic courses. This work is very limited and may not provide them with the sustenance they need. On campus work has many restrictions itself. Additionally, the first academic year is often the hardest, with the students having to cope with transition and new environments, so not having an off-campus job is harder the first year.  

Loans are also not a good option for international students. According to the University of Florida, international students are not eligible to sign for loans unless they have a U.S. citizenship or have a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident willing to co-sign the loan for them. These are quite difficult qualifications most international students are not able to meet, thus making what would be a significantly helpful financial source a useless option for most international students. Overall, all the work and financial restrictions that have been placed on international students are the main reasons why many face financial hardship within their first academic year. Certain work barriers must be removed so that international students can comfortably pursue their dreams.

Proposal for Action:  
U.S. Department of State will make it allowable for international students with an F-1 visa to be able to work off-campus their first academic year should they qualify as having “financial hardship” (as defined by USCIS). They will be allowed to apply 2 months into their first academic year for off-campus employment.  
Form I-765 is the form that currently allows for certain foreign individuals to apply for employment authorization (this includes international students and this form currently is the primary method for them to be able to apply for off-campus work). Form I-765 also shall be revised to allow international students to apply for off-campus work prior to completion of first academic year.

Results to be Expected:  
Greater cultural and racial diversity in the United States  
Less financial hardships and societal fear for international students  
More international students coming to the United States to study  
More revenue for the United States from international students
Title:
A Proposal to Ensure Freedom of Speech on Federally Funded College and University Campuses

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federally funded college and university campuses, students, faculty, U.S. citizens, and communities home to federally funded college and university campuses.

Justification:
The First Amendment ensures every citizens’ right to express themselves through freedom of speech and the right to peaceably assemble. In many cases throughout America’s history and in present day, federally funded college and university campuses have removed or banned a speaker from their campus if motivated by a proper concern for the preservation of order. Regardless of intent, prohibiting a speaker from expressing even an unpopular opinion is unconstitutional. Unless their rhetoric directly inspires violence, infringement of free speech perverts democracy through tyranny of the majority.

Proposal for Action:
Any college or university receiving federal funding must allow any speaker invited by administration officials, academic departments, or an officially recognized campus or university organization to exercise free speech that does not directly incite violence.

Results to be Expected:
The passage of this proposal would lead to the enrichment of political and social diversity on college campuses and would further ensure the extension of a basic constitutional right.
Proposal #254
Author: Alexander McGrail, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Require Colleges to Disclose Donors and Donation Amounts

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Department of Education

Justification:
In recent years a number of startling revelations about the system of higher education in this nation has brought to light what many have long suspected, that the college admissions system is rigged in favor of the wealthy. These revelations, while often not surprising, have brought about an outcry from the public and a demand for reform to fix this clearly broken system. Yet, as many lawmakers have quickly discovered, any attempts to fix the system in place are easier said than done.

Many ideas have been floated in Congress, from a system similar to the placement of medical students for their residencies to a randomized lottery. However, many of these have one very problematic issue in common. They would most likely be illegal.

Similarly to many companies, colleges are subject to antitrust laws that are integral to an American-style consumerist society. However, these very laws restrict colleges from being open about the nature of their admissions process. In order for them to cooperate with these other colleges in order to achieve a “fair” system they would violate many of the antitrust laws in place to protect the American people.

However, the system cannot be allowed to continue in its current state as the opaque nature of college admissions as it stands allows these wealthy individuals to pay their children’s way into the schools. Though the government has no right to restrict people in making these donations to the school they choose to donate to, they can give the general public access to the size of those donations.

We live in the age of information and yet our institutions of higher education seem to be immune from any of the regulations that investors, bankers or even charities face. The government does not seek to restrict individuals in donating to these schools as many of these donations provide vital improvements that greatly benefit students. However, as the government is a representative of the will of the people, it recognizes the necessity of increasing transparency in the amount of money that is being given in private donations to these schools.

Proposal for Action:

I. Require colleges to disclose to the Department of Education individuals and organizations who have given money to the college as well as the amount they have donated. This is regardless of the purpose of the donation or the form that the donation takes.
II. Create a database organized by school that allows the people of the United States to view who has donated to colleges as well as the amount they have donated. This access will be granted under the Freedom of Information Act.
III. Colleges should then provide a full analysis of how they have used the donated funds for the benefit of the students and college.

Results to be Expected:

Though there may not be any direct immediate benefits from these reforms it provides a crucial step, access to information. By reviewing large donation amounts coinciding with student acceptance these reforms could aid the government in uncovering further attempts to take advantage of this flaw in the admissions system. Providing access to this information to the general public allows them to aid the government in attempting to uncover any potential exploitation by the wealthy.
Proposal #269  
Author: Chinonso Morsindi, Delegation: New Jersey

Title: Providing Loan Forgiveness for Students in Danger of Poverty.

Major Areas to be Affected: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) and U.S. Department of Education

Justification: When going to college, many prospective students worry about students loans and having to graduate with thousands of dollars worth of debt. While most college students are supported by their parents and are able to find decent work upon graduating college, there are some students who do not graduate college as financially stable and struggle to find a job that pays enough to support themselves. After graduation, the starting salary for most college graduates according to Payscale, is around $48,000, which may seem low at first but is much higher than the poverty guideline of $12,490 for a single person the 48 contiguous states. Although the USDHHS develops annual poverty guidelines to help determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs, these poverty guidelines do not reflect the living incomes necessary to actually live comfortably in the US, which is closer to an average of $26,000 for a single person living in the 48 contiguous states. Even though individuals making above $20,000 are not considered to be poor, many of them struggle to find enough money to pay for food, shelter, clothing and other necessary items, which can be especially difficult right after graduating college - not to mention the fact that graduates will also have to worry about paying off their student loans once they receive their degree.

Currently, the only option for graduates who are not able to begin paying off their loans upon graduation is repayment deferment. This does not get rid of student debt but instead delays the start date for repayment. This option is offered to military personnel, the unemployed, or graduates making less than minimum wage; however, the downside of this offering is that unsubsidized interest still builds up during the deferment period and graduates will end up having to repay more money overall in loans and interest. It is very hard to have your student loans forgiven and there are very few circumstance in which loan forgiveness is possible. Even if you file for bankruptcy you still have to pay off your student debts and the only other situation in which unpaid loans are forgiven is at your death. Currently, the closest thing to a loan forgiveness program is the “Public Service Loan Forgiveness” program which allows graduates that go into public service at state or federal government to have their remaining balance of their student loans waived after they have completed 10 years of on-time payments. Ironically, if you are working for the government, you most likely make more than enough money to pay off your student loans so this program does very little to help economically disadvantaged or low income graduates at most risk of poverty.

Proposal for Action: Along with the annual poverty guidelines currently provided by USDHHS, the USDHHS will also be required to create an annual report that estimates the actual living income needed for households to live comfortably in the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, and Hawaii. After graduating, any college student whose annual income ranks $2,500 below the estimated living income for their region and does not receive financial support from another party, will have the amount of money they owe in student loans for that year forgiven. The student’s loan repayment plan will be reassessed each year and once they exceed $2,500 below the living wage, they will be required to start paying off the balance of their loan not forgiven by the federal government.

Results to be Expected: Increased amount of loans being paid off on time
Increased representation of economically disadvantaged students in colleges
Increased college attendance
Lower poverty rates
Reduced student loan debt rates
Proposal #322
Author: Carter Chandler, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
A More Progressive Income Tax to Help Impoverished Americans

Major Areas to be Affected:
Social security, Americans in poverty, Americans making significant incomes

Justification:
Current measures, such as social security, were created to aid in alleviating poverty in the United States, but they have not carried out their intended purpose. Instead, they have contributed to the mounting effects of income inequality. The United States ranks as the fourth most wealth unequal country in the world. There is a psychologically identifiable change that accompanies scarcity. This hinders the judgement and decision-making of impoverished people in a way that can truly only be solved by relief from that scarcity.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will charge a progressive income tax rate on the wealthy. This increased income tax will come in the creation of three new income tax brackets. The first new bracket will be a 60% tax rate on every dollar made above $5,000,000 per year. The second bracket will be a 70% tax rate on every dollar made above $10,000,000 per year. The third new income tax bracket will be an 80% tax rate on every dollar made above $25,000,000 per year. Each of these rates will be applied universally, regardless of marital or head-of-household status but will not affect the current measures for those statuses. The revenue raised from these income taxes will be put toward a basic income for those under the poverty line. This basic income will stagger as the income level of its recipients moves up, then will disappear completely past a certain point. The current system of social security will cease to exist when its current reserves are drained (projected 2034), and the new income taxes will be implemented immediately, to begin accruing money. Benefits to people with disabilities will not be eliminated but will be funded by this income tax raise, not social security. This level of basic income will be provided with no strings attached and will be monitored closely by new congressional poverty committee. After a period of 15 years, the congress is free to pass legislation adjusting the level of this income.

Results to be Expected:
Significant strides will be made toward the eradication of American poverty.
Proposal #329
Author: Margaret Chandler, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
To Create More Standardized Test Options for College Admissions

Major Areas to be Affected:
College admissions and students headed to college

Justification:
A number of students do not test well and the SAT/ACT does not provide an accurate representation of the student's academic ability. There are schools that are test optional and that is to the advantage of these students, however, not all schools are test optional. In the United States, there are more than 700 four-year colleges that do not require a score from either the SAT or the ACT.

Proposal for Action:
Require public colleges to look at AP and IB test scores the same way that they look at SAT/ACT scores and interview students but students also have the option to submit their test scores. Failure to provide options other than ACT/SAT scores for students will result in the withholding of some federal funding to the college.

Results to be Expected:
Students will be accepted into public colleges based on a more accurate representation of who they are and their academic ability versus how you do on a test on one particular day.
Title:

Remove government financial assistance from all college education.

Major Areas to be Affected:

FAFSA, Department of Education (DOE)

Justification:

Colleges have dramatically risen their prices in the past two decades. With the rising prices, colleges choose to spend their profits on useless purchases; purchases that do not benefit the education they strive to provide. Simply put, colleges are businesses and as more Americans have sought a college education, prices have been pushed up. Ordinarily, such upward demand pressure would be limited by consumers' willingness and ability to pay, but because federal subsidies have helped absorb tuition increases, the public's budget constraint has risen. Along with rising tuition costs, institutional inefficiency has become a growing problem as many colleges are choosing to spend their money on administrative bureaucracy and unnecessary expenditures. Colleges have spent significantly more money on administrative bloat than instruction-related activities. As a result of higher financial aid packages provided by the US government, many more students are applying and attending college. Many of the additional students may not have been ready, or suited, for college. Institutions have reduced their standards to adapt to the growth in secondary-rate students.

Proposal for Action:

Promote taking loans from banks. Close applications to FAFSA permanently before the year 2020 and continue with current financial aid packages of college students already receiving funds.

Results to be Expected:

Lower cost of college tuition, increased institutional efficiency, and better-suited college students.
Proposal #426 Committee: M
Author: William Byerman, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:

To Reintegrate Former Employees of the Coal Industry back into the Workforce via Access to Postsecondary Education and Private Industry Employment.

Major Areas to be Affected:

American citizens, public colleges and universities, current and former coal industry employees.

Justification:

Since the turn of the century, coal mining in the United States has gradually diminished as a career path. What has not diminished, however, is the demand for gainful employment from those who were originally employed by the industry. Employees of the coal industry, whether hired as miners or supervisors or anyone in between, are thoroughly trained and generally interested in the STEM fields by way of their previous occupation. Gone are the days of the pickaxe and shovel; today’s coal miners can be looked at as I.T. employees in a grittier work environment. In a world continually trending towards needing more workers in the STEM field, any and all help from employees that have previous training in science and technology would make STEM-related industries in the United States stronger.

Those previously employed in the coal industry have been able to continue to explore areas previously unexplored, but now through code rather than physical barriers. Companies, such as BitSource, highlight the viability and proven success of reintegration programs for those in increasingly obsolete fields; taking these small-scale success stories, and replicating them in a national initiative, is exactly what this proposal aims to do.

Proposal for Action:

The United States government will facilitate access to post-secondary education at public technical schools, colleges, and universities for displaced workers in the coal industry through tuition subsidies. The funding for this will come with excise taxation of coal companies operating within the United States, at $1.10 per ton from underground mines and $0.55 per ton from surface mines, amounting to no more than 4.4% of the coal’s selling price. Tuition subsidies under this program will be eligible to be applied to up to 50% of tuition, but can be stacked with scholarships and need-based aid provided by the individual educational institution.

Further, the Internal Revenue Service will be directed to provide tax credits to private-sector companies who can demonstrate the hiring of employees provided aid through this program. Salaries paid to these employees will be tax deductible, with a total potential write-off of up to 2% of the companies’ net tax liability per tax year, for ten years after the enactment of this proposal.

Results to be Expected:

After the implementation of this proposal, there are two major effects:

An appropriate governmental response to assure a smooth transition away from the coal industry: With the inevitable demise of coal as a viable, environmentally-acceptable energy alternative, a gradual transition away from this natural resource is in the interests of coal-mining sectors of Kentucky, and in the interests of the nation as a whole. Coal companies will be fiscally responsible for funding this transition during the current period of time when the industry is still viable.

Return of middle class for coal-mining counties: Upon return to the workforce in more lucrative STEM-related jobs, graduates of this program will be ready to resume their role as contributors to the region’s economy. The region’s economy will be modernized and the quality of life for hard-hit regions, especially in Appalachia, will dramatically improve.
Title:

To Dissolve the College Board Monopoly

Major Areas to be Affected:

Higher Education, College Admissions, Students, High Schools

Justification:

College Board, the distributor of AP exams and the SAT, currently had a nearly complete share of their field of industry. While their SAT has competition with the ACT, AP exams are unique and unobstructed in dominance of early college credit courses. While they are technically a non-profit organization, College Board brings in hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and pays a salary of nearly one million dollars to their CEO, which was actually a pay cut from their former CEO who made over one million dollars annually. College Board is able to charge high prices and high additional fees for their exams due to their lack of competition. Due to this, a dissolution of the organization into an SAT, which already has competition, and two divided branches administering AP exams in certain subjects with the ability to expand and compete with each other once their financial footing is more established. Additionally, due to a lack of competition in AP classes, many colleges have lost faith in the effectiveness and legitimacy of good AP scores and no longer accept good scores as college credits.

Proposal for Action:

The United States Government shall file a criminal prosecution against the College Board Organization. Should the case be won, the following action shall be taken:

I. College Board will be broken down into the following organizations:
   a. One organization will administer the SAT.
   b. One organization will administer what are currently the math, science, and economics AP exams.
   c. One organization will administer what are currently the english, foreign language, arts, and non-economic social studies AP exams.

II. Both AP based organizations can administer the AP Research and AP Seminar exams.

III. Any change of names, personnele, etc. will be left to the judgement of College Board before the dissolution of the organization.

IV. After a period of six years, the AP based organizations will be able to expand into each other’s designated subjects and begin directly competing.

Results to be Expected:

Breaking up the College Board would increase trust in results, better educate students, and can make access to college cheaper and more accessible for underprivileged students. Increased competition among the dissolved College Board will allow for lower prices, higher quality production, and more overall potential for improvement and innovation in the testing formats.
Title:
An Act to Eliminate Federally Secured Student Loans for Educational and Economic Revitalization

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Education, Private and Public Universities, Commercial Banks and Credit Unions

Justification:
Student loan debt is collectively $1.5 trillion in 2019 and is the second highest consumer debt category, only behind mortgage debts. The default rate in 2019 was 11.4% for student loans and for direct loans, there is $111.1 billion in forbearance. The total federally secured loans amounts to $1.44 trillion dollars by the United States government. A natural result of having federally secured loans is an increase in college expenses, tuition costs, and capital improvements for colleges. The ability to have a larger collateral of the United States government than private citizens has led to a large disparity between the percent increase of 213% from 1988 to 2018 of college costs and that of the amount to be loaned to the students. Due to the ability to expand credit infinitely by having federally secured loans, the market will result in higher inflation and higher prices as a result without increases to real wages.

In order to establish long-term human capital growth for educational and economic revitalization, we must understand the roots of the problems at hand. This proposal will adopt that the Department of Education not provide anymore federally secured loans to private universities and strengthen the collateral and accountability process for loan applications for educational purposes as it pertains to higher education.

Proposal for Action:
Amend the regulatory powers of the United States Department of Education to:
I. Prohibit federally secured loans to be loaned out to students, for undergraduate and graduate studies, that will be or is already attending a private university.
II. Create a committee to establish guidelines and regulatory procedures regarding application requirements and credit standards for federally secured loans for students that will be or is already attending a public university.
A. The committee will consist of the United States Secretary of Education, the United States Deputy Secretary of Education, the United States Under Secretary of Education, and four independent members with a stake in federally secured loans that shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, and Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate, with each leader of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate appointing one independent member each.
B. One of the regulatory procedures would be to make all credit standards and risks toward the student.
III. Decrease the loan forgiveness program for low income-based payments from 20 years to 10 years.
IV. Establish that the United States Government will guarantee against default losses to private lenders that make loans payable to the student that is/or will be attending a public university.
V. The United States Department of Education has the ability to instate regulatory procedures in accordance with this act, and Congress shall have full faith and credit of oversight pertaining to these regulatory actions.

Results to be Expected:
Inflation rates of costs for college will decrease for private universities, and real overall cost for private universities will decrease in the future. The percent increase in student loan debt federally secured by the government will decrease. The cost of college will be more affordable for all.
Title:
A Proposal to Create ArtCorps

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Corporation for National Community Service, college graduates with a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts, school districts where 50% or more students are from households below the poverty line.

Justification:
ArtCorps is an investment in the arts. By investing in the arts, ArtCorps fosters one of America’s most important industries. Moreover, ArtCorps will reinvigorate art education, which has systemically disappeared from the classroom. Finally, ArtCorps will provide young art professionals with a “first job” out of college, a job in which they can hone their craft while paying down their college loans. The business of America is no longer “business,” rather the business of America is entertaining the world. U.S. Media & Entertainment (that is, professional arts) is $700 billion industry. To put $700 billion in perspective, America’s closest competitor, China, produces only $180 billion—meaning that as a nation, we create nearly four times more entertainment than a country (China) which has more than four times our population. To simply put, with companies like Disney, Time Warner and Netflix, the professional arts are integral to our economy, our national identity and indeed, how the world perceives us. From a governmental perspective, what do we do to educate young artists and foster artistic talent? The answer is shockingly little. Over the past 10 years, art and music classes have been systemically cut from our schools. The disappearance has been due to two calamities of Man. First, the Great Recession of 2009 created a revenue crisis for schools and school districts. In order to balance budgets, art and music classes / extracurricular activities were eliminated. Secondly, there has been a movement of Common Core standards in the classroom. Common Core does not emphasize art or music, and to the contrary, monies used for art and music have been re-allocated to implement the Common Core standards.

Proposal for Action:
The implementation of ArtCorps is straightforward. AmeriCorps already exists but does not include the arts. Therefore, a committee under the CNCS (Corporation for National Community Service) will take the established AmeriCorps model and create a similar structure but with a total focus upon the fine arts.

Results to be Expected:
Through ArtCorps, America will remain the world’s leader in media and entertainment, create educational opportunities in and out of the classroom for at-risk youth, and provide young art professionals with a “first job” out of college—a job in which they can hone their craft while paying down their college loans.
Allow Student Debt to be Eligible for Discharge when Filing for Bankruptcy

Major Areas to be Affected:

College Students, Parents of College Students, Banks, Colleges and Universities

Justification:

Debt is a prominent problem within the United States, particularly among young people. It is notorious for ravaging the bank accounts of those in it. Considering higher education is considered a necessity for success and priced as a luxury, this debt is nearly unavoidable and often leads to a crippling financial situation for individuals already dealing with the stresses that come with upper education and any other issues that come after. According to Forbes, 44 million borrowers owe a collective $1.5 trillion, with an individual average of $37,172. If students cannot gain the financial security to deal with this debt, it can put a grave hindrance on their, and by extension, the nation’s, progress. Allowing students to file for bankruptcy would give students options other than paying institutions like the federal government or international banks a significant portion of their income for the majority of their life.

Proposal for Action:

Among the other debts expunged with bankruptcy, student debt would be filed under the normal categories for bankruptcy. All of the prerequisites and consequences for bankruptcy would remain in place. This implies that student debt would be cleared of the person who holds it, but the negative repercussions of filing for bankruptcy, such as property loss, diminished credit scores, and reputation damaging, would still be in effect. This allows the person who holds significant amounts of student debt to make the decision to suffer the negative effects of bankruptcy while relieving themselves of the inevitable crippling financial situation that comes with continued higher education.

Results to be Expected:

Student debt rates will drop significantly. Those who file for bankruptcy will have decreased credit scores. Bankruptcy rates will increase. Higher Education rates will increase significantly. Predatory lending to vulnerable, young buyers will decrease. Colleges will lower admission prices due to the possibility of defaulted loans. Those who have nowhere to turn financially will have a second chance.
Proposal #506
Author: Erik Brownell, Delegation: Washington

Title:
To create a national standard for dual enrollment by making Washington’s Running Start program the basis.

Major Areas to be Affected:
US and State Department of Education, American high schoolers, Teachers.

Justification:
High schoolers are allowed to enroll in programs with the purpose of preparing and giving them head start on credits at college. Making it so a person could directly enroll in a community college starting junior year of high school creates an opportunity to directly be dropped in the in the experience the other programs are trying to replicate. Other programs across the country that allow for dual enrollment have problems with access to the program for people who are minorities or are from low income families. The Washington running start program alleviates some of the barriers to entry.

Proposal for Action:
States must pay tuition for the high schoolers enrolling the community college and the college must recognize the student as if they were a typical. Credit checks would occur at the start of every new quarter to make sure that the student is meeting all of the required credits for graduation. Book cost and fees for the classes would not be covered by the state and would be left up to the student. If there is no community college in range for the student to attend there are online courses that they could apply for. The state will also create programs that help the students secure transportation to and from campus if need.

Results to be Expected:
More prepared youth going into college for those who intend to apply, along with more freedom given to the student to become successful. This is a program put in place to make sure that there is an option for every single student out there, there should never be a situation where a student is not given the tools that they need to become a well-educated member of the workforce. Dual enrollment statistically has a correlation to the success of the students in their future, and to make sure that the programs across the country are as inclusive as possible is important to the success of the future generations.
Proposal #547
Author: Dawson Trotman, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
Reforming the College Board’s Monopoly on Early College Education through Incentivised Public University Programming

Major Areas to be Affected:
State Universities, The College Board, U.S Department of Education

Justification:
In 2012, College Board CEO Gaston Caperton earned nearly $1.8 million and the 15 top officers received similar compensation. In 2013, College Board reported a profit of $62 million (317% the industry average). Also in 2013, a tax filing revealed that the College Board operates 16, offshore, tax exempt hedge funds that protect half a billion dollars from the IRS. For a publicly recognized 501(c) not-for-profit and an organization whose core message states they are committed to “increasing access of opportunity for all students,” these large profits seem to be contradictory. College Board has been able to capture its position at the top of the secondary education system through its standardized testing system (the SAT) and early college programs (Advanced Placement). Although College Board maintains profit well above the industry standard, its ability to do what its core statement promises is questionable. While College Board offers subsidies for those who cannot afford the traditional costs associated with the SAT and AP Examinations, the industry of test preparation, as propagated by the College Board, has created a system of education that disproportionately limits opportunity based on economic status. So long as College Board remains unchallenged in the market, its ability to favor its CEO and directors over the American student will remain. Through the integration of federal grant money to states’ public universities, an alternative to the current educational monopoly will be created that ensures the terms of equal protection are not dictated by the College Board.

Proposal for Action:
Congress will allocate money to the U.S Department of Education to be used for the establishment of a federal grant that will be distributed to states that implement programs allowing certain high school students (as determined by the respective school district) to potentially earn introductory course credits that can be applied to that respective public institution or any other institution that opts in. The grant will allocate $500 per student enrolled in the program to the state.

Results to be Expected:
States will take back their right to form curricula and ensure socioeconomic equality of opportunity.
Title:
Repealing Affirmative Action as it Applies to Higher Education

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of Education, colleges and universities, students applying to colleges and universities.

Justification:
As current legislation stands, there is no federal law banning the use of race as a factor in college admissions. Eight states, California, Washington, Michigan, Nebraska, Arizona, Oklahoma, Florida, and New Hampshire all currently have legislature banning the consideration of race in college admittance. As of right now, colleges and universities in states other than these do not have any bans on such considerations and colleges and universities often use these "plus factors" to help fill quotas. One of the most critical areas of concern is at high ranking universities, with low acceptance rates. Over the past several years, Asian Americans comprised 27 percent of domestic applicants to Harvard but only 22 percent of domestic applicants accepted for admission; and just under 6 percent of Asian American applicants were admitted, compared to 8 percent of whites. But Asian American applicants had academic credentials and extracurricular track records that were, on average, stronger than those of other racial and ethnic groups, including whites. This means that the most significantly impacted group, in most occasions, is Asian-Americans, who are indeed a minority and should be granted the same rights as everyone other person of another race. Not only does affirmative action harm the people who don't get accepted as a result, it can also harm the people who it aids in admittance. Though they may be well-intentioned, these policies put bright, talented students at the bottom of a collection of extremely bright heap. Affirmative action-induced low grades are a serious problem as demonstrated by research over the course of the last decade. For example, in one study of top law schools, more than 50 percent of African-American law students (one of the groups affirmative action primarily affects) were in the bottom 10 percent of their class. And the dropout rate among African-American students was more than twice that of their white peers (19.3 percent vs. 8.2 percent).
Obviously these are extremely high achieving law students who can flourish when given the right environment. Unfortunately, they were admitted to a college that stretched their capabilities and forced them to dropout and not reach their full potential.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal aims to make federal legislation that would completely ban the use of race as a considering factor in admissions processes of all colleges and universities, as it is a form of reverse discrimination and it undermines the meritocracy that is the United States. Currently, federal legislation states that colleges and universities are allowed to use race as a factor in admissions if the state the university or college is located in permits it. This legislation would apply to all colleges and universities in the United States, with the exception of historically African American colleges and universities. If the college or university in question is found to have discriminated against an applicant due to race in a court of law, the college or university in question will be subject to heavy fines. Repeat offenses by the same school will draw harsher offenses for each infraction. It must be proven that some form of discrimination has taken place for the fine to be placed upon the college or university.

Results to be Expected:
The goal of this proposal is to level the playing field and allow all scholars attempting to go to the college or university of their choice an equal opportunity. Even more importantly, this proposal will ensure that students can find a college that is the right match for them and that they got accepted to under their own merit and skills. Finding the right college experience is an important part of becoming a functioning and productive member of society, and this proposal strives for that.
Proposal #575
Author: Arpan Barua, Delegation: Maryland

Title: Creation of a Universal Basic Income

Major Areas to be Affected: United States citizens over 18, more specifically lower income citizens of the United States over 18; the United States Budget; specific Welfare programs; higher and middle income taxpayers; Defense Spending; Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017; etc.

Justification: From a very young age, every citizen in the United States is connected with one another due to the fundamental ideals that are taught to its citizens, ideals that make this country what it is. There are explicit things like the belief that all are created equal, along with implicit things, ideals not explicitly written in the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence, like the belief that no matter who a citizen is or where he or she comes from, anyone can succeed in the United States. Unfortunately, in 2019, the United States has receded from such foundations and has failed in providing its citizens with the resources, programs, and opportunities that provide all with an equal shot and allow all to succeed so long as he or she works hard.

The failure comes primarily from the exorbitant and worsening income inequality that exists in the United States today. While the United States is undoubtedly one of the richest nations in the world and, as of 2017, boasts a nominal GDP of over $19 trillion, it faces a reality where in 2018, the top 1% of citizens in the United States had over 20% of the national income. Besides the obvious utilitarian conclusion that income inequality leaves much more people worse off, according to the Seven Pillars Institute, income inequality leads to many other things such as an increase in crime, higher disease and mortality rates, a less educated population, and more symbolically, less economic opportunity and greater political inequality.

However, such inequality would be one thing were it in the face of a government that is able to provide for the basic needs of its citizens, but the United States fails in this regard as well. For decades, the United States has reckoned with its problem of healthcare with no finite solution in sight, causing its healthcare spending per capita to be more than twice the average of other developed countries. Along with healthcare, the United States has one of the highest infant mortality rate among developed countries (5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births), one of the lowest life expectancy rates among developed countries (78.6 years), and one of the highest child poverty rates among developed countries (21%), all in the context of automation growing year by year.

Thus, considering the extraordinary economic circumstances the United States must deal with both in the present and in the future, the United States must consider an equally extraordinary response and establish a Universal Basic Income. At its core, the United States has a duty to protect its citizens' equality, opportunity, and inalienable pursuit of happiness, and until the United States takes the appropriate action in establishing a Universal Basic Income, the problems that exist will only get worse.

Proposal for Action:
1. Send a monthly check of $1,000 to every citizen in the United States over 18 years old.
3. Gradually cut a quarter of military spending over the next 5 years.
4. Provide the following changes to the current tax code set into law by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017:
a. Repeal Section 14102 which would repeal the stock based compensation companies can for deductions in their income tax.

b. Amend Section 13001 to have the corporate tax rate back at 35% rather than the current 21%.

c. Amend the tax rates for the income bracket for individuals making more than $84,200; $160,725; $204,100; and $510,000 to be 29%, 36%, 40%, and 43%, respectively.

d. Add 2 new brackets for income tax. One set at an individual income of at least $61,000 with a tax rate of 25%. Another one set at an individual income of at least $120,000 with a tax rate of 32%.

5. Establish a 1% Financial Transactions Tax, a tax on financial transactions involving derivatives. This would include the purchase of stocks, bonds, and other debt obligations.

6. Establish a 13% Added Value Tax, a tax on the production of goods and services businesses produce.

Results to be Expected:

With the establishment of a Universal Basic Income, the results are nothing short of revolutionary for the American people and the American Economy. For the United States as a whole, the creation of a Universal Basic Income would grow the economy by about 2.62%, according to the Roosevelt Institute, and expand the labor force by about 1.1 million people. However, if a Universal Basic Income were to be solely funded by deficit spending, the economy would grow by an estimated $2.5 trillion. Sending out a monthly check to every citizen with no strings attached also reduces the bureaucracy of the government as it is far easier to administer than other welfare programs where the government must determine who is eligible or ineligible.

On an individual level, a Universal Basic Income would give each citizen financial security, no matter their income. In case of a recession or in case someone loses their job, he or she will always have some sort of income that would be able to support him or her and provide for his or her family. This becomes more important in the future as nearly one-third of all Americans are expected to lose their jobs over the next 12 years due to automation. Along with financial security, a Universal Basic Income would reduce poverty significantly and a monthly check worth $1,000 would allow families to provide for themselves based on the needs of their individual families; this represents one of America’s core values, individualism. A monthly check of $1,000 could mean buying healthcare for their family, putting more food on the table, covering their student loans, or enrolling their kids in preschool. Finally, much of the welfare trap that citizens may fall into would be eliminated due to the universality of the program. A citizen does not stop losing benefits once he or she make more money; the $1,000 check will continue to come.

However, there are things that can’t be measured with numbers, statistics, or studies which define the way a Universal Basic Income would change American society. A Universal Basic Income is universal, meaning the government is here to support every citizen, no matter the circumstance. It is a symbolic measure of protection for American citizens and it revolutionizes the way American society thinks about their connection to this country; each citizen becomes a part of something larger than themselves. It also is a way for the United States to believe in each of its citizens. A $1,000 monthly check recognizes the value each American has in the United States and its economy, pushing citizens to continue looking for jobs and allowing citizens to take more risks and be more entrepreneurial. If all else fails, if no one else is there to believe in the citizen, each citizen in the United States has the security of knowing that their government believes in him or her and recognizes the work each one of them does to contribute to the economy and the country. A Universal Basic Income would provide the United States with a return to its core values, the belief that while there may not be an equality in outcome, there must be an equality in opportunity, allowing each citizen to make his or her life, her or her family’s life in the United States better in their own ways.
Title:
Reforming the Bail System

Major Areas to be Affected:
Bail Bond companies
Those unable to post bail

Justification:
Nearly 450,000 people who have not been convicted of a crime sit in jail, a large number trapped there simply because they don’t have enough money to post bail. The bail bond companies are built on predatory business practices and will exploit poor communities. The commercial bail industry nearly $2 billion each year. On top of that premiums, fees and illegally retained collateral from these products may have exceeded $25 million; nearly all of it coming from low-income communities of color who are hit hardest by mass incarceration, the war on drugs, and other public policies that disproportionately target them.

Proposal for Action:
I propose that we reform the unjust bail system so that no man or woman can be jailed because they are too poor to pay the bail. If we were to reform the bail system not only would bail companies begin to go out of business but America could potentially save money too. It cost approximately $31,286 to keep an inmate in jail. That is $31,286 that America could put elsewhere.

Results to be Expected:
It is expected that the poor often imprisoned before they even go to court will no longer be placed in jail, bail bond companies will be out of business, and America can potentially have more money to expend in the annual budget.
Title:

A Proposal to Disband United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Worldwide.

Major Areas to be Affected:

United Nations, All Current Locations for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (including Haiti, Central African Republic, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cyprus, Lebanon, Kosovo, Sudan, South Sudan, Middle East, Western Sahara), National Governments and its Constituents.

Justification:

“With more than 78,000 soldiers and 25,000 civilians scattered across 14 countries, United Nations peacekeepers make up the second-largest military force deployed abroad, after the U.S. military.” - Autesserre, Forbes 2018

According to the 1945 Charter of the United Nations, the organization was founded for a multitude of reasons: resolve international disputes, suppress acts of oppression, and promote the protection of individual freedoms. At the time there were no plans or any mention in the charter for a force to be deployed in war-torn countries, but by 1948 peacekeeping missions were in place around the globe to intervene and support the well-being of the country’s citizens. These peacekeepers - including civilian, military, and police personnel - are said work to “protect the most vulnerable and provide support to countries in transition from conflict to peace” (United Nations Peacekeeping).

Since then, peacekeeping initiatives have been unable to reach a resolution for a wide range of global crises. Most notably, the United Nations failed to subdue the hostility in Rwanda and protect Rwandan civilians with their troops before it became a genocide in 1994, leaving 500,000 to 1 million dead (Our World in Data). Recent data has also shown that over 2,000 women and children have been victims of sexual assault by the peacekeepers since the early 1990s (Miller, Public Broadcasting Service 2018). As a result, most of these women and children are unable to come back into society without being “ostracized” by their neighbors. While the peacekeepers’ initial purposes were to create peace in societies where there is a lack of control from government leaders, they instead have suppressed the voices of the people and caused more conflict between the aided nation’s leaders and outside governments. These peacekeepers have contributed to the internal conflicts of a state and the United Nations has yet to create a sense of authority for the peacekeepers to look to for guidance in bringing back order in a nation. For these reasons, the United Nations should no longer deploy peacekeepers that are unable to protect the well-being of those they serve.

Proposal for Action:

In order to remove peacekeepers around the globe without creating an international dilemma, the following plan should be in place:

- Have established measures to ensure consent from the country where the peacekeeping mission is in place. Nations must give approval for the creation or removal of current peacekeeping missions on their soil.
- The UN Secretariat will alter its role to use their resources and research to better transition and support civilians living under an unstable government by means of providing funding and supplies, but not personnel.
- Create universal legislation explaining the limits placed on international intervention and barring future peacekeeping missions.
- Redefining countries rather than using the first world, second world, third world system that have created a sense of superiority for UN peacekeepers.

Results to be Expected:

If disbanded, the peacekeeping initiatives led by the United Nations will cease. Given the multitude of nations who have argued against the lack of strength in peacekeeping missions, the proposed solution is to then allow the governing organ of peacekeeping missions, the UN Secretariat to provide resources (food, water, medicine) and plan peace tactics without deploying troops to these war torn countries where missions were once held. The appropriations for these missions will be better redistributed in accordance to the listed duties stated in the United Nations Charter, which include “[achieving] international co-operation in solving international problems of an
economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.” Considering the insignificance peacekeepers have had in establishing order from intervention, the removal of these missions will better follow the origins of the charter and prevent a rise of danger in already hostile nations.
Proposal #068

Author: Cooper Ferguson, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
Solidify Human Rights in Diplomacy Through the ICC and Abolition of Trade Embargoes

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. State Department, Foreign Countries, Domestic Business

Justification:
With the expansion of news media in the United States, the common citizen is increasingly exposed to the undesirable living conditions of certain foreign countries. The empathy of the American spirit sparked by this dissemination, while admirable, has lead to particularly ineffectual foreign policy, most notably trade embargoes. A trade embargo is the partial or complete prohibition of commerce and trade with a particular country. The optics of embargoes make them appealing. The United States is able to “do something” to quell calls for action without risking lives. Although, not directly, the U.S. is risking lives. Embargoes restrict food, clean water, medicine, and other basic human needs, and as a result, tyrannical regimes are granted the ability to vilify the United States for causing citizens’ hardships. By redirecting anger, embargoes ultimately bolster the regime that they aimed to hinder.

The American embargo on Cuba has lasted for 60 years without making any progress in American-Cuban relations. This embargo, in turn, costs the U.S economy $1.2 billion per year according to a conservative estimate by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Even in the case of a multilateral embargo, identical problems arise but magnified. Iraq is a prime example, with the national per capita income dropping from $3510 in 1989 to $450 in 1996.

The negative impact of embargoes does not mean that the United States should not seek punitive measures against the individual actors that are responsible for these atrocities. Unilateral action by the U.S. has often been used as a form of economic imperialism to undermine foreign actors for American business interests. However, through the International Criminal Court, the United States will be able to hold the perpetrators responsible in coordination with the rest of the world.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will terminate all current embargoes and ban embargoes as a tool in the future. Discontinuing embargoes, however, will not impact any other form of economic sanctions, such as tariffs and customs delays, strictly trade embargoes. The United States will also sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The ICC is able to enact a burden of individual responsibility to deter and discipline the heinous acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. The United States, in joining, will grant the ICC further legitimacy and jurisdiction to regulate undesirable behavior on the world stage. A multinational approach to justice will unseat special interests and align the U.S. with the rest of the world in the pursuit of human rights.

Results to be Expected:
Current businesses operating out of the United States will have a widened marketplace of consumers from former impacted nations, consequently increasing U.S. profits and GDP and jobs in the United States. The citizens of previously-embargoed countries will have greater access to basic needs, such as food, clean water, and medical supplies. Embargoes will no longer be a tactic used to destabilize and undermine foreign economies nor a justification for military intervention.

Conversely, through the ICC, the United States will have a renewed and vested interest in our global community against those that commit actions contrary to our fundamental values of liberty and justice. The United States will participate in the critical role of holding individual actors accountable without imposing a death sentence on the innocent and contribute to a system of accountability that will ideally halt future abominations.
Title:
A proposal for the United States of America to join the International Criminal Court in order to deter genocide, crimes against humanity, crimes of war, and crimes of aggression.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
I. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that is located in the Hague, Netherlands. The Court is designed to be an impartial tribunal that esteems the uppermost merit of justice. The Court encompasses established and emerging democracies around the world whom are part of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), currently composed of 124 countries that have ratified the Rome Statute which creates the ICC. The Court has four main aims: to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes; to serve as a court of last resort that can investigate, prosecute, and punish the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression; assist national judiciaries in the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators with the aim to allow states to be the first to investigate and prosecute; and help promote peace and security to deter potential perpetrators.

II. Expanding the rule of law is the most critical reason to join. One hundred twenty-four countries shall band together for a scope of affairs, including but not restricted to allocating intelligence to disrupt terrorist networks. Failing to join and adopt the supervision of the Court can be seen as a prospective threat to national security. Currently, a citizen of the United States can only be held domestically for violating the ICC, with an objective that there shall be an incident through the Hague Invasion Act. Perpetrators shall be held responsible regardless of their rank or status. State parties shall be more aware of the repercussions of their actions in regards to interactions within the global community. As a worldwide leader, the United States shall standardize a precedent on human rights. The Court shall benefit Americans and the procedure of amending current statutes shall be an example for future ICC members.

Proposal for Action:
The Foreign Relations Senate Committee shall ratify article 125 which grants membership to the ICC. The treaty shall be presented to the United Nations Secretary General who shall enable the United States access as a formal State Party member through article 126. While the Secretary General is going through the proceedings, the United States shall integrate substantive provisions of the ICC into domestic law with definitions of crimes incorporated in the Rome Statute as contained in Part Nine which shall be implemented into the domestic criminal code. The United States shall merge the provisional Rome Statute into domestic law to ensure complementary (national prosecutions of grave crimes) and to facilitate cooperation with the ICC, ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC), as well as the Kampala Amendments (on the Crime of Aggression and updated War Crimes provision), and actively participate in the Assembly of State Parties annual session.

Results to be Expected:
I. More of humanity shall be protected by the rule of law through justice, deterrence of crime, and ultimately, lasting world peace. As a result of the United States’ influence, further States shall sign the Roman Statute. If a party member violates the ICC or a non-party member violates international law on United States soil, the perpetrator shall be held accountable and the United States shall benefit compensation through the Trust Fund (TFV), which supports and implements programs that address harms resulting from crimes of the perpetrator. The TFV does so in two ways: implementing Court-ordered reparations against a convicted person and providing physical, psychological, and material support to victims and their families through voluntary contributions from donors. To date, the Trust Fund has provided assistance to over 120,000 victims in countries where the Court has active investigations, for example, Uganda and the
Democratic Republic of Congo.

II. The Court is impartial and a last resort, which deters politically motivated cases. The ICC shall make the world more peaceful, and prevent abominations. Joining the ICC shall expand our presence and influence on the world stage. The United States is a member on the United Nations Security Council and shall undoubtedly be a leader in the ICC due to our global presence. This Court affirms that regardless of one's position, there are checks and balances and nobody, regardless of state or position, is above international law.
Proposal #079

Author: Berenger Dufresne, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
To enter the United States into the International Crimes Court and investigate previous American violations of the laws and customs of war.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States Military, the United States Department of Justice, and the United States Department of State.

Justification:
In 2002, the International Crimes was formed via the enforcement of the 1998 Rome Statute. The court was formed in order to investigate various crimes against humanity, including war crimes. The United States was not a signatory to the Rome Statute, and as such does not participate in the Court. This absence is not because of a lack of war crimes, but rather an inadequate will to prosecute them. The United States has been accused of countless war crimes since the end of the Second World War, most of which went unpunished. Any investigations of these alleged crimes have been hidden from the public's view. This issue has persisted to the present day, most recently with regards to actions committed during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The United States has discouraged ICC investigation of these events. America should be a moral leader in the world; leaders should not be implicit in the crimes they wish to stop.

Proposal for Action:
The United States must take several steps in order to amend its record on war crimes. Firstly, the United States must sign the Rome Statute and fully embrace the ICC and its investigations. The United States should not only allow but support investigation of itself. Secondly, all previous investigations into American war crimes should be declassified and released to the public. Further, the United States must create a commission in order to re-investigate past war crimes and submit their findings to the American public and the ICC. The commission should evaluate certain individuals implicated in war crimes to be submitted to the ICC. The commission should also evaluate how to best prevent future war crimes.

Results to be Expected:
If this proposal is followed, the United States will ratify the Rome Statute. This will inundate investigations into illegal American actions, especially during wartime. By practicing this proposal, perpetrators of potential war crimes will be identified and submitted to the ICC for further investigation. Actions will be taken to prevent future war crimes and to prevent those guilty of war crimes from remaining in positions of power.
Title:

To establish the International Criminal Tribunal for the United States to investigate United States’ involvement in, or support for, War Crimes, Crimes against Peace, Crimes against Democracy, and Crimes against Humanity, as well as to establish an International Reconciliation Commission to make amends and compensate those affected by these crimes.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United Nations, Department of Defense, United States Armed Forces, American public officials, global politics.

Justification:

Since the end of the Second World War, the United States has conducted a foreign policy of aggression with no regard for international laws, peace, democracy, and the dignity of human life. Hundreds of foreign elections have been directly affected by US money and influence, over 40 countries have had their governments overthrown by the US, or by its benefactors, and tens of millions have been killed by the United States’ government and military or in actions supported by the United States.

These policies have gone uncondemned, and unpunished in the United States. They have resulted in not the US being the “policeman of the world” but rather the terrorist of the world. This foreign policy has resulted in a global resentment towards the United States, and a severe hindrance towards friendly and cooperative relations with the rest of the world.

Proposal for Action:

The United States will establish the International Criminal Tribunal for the United States, which will try those American citizens still living, as well as a general trial of actions themselves. The conduct of the trial will proceed as follows:

I. The United Nations will be invited to preside over the Tribunal, and to appoint the prosecution and the panel of judges.

II. This Tribunal will be given the power to try and sentence the American citizens involved, and condemn actions.

III. The United States government and its associated components will have the power to appoint defense counsel for the charges against itself and its actions, while the individuals on trial will have the power to choose their own counsel.

IV. The United States will have no power over verdict, sentencing, or the dismissal of the Tribunal while it is in session.

In addition to the Tribunal, the United States will establish an International Reconciliation Commission. The members will be non-partisan foreign policy experts appointed by the United States government, who will be confirmed by the judges of the Tribunal. This Commission will negotiate compensation and diplomatic amends with the nations and peoples affected by the condemned actions.

Results to be Expected:

By allowing past crimes to be exposed, the United States will warn itself and the world of the dangers of superpower and of inhumane foreign policy. With atonement, the United States will be better able to conduct foreign policy going forward in an ethical manner, to build respect around the world, move forward from criminal habits, and engage with nations that have been damaged by past policy. The United States will be held accountable to its citizens, and to the world, for its actions in the pursuit of hegemony.
Proposal #139
Author: Daevan Mangalmurti, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:

To reform the funding and organization of the United States Department of State.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

The 20th century was known as the American century for a simple reason: by its end, a combination of brilliant diplomacy and military supremacy had guaranteed American power across the globe. Both of those pillars are crumbling- but the state of the United States Department of State is the more dire.

Over the past decade, administrations and congresses have repeatedly tried to cut the budget of the State Department by up to 32%. The impact of austerity imposed in the aftermath of the Great Recession remains in force today. Cuts to State Department funding have left it unable to attract talent and kept it in survival mode for a decade; the lack of funding makes it easy to hand over State Department responsibilities to the Department of Defense and National Security Council.

In 2017, the State Department lost three of its five Career Ambassadors. These are the most experienced members of the Foreign Service, diplomats who served for at least 15 years before being confirmed by the Senate. Just below Career Ambassadors are Career Ministers; their numbers fell from 33 to 19 individuals in 2017. Fourteen percent of the department’s Minister Counselors departed in just four months at the end of 2017. The scale of these losses is akin to the Department of Defense losing the majority of its senior officers.

At least thirty high-level State Department posts are also currently vacant. Compounding problems, from 17,000 applicants to join the Foreign Service in 2015 to half as many in 2017, the State Department's talent pool is rapidly drying up. The hiring freeze imposed in 2017 has exacerbated this, cutting the size of the entering class of Foreign Service officers from 366 people in 2016 to 100 in 2018. The State Department is hemorrhaging senior leadership while simultaneously failing to recruit new talent.

Major State Department responsibilities have been assumed by the DoD and NSC, and members of the Foreign Service have become demoralized due to failures of communication regarding major foreign policy initiatives. The usurpation of duties leaves officers unprepared to handle negotiations with foreign actors, and the Department is further unready for dealing with the spread of misinformation and cyberwarfare.

Proposal for Action:

The issues above will be addressed in through funding changes, improved recruitment/retention, changes to State Department structure, improved diplomatic training, and a reassertion of the unique responsibilities of the State Department.

Increase spending on State Department programs and USAID. The portion of the discretionary budget allocated to the State Department and USAID will be no less than 10% of the Department of Defense budget in any given fiscal year so long as the Defense budget is above $500 billion in said year. In the case that discretionary spending on the Department of Defense is less than $500 billion in a given year, discretionary spending on the Department of State will be no less than $50 billion.

Devise ways to spur an increase in applications to the Foreign and Civil Service by conducting public outreach within the United States and working closely with universities to direct students to State Department careers; prioritize the retention of senior-level officers in the Civil and Foreign Service; encourage the integration of non-career officers into the Foreign and Civil Service.
Study how best to reduce wasteful spending within the Service; eliminate positions and bureaus that encourage inefficiency within the Department; intensify efforts to combat misinformation campaigns by working with agencies like the U.S. Agency for Global Media.

Increase the duration of A100 training for entering classes of Foreign Service Officers; provide continuing education at set intervals for career members of the Foreign Service.

Reaffirm the responsibility of the Department for the development and implementation of foreign policy in any given presidential administration. The National Security Council and Department of Defense are obligated to cooperate with the Department in drawing up foreign policy goals and developing strategic plans for engagement with hostile powers. Special envoys appointed by the Office of the President operate directly under the supervision of the Secretary of State; no ambassador-level position to a U.S. treaty partner or international organization shall remain vacant for an extended period of time.

Results to be Expected:

An improved capability on the part of the State Department to confront the major challenges facing the United States in the 21st century and appropriately protect and represent American interests and values.

A renewed commitment on the part of the State Department to fulfilling American obligations to allies and partners.

An increase in the essential diplomatic personnel of the State Department.
To terminate the production of pennies at all United States federal Mint Facilities in order to cut unnecessary loss and simplify national currency.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United State Mint, users of the penny, and the United States general public.

Justification:

In June, 2018, it was reported that the US Mint lost sixty-nine million dollars the previous year during the production of nearly 8.5 billion pennies. It cost mints $.0182 to make a penny that only is valued at $.01 USD. This mean that for every penny produced the United States loses 82% of the valued product. Pennies are primarily made from zinc (97.5%) and the remaining 2.5% from copper. Furthermore, the cost of Zinc is rising and as of July, 2018 were at the highest price ever.

Many countries have implemented the withdrawal of low-denomination coins with country specific exceptions or guidelines. For example, in Ireland the use of the half penny (decimal) and the 1 and 2 cent are only used in consumer optional “rounding”. In Sweden, lesser valued coins are not used publicly but can be exchanged into the Swiss National Bank until 20 years after the withdrawal. Furthermore, in 1857 the United States withdrew its half-cent coin in attempts to adapt to the changing world and nationwide economy.

Proposal for Action:

Ensure termination of the production of pennies and to shift the economy away from the use of per cent pricing and instead towards 5 cent or dollar/half-dollar increments.

Results to be Expected:

The loss of funds due to the minting of pennies will be diminished. The reduction in government spending will come largely from discontinuing the use of Zinc, which has significantly increased in price over time. This shift away from pennies will simplify the US currency exchange.
Title:

A Proposal to Create a Federal Framework of Guidelines for Sports Betting

Major Areas to be Affected:

Professional and Collegiate Sports Leagues and the Sports Betting Industry

Justification:

In May of 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down a 1992 law that banned commercial sports betting in all but 4 US states. This decision, which essentially legalized an estimated 150 billion dollars in sports betting that US citizens make a year, is expected to cause an already booming industry to grow even more. Through implementing a series of guidelines to this growing market, we will be able to protect consumers, discourage illegal offshore betting, and also protect the integrity of games that are loved all across the country.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal will:

1. Permit states to authorize online and in-person sports wagering to provide a regulated alternative to illegal, offshore markets;
2. Prohibit sports wagers on amateur sporting events except for the Olympics and collegiate sports;
3. Establish a process to request restrictions on certain sports wagers when necessary in order to protect contest integrity;
4. Prohibit sports wagering by individuals younger than 18, athletes, coaches, officials, and others associated with sports organizations, and individuals convicted of certain federal crimes related to any sort of betting fraud;
5. Require that sports wagering operators use data provided or licensed by sports organizations to determine the outcome of sports wagers;
6. Provide a process whereby states may join with each other to create interstate sports wagering systems;
7. Create a National Sports Wagering “Clearinghouse” that will receive and make available all anonymous sports wagering data and suspicious transaction reports among all sports wagering operators, state regulators, sports organizations, and proper government law enforcement.

Federal taxes already in place on winnings over $5000 will be used to fund the Clearinghouse as well as other request programs created in the new guidelines and regulations.

Results to be Expected:

The most important result of this proposal will be the continued safe and steady growth of the sports betting industry. Current projections not only have betting industries themselves benefitting, but also the sports industry as a whole due to higher viewing numbers, greater attention to media analysis of game match-ups, and more. On top of the positive effects for the private sector, expect to see an increase in state tax revenue with whatever policies the states themselves enact when betting is legalized.
Title:
To reform the Federal Elections Committee and the disclosure regulations on political donations from non-profit organizations.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal Elections Committee (FEC), 501(c) businesses, 527 groups, US Department of Treasury, all US citizens.

Justification:
In July of 2018, the United States Department of Treasury announced that they would no longer require any tax-exempt businesses as described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code—excluding only the 501(c)(3) category—to disclose their donors. This includes 501(c)(4) businesses: social welfare organizations who do not report the majority of their expenditures to be in the political sector (i.e. political advertisements and donations to political campaigns).

501(c)(4) businesses, also commonly called “Dark Money” Groups, channel hundreds of millions of dollars towards political campaigns and agendas each year. Yet, due to loopholes and lack of specificity in the FEC disclosure requirements, many indirect campaign ad expenditures can avoid the label of “political expenditure”. This allows the 501(c) company to take those expenditures out of the political expenditure percentage. And while the FEC has the ability to fix the issue, it is stuck in a partisan gridlock between three democrats and three republicans.

In the 2012 election, over $300 million were spent by “Dark Money” Groups on funding Super PACs, political campaigns, and political advertisements. Without transparency in the flow of political money, voters are left in the dark as to who is financing the advertisements and messages that they see throughout political campaigns. Disclosure laws are the penultimate weapon against the power given to non-profits in Citizens United v. FEC (2010) to use their money to fund Super PACs and create political advertisements through loopholes in FEC regulations, and reform is paramount.

Proposal for Action:
All businesses described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, along with all businesses described in section 527, will be required to disclose donations of over $250 to both the IRS and the FEC. Any advertisement created by these 501(c) groups which mentions a political candidate or politician currently serving a term will be classified as a political expenditure, regardless of when the advertisement is published. Additionally, when disclosing each political expenditure, the 501(c) and 527 Groups will need to elaborate on the expenditure, including politician mentioned if the expenditure is an advertisement.

The number of commissioners serving on the FEC will be changed from 6 to 5, keeping the 3-person maximum on any party. The Senate will be required to fill the 5th position by the end of the 2020 calendar year.

Results to be Expected:
Groups who previously dealt in “Dark Money”, donating unidentified amounts to political organizations and campaigns, will be held accountable and in full transparency for their support. The FEC, while now subject to control from one dominant party, will operate more effectively in updating regulations and enforcing their disclosure requirements on 501(c)(4) organizations.
Title:

To set a limit on campaign contributions from PACs pertaining to Congressional and Presidential elections.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The Congressional and Presidential election candidates, Political Action Committees (PACs), special interest groups that donate to the PACs.

Justification:

Contributions by PACs to congressional candidates seeking office in the 2017-2018 election cycle totaled $331.4 million as of June 30, 2018. PAC contributions to Senate candidates totaled $60.8 million and PACs contributions to House candidates totaled $270.6 million, respectively. As of March 26, 2019, 2,395 groups organized as super PACs have reported total receipts of $1,567,304,432 and total independent expenditures of $808,703,796 in the 2018 cycle. Some examples of PACs is the National Rifle Association (donated $15,800 to Marsha Blackburn [R-TN]), Pharmaceuticals/Health Products (donated $537,983 to Bob Casey [D-PA]), National Beer Wholesale Association (donated $15,000 to Martha Roby [R-AL]), the Oil & Gas (donated $671,806 to Ted Cruz [R-TX]) and the Congressional Leadership Fund (donated $6,625,447 to Katie Hill [D-CA]) in the 2018 election cycle.

Specific PACs have political agenda that they want to pursue. To be able to pursue that agenda, PACs would get the backing of many legislators by contributing a generous amount of donations to their campaign fund. The problem about this approach is that in order to satisfy these PACs, the legislators need to make sure that they keep the PACs opinion in mind in order to continue getting the financial support from them. This hinders the legislator to truly represent his/her constituents.

Proposal for Action:

There will be a set maximum of $5,000 each PACs can donate to each congressional or presidential candidate. The candidates would have to rely on getting donations from their constituents and/or other means of fundraising. This approach will force the candidates to focus on the needs of their constituents rather than large organizations that they don’t represent.

Results to be Expected:

Congressional and presidential candidates will have to focus their political agenda towards the constituents that they represent rather than the political agendas of large PACs. The candidates would have to focus their fundraising on donations from their constituents. This will allow them to be more personalized with their constituents and to get to know who they represent better.
Title:

To reform the welfare system of TANF with a reasonable balance between promotion of financial independence and financial assistance in order to decrease the poverty level.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The majority of welfare recipients live in New York, Alaska, Massachusetts, Vermont, Minnesota, New Mexico, Delaware, Maine, Oregon and Kentucky. In all 53.3 million recipients would be affected.

Justification:

The primary cash assistance program in the United States, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) served 68% of low-income families in 1996 and has dropped to only 23% today. Welfare caseloads have been directly linked to the level of poverty in the US. 1.46 million households in America live on only $2 a day. Welfare laws are currently either too harsh or give too much and aren't making any progress to assist families for the long term. $1,056 billion is spent on welfare each year yet the poverty level continues to increase. Only about half of state and federal TANF dollars go are put towards core welfare reform. Attempted solutions for example the executive order on Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility try to increase restrictions. While it successfully encourages economic independence it takes away all assistance or chance the recipient has a chance to get back on their feet when they show any signs of progress. It has become a constant cycle of extreme laws on either side with no balance to truly solve the problem.

Proposal for Action:

Proposes reform of the welfare system, specifically Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. This program helps the able who may have fallen into bad time get temporary assistance. TANF will change the time limit for assistance from 5 to 4 years. Would also require assistance to be given through the entire 4 years without ability to repeal it. This ensures a family has a cushion while trying to find a job and become well established; as well as limiting their time to ensure the economic transition does actually occur. Would require education programs be provided by TANF for primary and secondary sector jobs and required attendance by recipients. Recipients can opt out if it is proven they are training for or beginning a job elsewhere.

Results to be Expected:

By providing struggling Americans ample chance to become successful the poverty level would predictably decrease. The productivity of Americans as a whole would increase as well. Welfare recipients would finally have a chance to live a comfortable life and TANF would fulfill its goal to temporarily assist and raise those going through a hard time up.
A proposal to create a more representative and democratic way of choosing presidential nominees by allowing all Americans to exercise their right to vote

Major Areas to be Affected:

Federal Election Commission (FEC), voters, political parties, independents

Justification:

The 2016 presidential election was a battle between two candidates that drew on the extreme ends of their respective parties, leaving people in the middle at a loss for what to do. Some people have even described voting in that general election as a choice between the lesser of two evils. This was largely due to the unique way in which we choose presidential nominees in the United States, Primaries and Caucuses.

There are two main types of presidential primaries:

1. Closed: only party affiliated voters may vote in their party’s primary; no unaffiliated voter may participate
2. Open: any registered voter may participate in the primaries, regardless of political affiliation; voters must choose one party’s ballot

Closed primaries are inherently undemocratic, since they exclude unaffiliated voters from voting on the nominees to the highest office in the land. As of 2016, 27 states still held closed primaries. What’s even more alarming is that in April 2019 a Gallup poll found that 47% of Americans do not to the one of the two major parties. This means that closed primaries exclude nearly half of all americans from the democratic process. One of the reasons for this is that after the 2016 election, people were hesitant to associate themselves with a major party. Closed primaries are disenfranchising a significant portion of the American population.

In addition to primaries, caucuses are also carried out in an undemocratic manner. Extreme views are disproportionately represented as no one affiliated with third parties, including independents, are allowed to participate in closed caucuses (similar to closed primaries). Open caucuses do exist, but both closed and open caucuses lead to more extreme views as the time commitment makes it more likely for only loyal party members, and those who hold very strong views, to attend. As a result, there is little representation of views outside of those of strong Republicans and Democrats.

Proposal for Action:

Provide a federal incentive to states, including ones that have caucuses, to convert to open primary elections by matching all small-dollar donations (donations less than $200) made to candidates during the primary and caucus season for states that adopt open primaries. These actions will aid the recent push for publicly funded campaigns.

Results to be Expected:

Results of the primary elections will be more representative of the American population, as unaffiliated voters will no longer be disenfranchised in choosing the candidates for president. This proposal will not interfere with the ability of parties to support or endorse certain candidates or elect their own party officials. Furthermore, this proposal will not restrict people from associating themselves with political parties, but ensure that the entire electorate will have the opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote for those who represent them.
Title:
A proposal to reform campaign finance laws surrounding independent expenditure only committees (super PACs) by outlawing them from the election process.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Corporations, American voters, American politics and candidates running for political office.

Justification:
Super Political Action Committees emerged in 2010, and ever since they have silently impeded the democratic process of the United States. According to the EIU, the United States ranks 21st in the world in terms of democracy with a score of 7.98 out of 10. In the 2018 midterms alone, independent expenditures from these committees rose to roughly $1.5 Billion. And while anyone can donate, the top 100 individuals gave 70.6% of the money donated, and the top 1% of donors gave 94.6% of the money. Super PACs are legally obligated to disclose their donors, however, money is almost always funneled in through political nonprofits, which are not legally obligated to disclose their donors. This form of campaign funding is defined as dark money. In order for the United States to fight for and preach democracy across the world, we must protect democracy at home and rid our country of the dark money that corrupts our elections, cycle after cycle.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will not go into place before the 2020 election cycle. Super PACs will be allowed to raise funds and campaign based upon current finance rules. However, after the 2020 election cycle, they will no longer be allowed to raise funds. They will be allowed to campaign and use the remains of their funds to campaign for the 2022 election cycle. Upon the completion of that cycle, super PACs will be abolished and the campaign finance laws will return to those of the pre 2010 Supreme Court Cases. The FEC (Federal Election Committee) will have jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute those who violate these campaign finance laws.

Results to be Expected:
By abolishing Super PACs and removing this form of dark money from election cycles, the United States will have a more just and legitimate form of democracy.
Proposal #395
Author: Katie Mead, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
A Proposal to Abolish the Penny

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Mint, Economy, Federal Reserve, Banks, Financial Institutions

Justification:
The United States’ current economy is the best worldwide. However, there’s one thing holding unknown potential back: the penny. The penny itself was created in 1909, and over time the effectiveness of the penny has declined, along with the worth and practical uses. In 2017, it cost 1.56 cents to make a single penny, more than fifty percent of its face value and frankly, it does not make economic sense to continue printing these coins. The price is generated by transportation and manufacturing of zinc, what pennies are mostly made of, and the price will continue to stay where it is at. The United States Mint concluded there is no way to make manufacturing cheaper, they lost a record-breaking sixty-nine billion dollars in 2017 compared to their total value which leads to more than one reason on why the United States needs to end manufacturing. Practical uses are minimal, an idea to consider is that nothing in this age costs just pennies and also eleven percent of Americans say they would rather toss out pennies than carry them around. All overseas military bases of the United States have already eliminated the penny, giving all the more reason the United States should turn to this. In conclusion, the penny has no real practical or economic use so therefore the abolishment of the penny is for the improvement and well being of the United States.

Proposal for Action:
II. Inform all businesses of this change and leave it to the owners to decide if they will still accept and distribute pennies.
III. Banks and Financial Institutions will always accept pennies but will not distribute them.
IV. Money collected by federal establishments will go to the federal reserve.

Results to be Expected:
By eliminating the penny, the United States economy will grow and flourish. The United States Mint will no longer lose billions due to a one cent coin. It will be fully up to businesses on whether they decide to accept pennies or not. The United States will benefit greatly by abolishing the penny.
Title:

To hold the United States accountable for its numerous war crimes stemming from its imperialist pursuits by granting the International Criminal Court (ICC) jurisdiction over the country and its populace.

Major Areas to be Affected:

- Military leaders, servicemen, and national political figures (especially George Bush).

Justification:

Since its inception as a nation built on land stolen from natives using the labor of slaves, the story of America has been one of exploitation. From drone strikes to full-on invasion, the United States exercises no restraint in the pursuit of its imperialist aims. Using its vast economic and military clout, America has bullied the rest of the world into submission, enabling its unchallenged intervention into any country it sees fit. This wholly unchecked power has allowed for innumerable abuses of human rights and foreign sovereignty, with absolutely no recourse against the United States or its military.

The ICC would offer the beginnings of justice to the victims of American imperialism. With its jurisdiction over war crimes and crimes against humanity, the ICC is capable of handling many of the grievances people and countries all over the world have against the United States. The only issue is that America has been entirely hostile to any international scrutiny, exempting itself from the basic oversight that every other member of the world community is subject to. This has enabled America’s unbridled diplomatic and military threats against world peace, as the country and its leaders know that the rest of the world have no recourse against the superpower. By giving the ICC power over the United States, they would hopefully be able to punish the country's most heinous actions, at least, and give the country's leaders second thoughts before they continue their imperialist onslaught against the world.

Proposal for Action:

- Signing and ratification of the Rome Statute, placing the United States under the ICC’s jurisdiction
- Repeal of the American Service-Members’ Protection Act, also known as the Hague Invasion Act, which gives the President the unilateral ability to take any means to free any citizen of America or its allies that is imprisoned by the ICC
- Exhaustive cooperation with the ICC, including the turning over of any requested resources and the proactive recommendation that they pursue cases against Henry Kissinger, Bill Clinton, George Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump

Results to be Expected:

As of now, there is absolutely no recourse for the victims of American imperialism. While this proposal wouldn't even approach total justice, as such would require the redressing of centuries of history, it would be the first step in holding the United States accountable for its actions. The ICC has already expressed interest in a handful of cases involving America, primarily regarding its involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, which would hopefully be able to progress with the country's cooperation. Additionally, the scrutiny of the ICC would likely slow United States intervention, as it would give the country's leaders some pause before engaging in further imperialism. The eventual goal is the achievement of international peace through cooperation, instead of the world's current power structure based on America's unilateral whims.
Title:

To withhold congressional pay throughout the entirety of all government shutdowns.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States House of Representatives and United States Senate

Justification:

With the implementation of the 27th Amendment of the United States Constitution, Congress must set their salaries to be paid by the Treasury. Their pay remains separate from the appropriations legislation that dictates other federal employees' income. Therefore, during a government shutdown, when the House and Senate are unable to reach an accord regarding the unfunded appropriations, Congress's salary remains untouched while all other federal employees struggle without their payments.

Humans are physiologically driven to respond to incentives. Without these, congressmen have historically proposed solutions slowly during government shutdowns due to a lack of urgency. During these times, millions of workers throughout the nation struggle to support their families with no income. The citizens are not the cause of the shutdown, but rather the Representatives and Senators who failed to compromise on the budget. Because it is by their errors that the government has shut down, Congress members should go without pay along with the rest of the government employees.

Proposal for Action:

To ensure fairness and immediate action, Congressional pay must be cut during any shutdown. An amendment to the Constitution will be added, specifically prohibiting the Treasury of the United States from paying any Senator or Representative during a government shutdown.

Results to be Expected:

With the implementation of this amendment to the Constitution, Congress will be incentivized to seek compromise towards the unfunded appropriations in the budget. They will actively work to find a rapid solution to the discrepancy, therefore limiting the amount of time government employees will live without pay.
52nd YMCA CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS
June 29 – July 4, 2019

Proposal #458
Author: Alex Tirado, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:

A Step Towards Fair Elections: FEC Reform

Major Areas to be Affected:

Super PACs, FEC, federal elections, campaign financing

Justification:

In recent years, United States elections have been overrun with super PACs, dark money, and wealthy individuals who are willing to pay excessive amounts of money to ensure the election of certain politicians and political parties. As of March 2019, there are an estimated 2,395 super PACs that have reported total receipts of 1.5 billion dollars and total independent expenditures of 808 million dollars in the 2018 cycle alone. The ability of a PAC to contribute millions of dollars to a candidate’s campaign has stifled the efforts of campaigns financed by grassroots support. United States elections have become contorted to represent the wants of the 1%, and this disproportionate representation has sparked a cry for reform.

The Federal Election Commission, the organization in charge of maintaining free and fair federal elections, has been inactive in controlling the spread of super PACs and dark money because of its bipartisan structure. With an even split between Democratic and Republican commissioners, the FEC has not been able to come to an agreement on how to enforce any laws concerning limits and prohibitions on contributions. A previous commissioner for the FEC, Ann Ravel, regarded the commission as “worse than dysfunctional.” Without the watchguard of the FEC, super PACs are free to contribute as much money as they please directly to candidates and political parties, which is illegal. Additionally, the paralyzed nature of the FEC has allowed foreign nationals and LLCs with foreign partners to meddle in U.S. federal elections. This is a flagrant violation of election laws that are suppose to be enforced by the FEC, and should be met with strict penalties. The diminishing belief in political efficacy is responsible for low voter turnout in the U.S. The Federal Election Commission is in desperate need of reform, and until those repairs are brought to fruition, the FEC will stand as a symbol of gridlock incapable of dealing with the problems of democratic legitimacy which it was originally created to resolve.

Proposal for Action:

To renew the authority of the FEC, the following actions will be taken:

1. The number of commissioners will increase from 6 to 9 to avoid further gridlock based on political preference.
2. The president will no longer have the responsibility of appointing members. The departing commissioner will give a recommendation based on merit and a specified criterion, and that person will be confirmed by the Senate. In the occasion that a commissioner dies or resigns from office an expediency panel will be formed to select individuals based on merit and a specified criterion.
3. Create a more timely and effective system of donor disclosure by requiring super PACs to report their donations to the FEC twice a month.
4. Steepen the civil penalties super PACs must pay if found giving monetary aid directly to a candidate or political party.
5. Protect the integrity of U.S. elections by prohibiting contributions by foreign nationals and LLCs with foreign partners.

Results to be Expected:

If the above steps are taken to ensure that the FEC is fulfilling its duties in maintaining election laws and enforcing limitations, the integrity of U.S. elections will be upheld. The FEC would once again become an independent regulatory agency rather than a political body. A better representation of the country would be represented fairly in federal elections, resulting in a more positive view of American democracy.
Proposal #469
Author: Eric Gegenheimer, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
Insight on Federal Expenditures

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service

Justification:
In 2020, the United States Government is budgeted to take in 3.64 trillion dollars from taxes alone. With these funds the government should further the agenda of its people. However, many citizens do not know where exactly their hard earned money is going, and what it is used for. While the 2006 FFATA and 2014 DATA Act have made strides in providing citizens with a platform to view government funding, many still fail to find any substantial information. USAspending.gov is the official source for spending data for the United States Government; however, this website is lackluster. On the website’s Spending Explorer, the viewer can easily see 5% of the national budget is unreported while further research into each agency shows even more unreported or unknown categories. Some sections are clearly presenting information that can be correct; for example, 101.9% of Defence Working Capital Funds goes towards Contractual Services, while another 9.4% is unknown and 8.5% towards Personnel Compensation. The website also only shows broad topics of spending, such as Grants and Fixed Charges and not specific actions taken with said funds. To find recipients of government funding, one would either have to know the name of the recipient, or look across 45,144 full pages of contacts. In 2018 the United States Government spent 4.11 trillion dollars, however this deplorable website fails to accurately place all of these funds.

Proposal for Action:
Each government agency, including Congress, will have to submit a quarterly report clearly outlining the use of its funding. Each report must contain an itemized list of any and all transactions made. Each item on the list must include the following: the names of all parties involved, including but not limited to individuals, corporations, other departments of government, and/or foreign entity; the specified goal of the use of funding and any and all official actions taken to achieve said goal; the initial date of the transaction and any significant dates that may follow; and, if necessary, any significant locations involved such as conferences, physical site locations, etc. This information will be submitted to the Department of the Treasury and the Bureau of the Fiscal Service and then published to the USAspending.gov website. The website itself would undergo a redesign and overhaul and provide more specific details into their Spending Explorer as well as modify their search engine to expand their results to include each of the sections from the itemized list above.

Top Secret Spending can be hidden from the public at the order of the president; however, information on spending can only be sealed for up to 50 years. The president must inform the House and Senate Intelligence committees. The two Intelligence Committees may vote to overrule the president's decision by a 2/3 vote by both committees.

Results to be Expected:
Making spending data more accessible to the American public will decrease any unnecessary spending or corrupt agreements. This will also allow the common person to see what government deals are taking place and call into question any discrepancies found. Branches of government which fail to provide details on finances will be audited. Therefore, these actions will keep our government honest while giving citizens a chance to have greater insight into their government’s fiscal dealings.
Title:
To change the current Social Security cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) formula to provide more aid to the elderly.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Large investors, Stockholders, Citizens receiving Social Security benefits, the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) trust fund

Justification:
According to the Social Security Association (SSA), among unmarried elderly, almost half rely on their monthly Social Security benefits to cover 90% or more of their income. The SSA also reported that an estimated 50% of the private workforce has no private pension coverage. This means, that there is a multitude of people relying on their Social Security checks each month, but they are only receiving an estimated average of $1,461 per month, which isn’t enough. To add to this, many of the retirees have to pay the Medicare premiums each month, but healthcare’s inflation rate has been consistently outpacing general inflation.

Each year, the elderly may receive or lose, but usually receive, higher benefits based on the inflation in America. Cost of living adjustments (COLA), calculates the inflation rate each year and applies the percentage to the original amount of benefits a person is supposed to receive. Currently, the formula of COLA used by Social Security is the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which focuses on prices paid by urban consumers for market goods and services. This is a good representation of inflation rates for many, but not for the elderly, because their lifestyle is quite different. The Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) takes into account the differing lifestyle and changes the weights of the expenditures of goods and services. The CPI-E makes products such as healthcare weighted more than gas prices or education when making calculations, and due to common trends, grant retirees more money each month. Nancy Altman, the founding co-Director of Social Security Works explains the need for CPI-E by stating, “The current method of calculating inflation under-measures the cost of living of seniors and people with disabilities who are disproportionately burdened by rising costs of prescription drugs and other essential medical care. By more accurately accounting for the costs faced by Social Security beneficiaries, […] [CPI-E] better prevents the erosion over time of Social Security’s modest but vital earned benefits.”

The cost of research and the implementation of CPI-E can be covered by a 2% tax rate increase on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends. Long term capital gains are any investments that are held for more than a year before selling. Dividends are a portion of the profits of a company that gets paid to its shareholders. A qualified dividend, which is a dividend that passes the criteria of being a US corporation, or specific kind of foreign corporation, and must meet the holding period requirements, gets taxed at the same rate as a long term capital gain gets taxed. Currently, the FICA tax, which covers Social Security costs, is a payroll tax which means it doesn’t tax investments, and the top tier of American businessmen and women make most of their money from dividends from companies and/or investments. Adding a tax on investments will require the rich help to support the Social Security system. This proposal will add a meager tax to the investments of the top tier of earners in order to provide more money to the elderly who are struggling with rising healthcare rates.

Proposal for Action:
I. Change the COLA formula for the Social Security program from CPI-W to CPI-E. In order for this to be implemented, the methodology must first be researched and perfected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Time must be spent perfecting the calculation for elderly inflation before being implemented.
II. Add a 2% tax rate increase on long-term capital gains and dividends in order to provide sufficient funds for the change in COLA formulas and the rise in Social Security monetary benefits each month due to the change in formulas. Leftover funds from the tax increase get invested in the OASI trust fund to provide funds for later years.

Results to be Expected:
An increase in monthly benefits for citizens receiving monthly benefits through the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. When retirees receive more monthly benefits, they have more money which allows them to be more active participants in the economy through the
purchases of more goods and services. According to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), social security benefit payments account for over $1 trillion in economic output. Granting more money through Social Security means even more economic output by the elderly.
Proposal #503

Author: Chayton Miller, Delegation: Washington

Title: Restrictions on public funding for campaigning and personal travel.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Candidates, Campaign officials, Taxpayers, Security Companies.

Justification:

As presidential candidates need more security, some governors who run enroll more state patrol officers to help protect them. Which in turn is paid for by the taxpayers For the 2020 election there are at least 2 governors running for president.

Proposal for Action:

Candidates who are governors running for office, campaigning, and doing other personal travel should pay for there it instead of the taxpayers. They would have to end up paying for there own protection instead of enlisting more state patrol for protection.

Results to be Expected:

The candidates need to use there own money in order to pay for more security using a security firm and to pay for the travel.
Establishing the United States of America Coin (UAC), a National Cryptocurrency that will be regulated by the Department of the Treasury.

**Major Areas to be Affected:**

Post offices and all Federal Agencies.

**Justification:**

Currently the United States has one of the strongest economies in the world, but every year that the U.S. continues without modernizing, other countries are growing and establishing strong economies of their own. One of the major technological developments the USA will see in the next couple of years is the integration of cryptocurrencies into American's everyday lives.

Cryptocurrencies are tokens on a blockchain network that hold an intrinsic value due to their scarcity. The network that these cryptocurrencies are in is impossible to hack and one of the safest ways to transfer money. Yet these currencies are unregulated and very volatile. This proposal will establish a crypto which will be released in a way to maintain a much more steady increase in price over time.

**Proposal for Action:**

1. Establish a national cryptocurrency using the Ethereum Blockchain base coding. 100,000,000,000 UAC will be created in total. The Department of the Treasury will distribute 1,000,000,000 UAC each year to depository institutions as well as offer them to the public. Depositories will be able to exchange the coins for $4.50 a piece while they will be available to the public for $5.00 a piece. Each year approximately 1,000,000,000 more UAC will be added too circulation.

2. The Department of the Treasury will be responsible for maintaining a yearly %5-10 increase in the price of the coin. The Department of the Treasury will do so by buying back amounts of the coin if it is below its trajectory. If the coin is experiencing a large increase, they will add more UAC into circulation per year.

3. Each federal institution will be required to accept payment via UAC.

4. The Department of the Treasury will commission a wallet for UAC.

5. The Department of the Treasury will offer ATM vendors a %0.1 fee of withdraws if they accept UAC.

6. All federal employees will have the option of being paid in UAC.

**Results to be Expected:**

A stronger economy, along with a modernization of the country.
Proposal #024  
Author: Bayo Collins, Delegation: California

Title:

Limit age to be tried as an adult to 17 years old

Major Areas to be Affected:

There are 95,000 juveniles in adult prisons and 53,000 youth held in juvenile facilities as a result of criminal involvement.

Over 2225 juveniles (age 17 or younger) in the United States have been sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

Juveniles constitute 1,200 of the 1.5 million people housed in federal and state prisons in this country, and nearly 200,000 youth enter the adult criminal justice system each year, most for non-violent crimes.

Justification:

There is a strong need for my proposal because there are currently 95,000 juveniles housed in adult prisons each year. These youth face the possibility of serving time in adult correctional facilities and all of the negative effects that come with it. Over the last 25 years, minors have been prosecuted as adults in increasing numbers and are subjected to very harsh conditions. For example, minors held in these facilities face unnecessary dangers such as sexual assault, which is 5 times more likely to happen than in a juvenile detention center. Minors are much more likely to commit suicide after being housed in an adult jail or prison than incarcerated adults or youth incarcerated in juvenile facilities. Youth in adult facilities get little to no access to age-appropriate services like school, mental health, and in-person family visits. As it currently stands, all states have transfer laws that allow or require young offenders to be prosecuted as adults for more serious crimes such as rape and murder. 13 states have no minimum age for adult prosecution and in some states children as young as eight have been tried as adults. This is especially unfair to youth under 14 because they are especially immature and impulsive. Brain studies show the frontal lobe – which is responsible for decision-making, impulse control, sensation-seeking, emotional responses, and consequential thinking – does not finish developing until our early-to-mid 20s. Research has shown youth aged 12 to 17 years are significantly less psychosocially mature than 18 to 23 years who are also less psychosocially mature than adults. In most cases, youth have not yet developed mature judgment or the ability to accurately assess risks and consequences in these highly pressurized situations. They are more vulnerable to peer pressure and complying to the wishes of authoritative figures making them susceptible to false confessions.

Proposal for Action:

Children age 17 and under should not be tried as adults in any state unless the individual commits a severe or extremely violent crime (Rape, Murder, Armed robbery). If a juvenile commits a nonsevere crime such as shoplifting, they will not be eligible for a judicial waiver and will be charged as a minor. In the event, an individual commits a crime and is above the age of 17 they will be tried in adult court.

Results to be Expected:

Youth who go through the juvenile justice system are less likely to commit crimes upon release than youth who go through the adult system.

Children can avoid unnecessary violence and harm.

Children will be 36 times less likely to commit suicide when placed in juvenile facilities.

Youth will no longer lose the right to vote upon release.
Proposal #028
Author: Alex Goldbeck, Delegation: California

Title:
No First Use Act of the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States’s State Department, the United States’s Foreign Policy (simply regarding how the President interacts with these countries and views nuclear weapons as only a deterrent for war and a reactionary step)

Justification:
If the United States and another country are engaged in a nuclear war, meaning that nuclear weapons are being denoted daily, the world would enter into what is called a nuclear winter. Nuclear missiles and bombs denoted daily would have the consequences of nuclear material and fallout which becomes part of the air and contaminates the water. This could result in undrinkable water and food that is at risk for different poisons. Along with the contaminated food and water, radioactive sickness would spread around the world as nuclear fallout moves around in the atmosphere and begins to fall like rain. This puts the entire world at risk when just two nuclear bombs are denoted in the being of the nuclear war.

The nuclear winter comes with daily nuclear missiles and bombs denoted and continually denotation of weapons with radioactive material. When the bomb is denoted, there is a big mushroom cloud that moves up into the atmosphere, and while some of it comes down in the rain form, there is still a majority that does not and stays up in the atmosphere. As more and more denotations occur and smoke moves up into the atmosphere, there will be a point to which the entire atmosphere would be filled with this smoke blocking the sun rays from reaching the planet. The temperatures would drop between 17 Celsius and 35 Celsius. This would cause crop failures and water freezing creating famine and ultimately starving the people out of the world.

During the nuclear exchange, more than a billion people would be killed in the first seconds of it. A nuclear exchange is a moment of time where nuclear weapons are going back and forth between two countries during a couple of hours. The nuclear winter could cause the entire world to be killed as the crops and everything else is whipped out from the planet. In a nuclear war, it is not testing sites being bombed and bombs being denoted in the desert. Nuclear weapons are being denoted in places where there are concentrated homes and people. Therefore, this is cities and urban neighborhoods that will be affected immediately and the rest of the world would be affected by nuclear fallout and material.

The consequences of a nuclear exchange and weapons from the United States and another country is immense. However, with something called the nuclear umbrella, the United States could be involved with proxy wars that make them the proponent of nuclear weapon use. The nuclear umbrella came about during the Cold War as Russia began to increase its nuclear arsenal and the United States pledged to protect them against nuclear weapons with their own nuclear arsenal. However, this was created during the Cold War when the fear of nuclear weapons was more omnipresent and now nuclear weapons are used as a deterrent for war. But, that is for the United States. For countries like North Korea, the use of nuclear weapons is a weapon of war to be used and if North Korea and South Korea were to get into war, the United States could denotate a nuclear bomb under South Korea’s name to end the war where North Korea follows massed assured destruction meaning the United States would get bombed as well. The nuclear umbrella is South Korea, Japan and other eastern Asian countries that do not include countries with nuclear weapons such as China.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will not be the first country to denotate a nuclear weapon in any conflict or war. This extends to the nuclear umbrella and that when those countries are part of a conflict, the United States can not denotate a nuclear weapon on behalf of the country first. Only if the other country involved in the conflict denominates a nuclear weapon first may the United States.

Results to be Expected:
A change of foreign policy, a movement towards disarmament, the use of nuclear weapons as truly just a deterrent
Title:
A proposal to revise the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA)

Major Areas to be Affected:
Juveniles Incarcerated, vocational schools, local detention centers

Justification:
The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, or JJDPA, was established in 1974 and was created on a broad consensus that children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile and criminal courts should be guarded by federal standards for care and custody, while also upholding the interests of community safety and the prevention of victimization. Once in a juvenile detention center, on average a child is 23 percentage points more likely to end up in jail as an adult than when compared with juvenile offenders who, by the grace of a lenient judge, avoided incarceration according to a new study co-authored by MIT economist Joseph Doyle. It has also been shown that juvenile incarceration is tied to a steep drop in high school completion rates, which correlates to homeless rates as well for those who age out of the system. Currently the JJDPA has four Core Requirements: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal, Sight and Sound Separation, and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED). Each area focuses on a different aspect or effect on a juvenile in the system but there is nothing specifically targeting lowering recidivism rates and assisting those who were unable to complete or barely complete high school due to their time incarcerated.

Proposal for Action:
An additional core requirement will be added to the JJDPA which will include vocational training and possibly re-enrolling them in school if necessary or earning their high school diploma or equivalent if they aged out. The type of trainings that are taught will be up to the local facilities and these trainings will not equal a certification that area.

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of this court requirement, it is expected that recidivism rates will go down and high school dropouts and homelessness rates. Also it is expected that enrollment in trade schools will increase which will eventually be better for the economy. With the addition of the trainings to the JJDPA this will lower the likelihood and percentage of kids, that has been in the juvenile detention system, that funnels into adult prisons.
Proposal #083
Author: Stephen Merrick, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
To Allocate An Estimated One Point Five Billion Dollars From The Department of Defense’s Budget For The Design and Construction of New Hospital Ships For Use By The U.S. Navy

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
The United States has among the strongest, if not, the strongest weapons of war in the world, our tools for peace however, are lacking. Among our tools for peace are our hospital ships, the United States Navy Ship Comfort and United States Navy Ship Mercy. These ships are remarkable vessels assigned to a very demanding task, however in recent years it is becoming more and more evident that they are ill equipped to effectively do their job in a world where disasters that may require the aid of a hospital ship become more and more common.

Although some problems arise from the lack of hospital ships in the United States Navy’s disposal several also arise from the design of the Mercy Class ship itself. To begin, both ships are rather old and outdated, with the two vessels in the Mercy Class being built in 1974 and 1976. At the time neither ship was built with the intention of using them as hospital ships. Both were originally built as San Clemente Class Oil Tankers that were purchased and refitted by the United States Government in the mid-1980s. Their original design as oil tankers has also created problems as patient mobility throughout the ship is limited by the lack of hatches. In order to move a patient from one deck to another they must first be transported on the top deck. Additionally, although the ship has great capability for patients to be loaded onboard by boat, this option at times is not possible due to movement and sea conditions. The only other way to transport patients on and off the ships while they are under way is by helicopter, but each ship is only equipped with one helicopter pad.

Finally due to their massive size, (over 830 feet) and low top speed (17 knots or 19.6 miles per hour) The ships have limited mobility which can leave them as easy targets for terrorists, and additionally can make them hard to navigate through disaster zones. This large size was cited by the White House and Department of Defense as to why they were so hesitant to order the Comfort to provide disaster relief to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

Finally, recently the People’s Liberation Army Navy of China has begun investing heavily in their hospital ships in order to gain support from smaller more impoverished nations in the Pacific that are in need of Humanitarian Aid. This is especially evident in their use of their ship the Dashian Dao or “Peace Ark.” The United States’ inability to do the same could be a major liability in the future as China creates alliances throughout the Pacific Ocean.

Proposal for Action:
The United States Congress should, subject to presidential approval, allocate One Point Five Billion Dollars from the Department Of Defense’s 2020 Budget for the design and construction of several new hospital ships, or for the conversion of older cruise or cargo ships into hospital ships. Upon Passage of the 2020 budget the Department of Defense and Department of the Navy should then be tasked with designing new, more advanced, hospital ships for use in the near future. These ships should have modern modern designs and technology to address the problems with the previous class of ship. These ships would then begin construction at ship yards across the country, in places such as Bath Iron Works in Maine. Upon the completion of these new ships should be deployed to the Pacific fleet and to the Atlantic fleet. Additionally, the 2 Mercy Class Ships should be gradually phased out once all of the new class of ships are in service for at least 2 years.

Results to be Expected:
If these new ships are built the United States can expect to gain more support from poorer countries overseas as the new class of ships and new number of ships could be used to provide humanitarian aid to these types of nations. The new ships could also improve disaster response in the United States and its territories along the coast and in the oceans.
Title:
To Employ United States Military Veterans into the Public School System

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public School system, Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans and Former Military members, Department of State, Department of Education, Department Of Defense

Justification:
In the last two decades since the tragic Columbine High School shooting in 1999, the number of school shootings and events of terror in an educational setting have done nothing but skyrocket. At the same time, the number of United States Military veterans that are unemployed, homeless, and struggling is also hitting an all-time high. In 2018, the United States of America hit a record number of 82 incidents, which has continually been rising since the 1970s which only recorded an average of 19 incidents a year. Likewise, the increasing amount of veterans that are living in poverty is alarming and needs attention. About 11% of the adult homeless population are veterans with about 1.4 million other veterans that are considered at risk of homelessness due to poverty, lack of support networks, and dismal living conditions in overcrowded or substandard housing. With the passage of this proposal, we will be able to undertake two glaring problems that are prevalent in today’s society. The need for more security and safety at school is becoming a concern for students and their guardians. By employing veterans as security staff in public schools, we are able to eliminate this insecurity.

Proposal for Action:
These two occurring problems can be fixed based on the following three points of contingency: First is the hiring and recruitment of ex-military members, especially those in impoverished or borderline impoverished conditions. This would greatly decrease both the amount of homeless American heroes living on the streets and veteran suicide rates. The benefit of hiring veterans is that veterans, unlike police officers, will already be trained in advanced combat and have previously dealt with higher levels of stress and will know how to deal with situations like these. Therefore, it will be easier to train and implement them into the security plan of public schools. As for the role of School Resource Officers, commonly referred to as SROs, they will be reassigned from the focus on school security to more legal and everyday situations with the newly appointed security officer being the veteran who has passed numerous and rigorous background checks, mental health examinations, and fitness to serve tests. The second point of contingency addresses the necessary funds required to implement this proposal into the United States. With the US currently having over $22 trillion dollars in debt, it is understandable to question the allocation for the funds required to set in place this plan. We will urge and request the National Department of Defense to allocate funds to this proposal in order to fund it. Finally, the third contingency and arguably the most important is the healing of the American people, more specifically the American youth. Our generation is said to be the most desensitized to violence, this is especially prevalent in the constant loom of future school shootings, and the fact that shootings in public places, not just schools have become the norm. The American students, which number at approximately 50 million students in public schools need reassurance that the government will do everything in their power to prevent mass shootings. The implementation of military personnel in schools will not only help schools with their problem of security but will also allow for the heroes of America to find their adjustment to “civilian life' that much easier.

Results to be Expected:
A sense of safety among the students, staff, administration, and parents. This proposal will not only help raise the amount of security in public schools but will also help fight the evident problem concerning the rising rates of poverty and homelessness in veterans.
Proposal #175
Author: Eshan Patel, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
The Employment of United States Military Veterans into the Public School System

Major Areas to be Affected:
The public school system, Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans and Former Military members, Department of State, Department of Education, Department Of Defense

Justification:
In the last two decades since the tragic Columbine High School shooting in 1999, the number of school shootings and events of terror in an educational setting have done nothing but skyrocket. At the same time, the number of United States Military veterans that are unemployed, homeless, and struggling is also hitting an all-time high. In 2018, the United States of America hit a record number of 82 incidents, which has continually been rising since the 1970s which only recorded an average of 19 incidents a year. Likewise, the increasing amount of veterans that are living in poverty is alarming and needs attention. About 11% of the adult homeless population are veterans with about 1.4 million other veterans that are considered at risk of homelessness due to poverty, lack of support networks, and dismal living conditions in overcrowded or substandard housing. With the passage of this proposal, we will be able to undertake two glaring problems that are prevalent in today's society. The need for more security and safety at school is becoming a concern for students and their guardians. By employing veterans as security staff in public schools, we are able to eliminate this insecurity.

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Results to be Expected:
A sense of safety among the students, staff, administration, and parents. This proposal will not only help raise the amount of security in public schools but will also help fight the evident problem concerning the rising rates of poverty and homelessness in veterans.
Proposal #210  
Author: Bryant Nguyen, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:

To add, and address the complication of discrimination by weight to --Title VII--, and to not only prohibit the discrimination based on a person's race, color, religion, sex or national origin, but also weight.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The general populous of the United States Citizens who are currently being discriminated by their weight, the employment process, and workplaces.

Justification:

Weight discrimination occurs when someone is treated differently because of his or her weight. The primary federal anti-discrimination law -- Title VII -- doesn't include obesity as a protected characteristic, which means it does not prohibit employers from discriminating based on weight. This imposes a relevant and serious problem, as 99.3 million (30% of US population) are unable to have an equal employment opportunity as well as not having the protection of constitutional rights in public facilities and public education. It is believed that -- Title VII -- should be updated to protect the rights of humans of different sizes, along with a person's race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Proposal for Action:

Once this idea is accepted, workplaces should recreate their employment processes so that the problem of a person's size no longer exists. If workplaces are caught ignoring the new protected rights, the victim will have the right to sue the company, and the workplace will be shut down until the problem is resolved due to their unconstitutional actions. The workplaces are expected to pay their employees during this time of review. In other cases of discrimination, the victim will still have the opportunity to sue the person who is denying their rights.

Results to be Expected:

With this common aspect of discrimination being added to --Title VII--, people who fall victim to size discrimination will now be protected under all of the rights which are already listed in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Being free from discrimination, these people are finally able to have the equal opportunities of a United States Citizen.
Proposal #246
Author: David Buneta, Delegation: Model UN

Title:
An Act Relating to the creation of the State of New Amsterdam

Major Areas to be Affected:
The US Congress, the State Legislatures of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut

Justification:
Currently, democracy is undeserving several million people in the most productive region of the United States. New York City alone consists of eight million people spread across the five boroughs of Staten Island, Queens, the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. However, on a given weekday the population of just Manhattan almost doubles from 2.05 to 3.95 million due to the city’s heavy reliance on the surrounding suburban region. The New York Metropolitan Area is one of the largest statistical areas in the globe and important in the fields of finance, biotechnology, education, information technology, fashion, food, and trade, among others. With a population of roughly 23 million (3 million more than the entire state of Florida) and consisting of 10% of the US GDP (an economy the size of Italy), it is without question a region of sizable importance to the United States. Despite its size of 6,000 square miles (between Connecticut and New Jersey), the metropolitan region holds the influence of states like Texas, Florida, and California. However, this region is consistently undermined in elections and in statewide decision-making. Oftentimes, key legislation and projects that are vital to the world’s greatest city and its subsidiary feeding counties are taken off the table or stalled in state elections due to heavily conflicting needs from the remaining parts of the tristate. The grossest misspending comes along with malapportionment of taxes. Among such issues that are underfunded are transportation issues. The New York City subway was a leader in urban living a century ago. New Jersey Transit was a golden gateway to the region in the 1990s. Currently, the infrastructure of these pivotal tenets of New York City Metro life, and further update, renovation, and expansion projects are blocked in state legislatures. Money is being taken from projects needed to help (collective) “New Yorkers”. In New York State, money is redirected away from the city to care for the upstate and projects needed to revitalize cities like Albany, Poughkeepsie, and Rochester. 70% of state revenue comes from the downstate but less than 60% of the budget aids this region. Similarly, South Jersey has extremely high poverty, unemployment, and extremely lower education rates in comparison to North and Central New Jersey and makes up a minority of the state. Rather than fix issues with New Jersey transit (which serves 1 million commuters daily and 100 million rides per year - a population about equal to the South Jersey population), the state legislature focuses partisan disputes between more rural and more urban voting blocs. Ultimately, the growth needed to keep up with rival cities like London, Dubai, or Singapore is stifled due to hindrances from state governments.

There are precedents for this secession. Article IV, Section 2, Clause ii of the Constitution allows for part of a state to secede if the state legislature passes the motion, such as with the creation of West Virginia. Locally, the five boroughs and Long Island seceded from the colony of New York in 1689 for three years feeling harsh sentiments for King James II and in stark disagreement with the loyalist Upstate and Albany. For 14 years from 1777 counties in Northeastern New York seceded as a separate country and eventually created the state of Vermont. Richmond County (also known as Staten Island), threatened to join New Jersey since the state was led by Anti-Federalists and the rest of the city (and Long Island) was unsure of secession. When New Jersey was founded, it was initially split into East Jersey and West Jersey (both during Swedish and English colonization). These two governing entities were essentially split into the modern day boundaries of the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas in New Jersey. In fact, the two Jerseys merged under the governorship of New York for a time until 1738. Five of the six core South Jersey counties successfully voted to leave the state in a 1980 referendum as part of a political message. Similar ideas were proposed as late as 1991 in New York. After the initial draft of this proposal, in late March of 2019, several New York lawmakers, community organizing groups, and media outlets proposed the splitting of New York State into either two states (the Upstate and the Downstate), or into three autonomous zones within the state.

Proposal for Action:
Create a new state constitution consisting of New Jersey counties north of/including Monmouth and Mercer, New York counties south of/including Rockland and White Plains, Connecticut counties west of/including Fairfield, Litchfield, and New Haven, By 2030, draft and pass through state and federal legislature,
formal secession from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut in accordance with Article IV, Section 2, Clause ii of the Constitution,
A state constitution,
Take full control of/incorporate,
land and projects in the geographic jurisdiction of New Amsterdam,
To fund this state,
10% of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut incomes generated by the jurisdiction of the newly formed state will be incorporated
into the New Amsterdam budget annually until 2030

Results to be Expected:

More uniformity and continuity will be expected in terms of legislation and projects overtaken by the new state, New York, Connecticut,
and New Jersey. Transit will be unified as part of the regional planning association’s fourth regional plan. Laws regarding housing,
education, healthcare, tolling, Upstate New York and South Jersey will become more fiscally responsible and have less flack to funding
revitalization projects. Economic activity will increase substantially in the New York Metropolitan area. Taxes will increase in New
Amsterdam along with social services. The five boroughs will continue to be known as New York City. Chris Christie will not sit on any
beaches closed for the public. He will not close any bridges. Bill de Blasio will exhaust his term limits and no longer be mayor of New
York City. Increased legislation shall occur in all states involved due to less partisanship and more consensus on regional-specific
issues. After the July 2018 merging of North and South Carolina and the creation now of New Amsterdam, The US flag will continue to
have 50 stars.
Proposal #265
Author: William Sorge, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Reducing economic inequality through dialogue and awareness

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. economy; U.S. Department of Education plus state and local educational authorities

Justification:
Among advanced high-income economies, the United States has some of the highest levels of economic inequality. Ranked alongside fellow OECD members, the U.S. ranks 6th in income inequality out of 38 countries, with a Gini coefficient of 0.39. This puts the U.S. behind only Turkey, Chile, Mexico, Costa Rica, and South Africa in income inequality. Interestingly, U.S. economic inequality comes out to levels similar to those of other advanced economies before taxes and transfers, but generally higher after taxes and transfers. This strongly suggests that U.S. tax policies play a role in exacerbating inequality, by failing to redistribute levels of wealth to the middle class enough to its growth. In fact, the middle class has been shrinking for several decades, and the recent economic growth has been felt least among the middle class of all socioeconomic groups. While state and local taxation plays a significant role, changes to existing federal tax law would be a major step toward expanding the middle class and reversing these trends. However, this is difficult where there is intense partisan gridlock in Congress over the issue.

There is mounting evidence that growing inequality is harmful to the social and political integrity of our nation. Economic inequality forms a synergy with other kinds of inequality and discrimination in society, most prominently among disadvantaged racial minorities and women, in that they are often mutual causes and effects of one another. A person’s racial or gender background may make him or her more likely to face discrimination in education and employment, making his or her socioeconomic status less favorable and thereby worsening inequality for that person’s group. Consequently, the disparities created in income and wealth can feed further discrimination against that group. Politically, high inequality can lead to the highest social class exerting a disproportionate influence on national politics. Economic elites are more likely to donate and contribute to campaigns based on the belief that their status makes their actions more effectual, which can eventually result in policymaking that favors them. From an economic perspective, inequality can drag down economic growth by preventing lower-quartile earners from maximizing their productive capacity.

Moreover, while the general public is becoming more aware of rising inequality and increasingly perceptive of its negatives, there is still a gulf between perceived and actual inequality. In a survey conducted by affiliates of Harvard Business School, respondents in the United States tended to underestimate the gap in income distribution, while those in France tended to overestimate and those in Norway were fairly accurate. Adolescents in particular were likely to underestimate, implying that those who had entered the full-time workforce were more likely to be aware of the disparities. It also suggests that more could be done in primary and secondary education to raise awareness to growing income inequality. This is part of a wider issue that social science instruction, particularly in economics and financial literacy, is lacking in U.S. primary and secondary education. A concerted effort to educate young Americans on the facts regarding economic inequality and its effects could change how future voters may perceive the issue and possible solutions. Also, where the public agrees that inequality is a major concern, there is wide disagreement as to possible solutions. Greater dialogue and consensus among voters and policymakers would remedy the level of gridlock on this issue, and lead to better policy solutions to grow the size of the middle class.

Proposal for Action:
Create a congressional subcommittee underneath the Ways and Means committee of the House of Representatives specifically to address economic inequality and related policy solutions. The primary aims of this committee should be to create legislation to curb rising inequality and develop bipartisan solutions.
Direct the federal Department of Education, state education departments, and local educational authorities to advocate for and/or implement economics fundamentals in primary and secondary school social science curricula. This would include informing students of the facts pertaining to economic inequality, its range of economic, social, and political effects, and its potential solutions from across the political spectrum.
Results to be Expected:

Improvements to sharing of policy solutions at the federal level, which would curb economic inequality and increase the size of the middle class.

Increased public awareness to the the extent and severity of economic inequality in the United States, starting in primary and secondary education.

More and better practical legislative solutions to economic inequality and thereby eventual reductions in U.S. economic inequality.

Greater recognition of the United States on the international stage as a place of equal opportunity and prosperity.
Proposal #280
Author: Angel Prado, Delegation: Texas

Title:
To implement legislation protecting and preserving Civil War monuments as to protect American history.

Major Areas to be Affected:
US General Services Administration, the United States of America, the American people/society.

Justification:
New rathical movements have called for the removal, and often times the destruction, of historic monuments constructed to memorize the events and combatants of the American Civil War. Although the removal of these monuments may be justified in the eyes of some, many of these rathicals fail to see, or even care about, the historic significance of these monuments for the education of generations to come. Certain states of the union have also taken steps to remove these monuments, a testament to our nation’s failed understanding of the importance of this historical event.

Proposal for Action:
Introduce legislation on the national level protecting monuments clearly or otherwise intended to memorize events, battles, or individuals who were involved in the American Civil War. The monuments must have been constructed within 65 years of the end of the war to qualify for consideration, and furthermore cannot display any clear or obvious insult to any race, culture, or people. Efforts to protect and preserve these monuments will be headed by a new division within the US General Services Administration, comprised of individuals appointed by the governor of every state in the union. Every state will appoint a single individual to this new division, as to represent that states interest on preserving said monuments as well as monuments in other states.

Results to be Expected:
By putting legislation in place, efforts by rathical organizations and states to remove and dispose of these monuments will be stopped with the threat of legal action, thus off-putting individuals who wish to remove these monuments without legal authority. States will also be responsible to contribute to the protection of American history, regardless of the politics of that state.
Title:
A Proposal to Repeal the War Powers Resolution of 1973 and the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists (AUMF) and Amend the Constitution to specify the role of the Legislative and Executive during times of war.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
In regards to war, there are a few critical legal documents in which the legislative, executive and judicial branches have interpreted, written, and argued over since the creation of this nation. They are Article I Section 8 of the Constitution, Article II Section 2 of the Constitution, the War Powers Resolution of 1973, and the Authorization for Use of Military Force against Terrorists (AUMF). While the constitution clarifies the role of the executive and legislative in times of war, historical events such as the Vietnam War and the September 11th attacks have called into question the extent of power that either branch should actually have in keeping with the principle of “Checks and Balances.” Moreover, each of these documents is either inherently flawed, in conflict with the other, or both:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution:
• Says that Congress can:
  - Declare war
  - Establish and maintain an Army and Navy
  - Create any laws necessary to carry out any of the listed powers (Elastic Clause)

Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution:
• Says that the President is:
  - Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States

The War Powers Resolution of 1973
• Established during President Richard Nixon’s term, the War Powers Resolution was intended to check the president’s power to commit the United States to an armed conflict without the consent of the U.S. Congress. The three main provisions are as follows:
  - The President must consult and report to Congress
  - The President can only initiate hostile action for sixty (60) days with a thirty (30) day withdrawal period
  - If forces have been deployed that are not acting on an official declaration of war, the President must remove them at the direction of Congress.

Moreover, the War Powers Resolution has been violated by multiple Presidents who question its legitimacy and claim that it is an unfair infringement on the constitutional power of the executive branch. When President Bill Clinton was sued by members of Congress for violating it, he noted that he considered the War Powers Resolution constitutionally defective. The court ruled in favor of the President, holding that the Members lacked legal standing to bring the suit; this decision was affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C.

Authorization for Use of Military Force against Terrorists (AUMF)
• Within days of the 9/11 attacks, Congress passed an authorization for the President, expanding the executive's authority, to use all "necessary and appropriate force" against those who “planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons.”
• Furthermore, this Joint Resolution issued and passed by Congress immediately following 9/11 contains extremely vague language that ultimately hands the President a “blank check” to wage war against countries loosely related to terrorism. This also contradicts the War Powers Resolution of 1973 and the Article I, Section 8 because it undermines Congress’ role to declare war by giving the President a legal basis for military operations against an array of terrorist organizations in seven different countries around the world.

In conclusion, seeing that these three essential documents tend to contradict one another, it is necessary to clarify certain language, as well as the role of the branches of Government at times of War by repealing existing statutes and adding an amendment to the Constitution.
Proposal for Action:

In order to clarify the role of Congress and the President at times of war, some key things must be added to the constitution to both clarify the role of both branches, and maintain certain, important provisions enforced in the AUMF and WPA respectively. The new amendment will include the following:

1. A clear, constitutional definition for “War”
2. A clear, constitutional definition for “Commander-in-chief” with explicit roles for the President during times of “war.”
3. Emergency powers explicitly wrote and given to the President to use in times of “Emergency” which shall be defined in this Amendment
4. A provision that requires the signature of the President on legislation concerning war. This means that both chambers of Congress and the President must come to a fully mutual agreement when passing legislation concerning “war.” Note that this does not include official declarations of war.

Results to be Expected:

A clearer understanding of roles for either branch during times of war. Stronger balance of power between the two branches of government. Sets a legal precedent for the President and Congress.
Title:
To Allow Navy Corpsman to be Considered EMT Basic Certified

Major Areas to be Affected:
Navy Corpsman, “A” School, United States Civilians, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), EMT’s, Department of Defense

Justification:
A Navy Corpsman is an enlisted medical specialist of the US Navy who may also serve with a Marine Unit. The US Air Force (4N0X1) and US Army (68W) each have their own medics just as the Navy has Corpsman. However, when Corpsman leave the force, their skills are not recognized as EMT basic; hence, they can’t perform emergency life saving medical procedures without breaking the law, even though they have demonstrated competency on the ship or in the field with the troops.

The specific differences in Corpsman and Army or Air Force medics is that 4N0X1 and the 68W each have to remain certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as EMT basic throughout their military service. This verifies cognitive and psychomotor competencies at a national level. Navy Corpsmen suffer when looking for civilian employment due to this slight certification difference. As of today, Corpsman are approved EMT’s when they graduate from their “A” school (medical training school essentially), so this would qualify them as EMT’s, however, the Navy does not mandate Corpsman to test at the time they finish “A” school. While there are no specific numbers at this time, the labor bureau states that employment among veterans is low in the medical field, even though emergency medicine is one of the fastest growing career fields at 7%. Corpsman can apply to the Navy’s Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) Program which offers a funding stream for active and reserve service members to gain their National Registry certification without cost, however, acceptance is not guaranteed. The average cost to become EMT basic is between $800-1,000 over a 1-3 month period, which is prohibitive to some veterans. This certification failure decreases job opportunities while increasing the likelihood of reliance on government-funded support systems.

Proposal for Action:
The Department of Defense will amend training for Navy Corpsman to mandate EMT basic certification for future success in the civilian world.
This will involve:
1. Reforming “A” school to mandate EMT certification testing before Corpsman deploy to bases as to avoid trying to test as they become civilians,
2. Increasing funding for the Navy’s COOL program so all applications are accepted.

Results to be Expected:
The expected result will be the closure of a legal loophole that is dangerous to Navy Corpsman with ripple effects of a decrease in veteran unemployment and an influx of certified experienced EMT’s to fulfill the fast growing field of emergency medicine.
Proposal #365
Author: Autumn Zahrt, Delegation: Michigan

Title:
Housing Homeless Veterans

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States, Urban Areas (cities), U.S. Military veterans, communities with high homeless populations, U.S. Military

Justification:
Far too many veterans are homeless in America. There are approximately 40,000 homeless veterans. Three times that many veterans are struggling with excessive rent burdens and thus at increased risk of homelessness. Further, there is concern about the future. Women veterans and those with disabilities including post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury are more likely to become homeless, and a higher percentage of veterans returning from the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have these characteristics. According to the AHAR there are four states that comprise a large portion of the homeless Veteran population: California (12,096), Florida (4,552), Texas (2,718), and New York (2,542) makeup close to half of all the population with 21,908. California alone makes up 24 percent of the estimated Veteran homeless population. California also made the list for the highest rate of “Unsheltered Veterans” with 63.2 percent, or 7,639 unsheltered Veterans. Conservatively, one out of every three homeless men who is sleeping in a doorway, alley, or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served this country.

Proposal for Action:
Congress will create a commission that will take vacate and abandoned houses, renovate them to meet building codes and designate them as shelters for homeless veterans. Those unable to pay a modest rent as determined by the commission can be employed in the renovation of sites in exchange for housing in the shelters, if mentally and physically capable of.

Results to be Expected:
The veterans would be given a job if need, and shelter as they come back into civilian life once again.
Title:
Require eligible women to register for the United States Selective Service Draft

Major Areas to be Affected:
The U.S. Selective Service, United States Army, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Navy, and American female citizens ages 18 to 25

Justification:
Today, all male U.S. citizens and immigrants are required to register for the draft within 30 days of turning 18 or 30 days arrival in the United States. A man who is qualified but does not register for the draft could be prosecuted, receive a fine of up to $250,000, and/or incarceration for up to 5 years. They will also not be eligible for federal student aid, federal job training, or a federal job. The government maintains the ability to reinstate the draft in times of national crisis, for it has not been used since 1973. At that time, women represented only 2% of enlists and 8% of officer corps in the U.S. Armed Forces, but since then, those numbers have increased substantially. Today, women represent 16% of the enlisted forces and 18% of officer corps. In December 2015, former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced the decision to open all combat roles to women, and now it is time to include women in the sole body that ties all male United States citizens to the military: the Selective Service Draft.

Studies have shown that the presence of women in the military does not affect the performance of men fighting alongside them. In addition, women bring more ethnic diversity to the Armed Forces for 56% of female recruits are Hispanic or from another ethnic background. In other nations that have completely integrated women into full combat positions, studies show that women increase operational effectiveness and unit cohesion is not affected. Including women in the draft would also decrease sexism and discrimination toward women serving in the military, and virtually eliminate the idea that women are "unqualified" for combat.

Proposal for Action:
Congress shall amend the Military Selective Service Act, making it required the female-identifying citizens and immigrants register for the draft within 30 days of turning 18 or 30 days of entering the United States. Women must meet the same mental and physical health qualifications as men, and eligible women who fail to register for the draft shall receive the same penalties as men who fail to register.

Results to be Expected:
The United States Military will become more diverse by gender, race, and ethnicity. There will be a decrease in sexist attitudes towards women in the armed forces and an increase in female active-duty and high-ranking officers. This rise of female empowerment will increase the quality of life and mental health of women serving in the armed forces. With more women in the field comes an increase in decision-making skills and fewer disciplinary problems overall. Requiring women to register for the draft would increase the size of the military, which is steadily decreasing, and automatically connect all Americans with their military.
Proposal #400
Author: Sophia Sprague, Delegation: District of Columbia

Title:
To completely and absolutely abolish any form of conscription, selective services, and the draft.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Selective Services, the United States Military, all men ages 18-25, and all previous Conscription Acts

Justification:
Every year the United States spends upwards of 23 million dollars maintaining and informing young men of selective services. However, the United States government has not utilized the draft since 1973 and has since used an entirely volunteer army that as of 2014 is around 1.3 million strong. Men who do not sign up are not provided with federal aid or other such benefits including, but not limited to, financial aid for school, federal job training, and some federal employment. Originally, there was a fine of up to $250,000 in place for not signing up, however, the federal government no longer enforces it. This creates an uneven burden on citizens who must sign up because they must do so under threat of not receiving financial aid, yet the government is not obligated to punish ‘draft dodgers’ and can easily maintain selective services. According to Credit Suisse in a 2015 report, the United States had a far superior volunteer army compared to the conscripted armies of Russia, Israel, South Korea, Egypt, and others when graded on active personnel, aircraft, tanks, attack helicopters, aircraft carriers, and submarines. Moreover, only 20% of everyday Americans are actually qualified by military standards to serve, making a draft very difficult to institute if the military wanted to continue meeting its own standards. Even ignoring all this, it’s important to point out that in a 2007 Gallup poll, 80% of Americans believed that a draft should not be reinstated, showing that conscription is anything but popular. Finally, if the draft were to take place in a time of war, conscripting extremely inexperienced civilians as soldiers would ultimately be detrimental to the military, as the draft is enacted when troops are needed swiftly, which gives draftees insufficient time to train. Not only that, but the chance of a war occurring that would require the United States to draft additional troops is small, and even ignoring the unpreparedness of newly drafted troops, the numerical advantage would not be great enough to tip the war in U.S. favor.

Proposal for Action:
All citizens of the United States will have their names removed from selective services. From that moment there will be no requirement to place one’s name in any form of conscription and there will be neither a wartime nor peacetime draft as it will be entirely abolished.

Results to be Expected:
The United States military will remain unaffected in times of war and peace. Male citizens will no longer be pressured to join selective services and will have equal access to federal aid as female citizens who have no requirement to sign up.
Title:
Create a “Base Realignment and Closure” Commission to Close 50% of U.S. Military Bases Abroad

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Defense, U.S. military bases located abroad

Justification:
The United States operates approximately 800 formal military bases in over 70 countries around the globe. From both a fiscal and diplomatic standpoint, the scale of this practice should fall into serious question. From a fiscal perspective, the United States should not be spending $71 to $120 billion of the military budget each year on maintaining foreign bases, many of which are in places that are stable for the foreseeable future, while infrastructure domestically crumbles to a grade of D+, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. The DOD itself reported a 33% excess in Army infrastructure in 2017. Looking at the issue from a diplomatic standpoint, the effects of US military bases on everyday citizens are often negative. Military bases can create zones of rampant sexual exploitation right outside of their borders, such as in South Korea, where human trafficking coupled with prostitution is common to “camp towns” near bases. Constructing bases also can displace local populations, ranging from people on the tropical island of Diego Garcia to Greenland. Even with these inherent issues, military bases are still necessary in some capacity within the current framework of US foreign policy. However, considering that Britain, France, and Russia have only 30 international bases combined, operating 800 seems even more superfluous. We should be seeking other pathways for diplomacy with our allies.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will utilize the pre-existing structure of a BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) commission in order to close 50% of US military bases abroad. BRACs have been called five times since 1988 and usually have focused on optimizing military infrastructure within the United States’ borders. A BRAC entails a commission of nine members, appointed by the president, who review, edit, and approve a list of bases which the Department of Defense deem necessary to close. However, in the pursuit of closing 50% of U.S. military bases abroad, this process would be reformed so that the independent commission would be delegated to create the list of bases to close with only the necessary input from the DOD. Also, in contrast to BRACs of the past, this process would focus on bases abroad, rather than those located within the United States. Areas in which bases would be expected to close include:

Western Europe
Sub-Saharan Africa
Australia
Japan
South Korea
The Philippines

Results to be Expected:
In re-evaluating and shifting the presence of the United States military on the global scale, newly available funds would be reverted towards domestic, civilian infrastructure rather than towards the ever-expanding military-industrial complex. The United States would also shift diplomatic policy further away from displays of raw military power and towards peaceful aid and support. The enactment of this proposal would allow our country to maintain its military might abroad while also creating a deeper understanding of our limits as a superpower.
Title:

Granting Automatic Naturalization to Military Members

Major Areas to be Affected:

US military, non-citizen US military members, Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Justification:

Approximately 40,000 immigrants serve in the U.S. military, with 5,000 noncitizen soldiers typically enlisting each year. As of 2016, approximately 511,000 immigrants were veterans. These soldiers have never been granted automatic citizenship, but were offered an expressed pathway to citizenship. However, President Donald Trump reversed the expedited pathway to citizenship in 2017. Currently, immigrants serving in the army are required to negotiate through a plethora of bureaucratic obstacles, along with completing a series of excessive background checks when attempting to gain citizenship. The average time of the naturalization process is 8-12 months following application. Our country should be promoting military service for immigrants, diversifying our troops and making use of their lingual and cultural knowledge. Fighting for a country is one of the highest showings of patriotism, and serving the United States proves dedication, honor, and many more attributes of a fine American citizen.

Proposal for Action:

After completing at least a year of honorable service within the US Armed Forces, the immigrant will be granted naturalized citizenship. The soldier will need to prove enrollment in the military by the showing of their contract to their local immigration office, and then pass the US citizenship test. If an influx of immigrants requires the expansion of immigration offices, money will be allocated from the defense budget to cover the cost. An additional background test will not be necessary for citizenship, as the military members underwent one upon enlistment and green card application.

Results to be Expected:

More military involvement will be expected as a result of this proposal. This will not only diversify our military, but grow its size as well. A military with a larger immigrant population will help strengthen our country's cultural, lingual, and diplomatic skills. It will promote the bettering of the behavior of potential enlisters who wish to join the army, and create well trained, disciplined citizens. America will be more patriotic as a whole with the implementation of this proposal.
Title:
To End Discrimination in Car Insurance Rates

Major Areas to be Affected:
Car Insurance Companies, Federal Trade Commission, Car Owners

Justification:
In the United States, certain groups are unfairly discriminated against through their car insurance rates. Prejudicial rates are based on uncontrollable factors, such as gender, marital status, and location. Applicants that are male, single, or live in neighborhoods deemed “unsafe” are subject to deliberately higher rates. Though insurance companies back these up with statistics that show these groups as more likely to get into accidents, they reduce the affordability and, as a result, ownership of cars, especially in low-income families. Since males’ car insurance rates are significantly higher than females’, parents who only have sons may not be able to get their children cars, and thus have a harder time getting them to school. As they age, unmarried people’s car insurance takes up significantly more of their income than it does for married couples, leaving them with less money to spend on essential items like food. Since many low-income families have no choice but to live in dangerous neighborhoods, they, in many cases, cannot buy a car. Those living in these neighborhoods pay up to four times more than those living in other neighborhoods. Working people living in these areas have to spend their hard-earned money on significantly higher insurance rates. If they are unable to afford a car because of these extremely high rates, they may also be unable to get to work if they live in a city where the reach of public transportation is inadequate.

Proposal for Action:
Car insurance companies will be banned from setting or raising their clients’ insurance rates based on gender, marital status, or location. However, this does not bar companies from setting or raising insurance rates based on other, legitimate factors, such as accident history. This will be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission. If a company is accused of setting or raising rates based on these factors, there will be an investigation and hearing by the Federal Trade Commission. If guilty, the company will be required to refund the cost of the unfairly raised rates. The company will also pay a $7,000 fine for each person whose rates it unlawfully raised.

Results to be Expected:
Eliminating discriminatory car insurance rates enables more Americans to afford a car rather than rely on public transportation. In many places, especially sparsely-populated areas, public transportation is not an option. Also, older people who are unable to walk to bus stops or train stations need a personal vehicle. For these people, driving to work is a necessity. Owning a car also helps Americans retain their autonomy, instead of relying on others for transportation. Ending this unfair discrimination furthers the American ideal of ensuring that all people are treated fairly by businesses, preventing insurance companies from discriminating against certain groups. As the United States continues on its path to ensuring fair treatment for all of its people, preventing insurance companies from charging unfair rates is the next step in eliminating discrimination.
Title:
Regulating Offshore Seismic Guns/Air Cannons

Major Areas to be Affected:
Oil and Gas Industries, Commercial Fisheries, Marine Life Preservation, Coastal Communities

Justification:
Marine air-gun blasting for oil and gas exploration is one of the world's/nation's most powerful noise pollutants. The air guns are devices towed behind a ship; they compress and then release air explosively, and the sound waves penetrate the seabed. When they bounce back to receivers, the sound waves depict a map of reservoirs of oil and gas beneath the seabed. However, according to a growing body of research, air guns can harm ocean mammals' ability to communicate and migrate, damage animals' hearing and health, displace fishery populations, and kill vast numbers of zooplankton—which generate about half the atmosphere's oxygen, as much per year as all land plants. The impacts of these noises on animals include hearing loss, massive internal injuries, increased alarm response, and body malformations. Likewise, noises also decrease commercial catches in volume by up to 80% and therefore disrupts countless coastal economies and communities. However, there are alternative methods to seismic surveying, known as marine vibroseis. Marine vibroseis releases the same amount of energy as an air gun but spreads over a longer wavelength, posing less of a threat to marine life.

So why isn't marine vibroseis being used already? In part, because of an incorrect perception that their acoustic output is too low to yield useful seismic images, and more importantly because there has been an unfavorable capital allocation of the R&D budget by companies to fund safer alternatives. However, if ocean noise were better regulated, it would speed up the development and testing of concepts like marine vibroseis and compel natural resource industries to invest in new equipment. As it stands, most seismic surveys require an environmental assessment, but there are no clear rules around noise limits, which allows for unchecked damage. Not only does marine vibroseis produce significantly less noise pollution, but it also is much smaller and more customizable than seismic airguns. Alternatively, marine vibroseis can be used in shallow waters more easily. If oil companies are able to survey more area with marine vibroseis, they can potentially find more oil reserves. It is now the time to enter a new era of marine seismic survey technology and compel the natural resource industry to spur the commercialization of marine vibrator technology.

Proposal for Action:
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will implement regulations on ocean noise and disturbance. Regulation standards, such as decibel or hertz limits, would be imposed on the noise output allowed for seismic guns and air cannons. Additionally, oil and gas exploration will no longer be protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which currently allows for the “incidental” harassment of marine life. All existing permits will be revoked; therefore oil and gas corporations must reapply for permitted use of sound-mapping equipment.

Results to be Expected:
It is necessary to acknowledge the fact that oil and gas companies will not invest money on safer technology unless they are required to. These new regulations would safeguard the natural resources that drive coastal economies from over-exploitation or destruction for the sake of short-term profits. Moreover, taking substantive action would actively work to stop severe harm to keystone marine species and to protect the coastal way of life for communities.
Proposal #485
Author: Samir Ghimire, Delegation: New York

Title:
To Mandate Every State To Provide Free Mental Health Evaluations for All Veterans Who Return From Combat.

Major Areas to be Affected:
All Veterans in the U.S. the Department of Veteran Affairs, State Governments, State Veteran Programs and State Budgets.

Justification:
There are 18.2 million veterans in the United States. A Veteran is someone who has had long experiences in the military. About 50 percent of veterans do not receive the mental health treatment they need upon their return from war. With 200,000 veterans returning home each year, about 100,000 of them will not receive the testing or treatment they may need. Due to that there are 20 veterans who die due to suicide every day. 20 percent of veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD a year. 30 percent of our veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan who have been tested require treatment. Finally 20 percent of veterans have had a traumatic experience, such as combat confrontations, injury or death, which in turn, leads to mental health conditions. The solution to these problems is to make sure these veterans have the option to get the free mental health evaluation. This will be a great solution due to the fact there is a structure in place, money is not an issue and this is something done voluntarily not forcefully. This is feasible in terms of costs because legislation was signed that gives the department of veteran affairs a budget of 200 billion dollar budget. This budget was increased by 12.1 billion dollars in order to ensure the veteran’s quality health care and better access to services and benefits. A regular mental health evaluation costs between $300-550. With the passage of this bill we will allow all veterans to receive the free mental health evaluation that they desperately need, in order to fight these mental illness whether it’s PTSD, depression or schizophrenia. This will be the responsibility of the Department of Veteran Affairs to ensure that the states are running these testing programs. It is unjust that these people, who serve our countries by putting their lives on the line, return home with severe trauma and America is does not aid them in return. So now, I ask you to help thank our veterans by making sure they are ready for life after serving the military and to make sure they are giving them the rights and resources that they absolutely deserve from our country they served.

Proposal for Action:
Allow all military veterans to receive free mental health evaluations. Making it a choice to require all states to make the evaluation free, however it will not be mandated. Making it a choice for the veterans on whether or not they would want this evaluation. If the Department of Veteran affairs does not hold the standards of this proposal, of providing free mental evaluations to returning Veterans, then they will have to return the money they charged the Veteran. In the case they are found with a mental illness, they will then choose whether or not they want to start therapy.

Results to be Expected:
With the passage of this proposal, it is expected that the overall mental health of Veterans who return from combat will improve. As a result of this, we may see a drop in suicide rates of Veterans. Finally, we believe with the passing of this bill we will see a decrease in mental illnesses in veterans.
Title:
Preventing all juveniles from being tried in criminal court and consequently placed in an adult jail.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Juvenile criminals, adult jail facilities, juvenile facilities, rehabilitation programs, and the general public.

Justification:
Every year, thousands of juveniles are tried in adult criminal court, and not juvenile court. Juveniles are people under the age of eighteen. Trying juveniles in criminal court poses a problem, and brain development is a key factor in this. The brain has not been fully developed until the mid 20s, according to "Journal of Adolescent Health" by Sarah B. Johnson Ph.D., M.P.H. This is significant, as it shows that juveniles are not as mentally mature as adults, and yet are still tried in the same court. The court case Roper v. Simmons, it was ruled that the death penalty was too high a punishment for juveniles, as they cannot be held to the same standard as adults. In addition to this, being placed in an adult facility because of being tried in adult court has been shown to harm juveniles. Juveniles placed in adult facilities have a higher chance of being sexually and physically assaulted, are 36% more likely to commit suicide than juveniles in juvenile facilities, and are more likely to be placed in solitary confinement. Also, juveniles placed in adult facilities are more likely to recommit crimes.
The solution for this is to try juveniles in juvenile court. Juvenile court focuses on consequences that are more geared toward rehabilitation, as opposed to the punishment mindset of adult criminal court. Criminal court is more likely to place juveniles in an adult facility, which does not the appropriate programs for rehabilitating juveniles. In Indiana for instance, there are twenty-six different rehabilitation programs that are tailored to fit the specific problems the juvenile has.
Trying juveniles only in juvenile court would allow these children to be placed in a facility that is best suited to help them, and not simply punish them. By trying juveniles in juvenile court, it gives them more opportunities to learn from their mistakes and become functioning member of society. The true purpose of the justice system is to deter, protect, and rehabilitate, and by trying juveniles in juvenile court, it keeps the justice system going where it should go; in a positive and helpful direction.

Proposal for Action:
By passing legislation, the United States government will require that juveniles be tried in juvenile court, and consequently placed in a juvenile facility, not an adult prison or jail.
All juveniles will be placed in a rehabilitation program suited to the crime they committed, and make it so that they can become a functioning member of society.

Results to be Expected:
By requiring all juveniles to be tried in juvenile court, many people would be affected. The general public would be safer, as juvenile criminals would be more successfully rehabilitated. Also, more juveniles would be safer, as they would be out of adult facilities. Juvenile criminal recidivism rates would decrease, resulting in a decrease in criminal activity, and a safer environment for everyone else.
Title:

A Constitutional Amendment to allow Legislative Referral

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States government, the Constitution, the American electorate, and the American public.

Justification:

The first words of the constitution read “We the people.” Under the concept of social contract, the government derives it power from the electorate, elect representatives to draft and pass laws. Yet it seems that in this era of intense polarization, of left versus right, elected politicians are not responding to public opinion and enacting change. As the parties become more rigid, issues such as gerrymandering and voter suppression, which infringe on the principles this country was founded on, will only increase. Despite growing divisions between the parties, the American public still largely agree on important issues that are not being tackled in Congress. For example 85% of people believe there should be background checks for gun shows and privates sales. 62% believe marijuana should be legal. 83% percent believe undocumented immigrants should be given a pathway to citizenship. This proposal seeks to provide another avenue for political change; a pathway which will circumvent current problems, such as gerrymandering, that are infringing on the power of the electorate.

Proposal for Action:

The proposed Amendment to the Constitution read as follows:

Section 1: A member of Congress may propose a bill to committee with the intent of it being issued to the public for referendum.

Section 2: If the proposed bill passes in standing committee, a select committee with no partisan majority shall be formed to determine if the proposed bill affects the majority of American people. If this is decided to be true, then the select committee shall determine when the referendum shall take place and other relevant details.

Section 3: In order to pass into law, the bill must receive a ? (60%) majority vote by the electorate in favor of its passage.

Section 4: The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Results to be Expected:

More political power will be given to the people.
Title:

Requiring presidential candidates to have a background in economics and political science before they can run

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States government, political parties, American constitution, future candidates

Justification:

In the year 2016, our current president, Donald Trump, was elected. He ran for presidency with no type of political experience. He is not the only president to do this, as others include; Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, Herbert Hoover, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Although they still met the qualifications of the people. They still should have to some degree experience being in control of a sizable community of people, ie; mayor of a city or governor/public official of a state. “People disagree about what character traits are most important in a President. But there are some commonly accepted things that people look for, such as integrity, strength, and caring.” says Sean Stewart Price, the author of the junior scholastic article, “What Makes a Great President?” , regardless of the great things they accomplished, were not educationally suited to be in office the time they served. Knowing what to do is a big part of being the president.

Proposal for Action:

Giving candidates with no experience the chance to be trained by experienced public officials to gain the experience they need, and have to run for a local or state level office such as; mayor or governor/state official.

Results to be Expected:

We will be presented with more candidates who will have more knowledge of running a large community of individuals and will be better equipped to handle difficult decisions that require more than opinions and feelings but facts and statistics that give liable reasoning for the decisions the president makes.
Proposal #084
Author: Ryan Golemme, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
An Amendment to Return Congressional Authority

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States Congress, the Executive Branch, the Federal Government, State Legislatures, the U.S. Constitution.

Justification:
Article I invests all legislative power solely in Congress, which is one reason why it is the only branch originally intended to be elected democratically (albeit more indirectly with the senate). Only Congress could pass laws, as the founders feared that investing legislative power in a singular ruler would make them unaccountable and lead to despotism.

However, Congress has grown extraordinarily feckless in the past decade and has ceded numerous powers to the presidency, often to avoid the responsibility of work or making difficult votes. Among other things, the president can singlehandedly initiate quasi-wars in other nations, create new taxes, restrict immigration, and section off vast amounts of land, all of which flies on the face of separation of powers.

The Supreme Court has contributed to this diminishing legislative authority as well by ruling that the Constitution “implies” Congress could delegate its explicitly legislative powers (J. W. Hampton v. US) and that courts can defer the meaning of certain laws to the executive branch rather that the legislature (Chevron v. NRDC).

This abdication has real consequences today. The US has gotten involved in numerous expensive foreign conflicts, like Vietnam and Yemen, without any input from Congress. Presidents make sweeping quasi-rules with executive orders that flip back and forth each time a new president comes in. Economically consequential laws and regulations that affect people’s livelihoods, like tariffs, can be created by the executive branch without any semblance of democratic or representative approval.

Congress rarely gets a say on many policy decisions, and even when they do it is after the fact when they have become too ingrained to be changed. Investing so much power in a single leader has historically been destabilizing for democracies, and legislatively unaccountable executives have often led to increasingly authoritarian governments, most recently in Turkey, Russia, and Venezuela.

As such, given how this is a deep structural problem, an amendment is needed to explicitly return all federal legislative powers to Congress. If Congress chooses not to act in a given area, then state legislatures can step up and pass laws themselves, as the framers originally intended in the Constitution. An amendment is the only feasible recourse to fix this, and even if it fails it forces Congress to vote on it and to confront the reality of what they are doing.

Proposal for Action:
An amendment to the U.S. Constitution shall be proposed as follows:
—All legislative powers explicitly given to Congress in the Constitution cannot be delegated to or usurped by any other branches.
—Any new enforceable law or regulation must be passed by Congress, though the executive branch can develop ideas, gather research, and make recommendations for new policies.
—In any court case where the meaning of a law is unclear, Congress shall be called upon to properly define it.
—In any law giving the president special powers in an “emergency”, congress must vote to approve the use and direction of said powers, and can vote to invalidate their use at any time.

Results to be Expected:
Congress will have an increased amount of duties and tasks and will function more properly as a legislature. Congressmen will have to make more votes and focus more attention on their roles. The presidency and bureaucracy will diminish in power and return to a more strictly executive function while Congress will become more central to legislative policy. Legislative policy will be more accountable to voters, and congressional elections will become much more politically and civically important in the country. For any actions not undertaken by Congress, state legislatures will be able to step up if they feel action needs to be taken.
Title:
A Proposal to Reallocate Funding for Advancement of Nuclear Power

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, Department of Energy Nuclear Research Initiative

Justification:
Currently, 63.5% of the United States' energy derives from non-renewable resources, and only 19.3% comes from nuclear energy. The US depends on energy that is projected to run out in the next 50-100 years. Not only is the country on track to deplete its primary source of energy, but it also spends close to 1 trillion dollars annually on fossil fuel energy alone. This combination of a dying fuel source and extortionate prices is leading the US down a road it may never recover from.

Proposal for Action:
As of now, the federal government grants 4.6 billion dollars in tax cuts and subsidies to coal and oil producers. The US must reduce the tax cuts and subsidies for non-renewable energy sources, and put these funds toward nuclear energy. Oil and coal refineries will still receive a portion of these subsidies, but just enough to sustain the US energy supply. By allocating this money toward the research and development of nuclear power, the government will be encouraging a reliable energy supply that is not mere decades away from depletion. These newly allocated funds will go toward the Department of Energy's Nuclear Research Initiative fund, which will then be distributed to individual production facilities.

Results to be Expected:
Upon implementation, the US can expect to see an increase in research and development of nuclear energy and an initiative to begin producing more nuclear energy. The low cost of producing nuclear energy will lead to economically friendly energy prices. Ultimately, the US can expect to see cheaper energy, cleaner air, and a reliable energy source for the future.
Title:

Enactment of REINS (Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny) to Corral Executive Overreach

Major Areas to be Affected:

The Executive Branch; Legislative Branch; U.S. Economy

Justification:

The three branches of government, Executive, Judicial, and Legislative, exist in equilibrium, maintaining a system of checks and balances so that one branch does not become too powerful and thus subjugate the remaining branches to that power. However, there exists today an imbalance of power between primarily the executive and legislative branches. The executive branch has the ability today to enact what are classified as “major rules”, defined as rules which have economic impacts of 100 million dollars or more, without congressional approval. These acts often times have severe economic impacts. In the last 10 years, there have been 75 executive pieces of legislation or major rules, which have combined to add a 38 billion dollars drain on the American economy annually. This 38 billion is in addition to the 1.75 trillion dollars already added on by major rules enacted by the Executive branch prior to 2009. To stop adding billions and possible trillions of dollars into an economic budget that we already cannot afford, the REINS act must be adopted to stop Executive overreach and restore the three branches of government back to their proper Constitutional balance.

Proposal for Action:

The REINS act is to be immediately adopted and implemented by means of an executive order by the president of the United States. Under the REINS Act, the Executive branch will submit all rules that will cost 100 million dollars or more for Congressional review before they are enacted. Congress will also review all past rules enacted by the Executive branch which costed the U.S. economy 100 million dollars or more and will be able to redact any rules or regulations which they disapprove of.

Results to be Expected:

The Executive branch will no longer be able to enact rules costing 100 million dollars or more. If Congress redacts a significant number of Executive rules, then the U.S. economy could stand to have hundreds of billions of dollars of unnecessary costs lifted off its shoulders. As a result, the American people would be troubled by fewer burdensome taxes.
Proposal #215
Author: Anna Weber, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
Randomizing the United States House of Representatives

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congress, U.S. Citizens eligible to run for Congress, Democratic and Republican parties

Justification:
Some of the most pressing issues facing our government today have to do with accountability and corruption. As a whole, politicians have a tendency to put their own (or corporate) interests ahead of those of the American people which they serve. The House of Representatives is often referred to as "The People’s House," yet, representatives do not always represent their constituents to the fullest extent possible. Randomizing the House would be a sweeping anti-corruption, anti-partisan, and pro-transparency measure.

Proposal for Action:
Amend Article 1 of the Constitution to read as follows: “The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members, chosen randomly every second Year such that each Congressional District has representation.” Any person eligible to run for Congress under the old system is eligible to be selected for the House under the new system. Serving in the House will be considered a civic responsibility similar to jury duty, and therefore exemptions that apply to jury duty would apply to serving in the House. After serving, reselection is not possible. The Senate would not be affected by this proposal.

Results to be Expected:
As a result of this proposal, the role of special interests will be lessened, partisan politics will decline significantly, and the House of Representatives will become a more diverse and truly democratic body.
Title:
The Widespread Implementation of Hydrogen Storage

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of Energy, energy companies (i.e PSEG, Con Edison, NextEra, etc.) and the worldwide automotive industry

Justification:
In the modern world, humanity uses an incredible amount of energy. Consumption of energy comes in many forms, from keeping the lights on to causing our cars to start and beyond. As a result, an enormous amount of energy is required to power all of the modern devices that require it. We have primarily used fossil fuels to address these energy demands. However, while fossil fuels provide a great amount of energy, they also create a large amount of waste products that harm our environment. While alternative energy sources have begun to address the problem of pollution, they have their own shortcomings and inefficiencies that cause them to fail to meet power grid demand and prevent them from stemming our pollution problem.

This proposal provides a different perspective. Rather than finding new sources of energy to challenge fossil fuels, what if we were to work to find ways to utilize excess energy and reduce inefficiency? The solution may be a developing technology known as “hydrogen storage”. Hydrogen storage is an experimental process by which hydrogen is extracted from water through the process of electrolysis. Excess energies from solar panels and wind turbines power an electrolyser that makes electrolysis possible. Hydrogen atoms are separated from the oxygen atoms that make up water in this process, and those atoms are then stored for later use as an energy source. Hydrogen is an ideal choice as a means of energy because it has the largest energy content of any fuel source (120 MJ/KG) and, when burned, only gives off water as a byproduct. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) uses hydrogen energy to power their rockets for takeoff, leaving almost no pollutants. While still in development, many governmental organizations, including the United States Department of Energy, have begun tests using hydrogen as a fuel source for cars, finding that with only 5-13 KG of hydrogen, a modern day car has a greater than 300 mile driving range. While these results come from small-scale preliminary tests, they provide a potential window into the energy production of tomorrow. With additional refinement, Hydrogen storage can become a more efficient and environmentally friendly means of providing energy for people and companies across the nation - and across the world - than the fossil fuels currently in use.

Proposal for Action:
The government of the United States of America should focus additional discretionary funding of approximately $2.5 billion to the Department of Energy for research toward the widespread usage and development of hydrogen storage. Actions to be completed include:
The designation of funds for the research and development of hydrogen and hydrogen storage as a means of renewable energy and renewable energy storage.
The designation of qualified persons to conduct the aforementioned research.
Appeals to international bodies, including the United Nations and other affiliated bodies related to energy and environmental protections (i.e. the World Energy Council, United Nations Environment Programme, etc.) for international contributions to the research and development of this technology, and for the potential implementation of hydrogen storage as a means to optimize renewable energy sources.
The research and development of the most efficient method for storage and use of hydrogen, including but not limited to: The conversion of excess wind and solar energy to electrolyzers for electrolysis of hydrogen, beginning with preliminary testing in the United States and then expansion to other nations.
The optimal integration of stored hydrogen into energy systems both domestic and abroad.
The potential of hydrogen storage to positively affect major industries outside of primary energy industries both domestic and abroad (e.g. automotive industry, consumer electronics industry, appliance industry, etc.).
The most effective means of converting energy into hydrogen through electrolysis, and the most effective means of re-electrifying said hydrogen for use as an energy source.
The most effective means of use for stored hydrogen in terms of safety to the user(s).

Results to be Expected:

Should this proposal be implemented, the world will be able to take the next big step toward protecting our environment and begin to step into a new age of renewable energy sources. Hydrogen storage, if fully optimized and developed, can address both inefficiencies in current renewable energy sources and the mismatch in power grid demand both domestically and across the world, leading to a healthier planet for both our generation and generations to come.
Title:
To decrease the vulnerability of U.S. citizens and their interests by improving the safety and security the nation's power grid

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. citizens, power companies, electricity-dependent persons and institutions (hospitals, individuals on life-support, airports, etc.), Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Transportation

Justification:
Like all technology, the various components of the electrical system that has been the core of U.S. development and advancement over the past century reach points of expiration or obsolescence; the U.S. power grid is well past its prime period of functionality. Due to its age and general vulnerability, the current conditions of the U.S. power grid present challenges to the safety of the nation.

Natural disasters impact the U.S. Power grid significantly. In recent years power outages ("blackouts") have become more common and severe. In 2017 alone, 36.7 million Americans were affected by grid outages, which is more than twice the 17.9 million affected in 2016. This is partially a consequence of climate change, as storms with increasing frequency and intensity strain aged hardware that require constant repairs. As damage becomes more extensive and far-reaching, the necessary repairs become more complex and the period of time necessary to mend hardware increases. To some, outages may seem to be an inconvenience at most, but the reality is that individual lives are put at risk every time the power grid fails. Persons receiving electricity-dependent treatment or life support care in hospitals as well as persons in transportation vessels or facilities with electrically-powered safety systems may immediately fall victim to life-threatening conditions in the instance of a power failure. It should also be noted that power surges and outages affect electronic preservation devices for medical equipment, foodstuffs, and other perishable items.

Additionally, the U.S. power grid is at risk for both physical attacks and cyber-attacks. As has been observed in recent instances where terrorists or hackers have targeted power substations in California, the impact of physically or digitally inflicted damage to hardware in a specific area or region may lead to system failures extending far beyond state borders. Many cyber-criminals, often referred to as “hackers”, possess knowledge that enables them to infiltrate power supply systems and private information illegally. Magnetic disruptions resulting from explosions, nuclear reactions, or solar storms may disable the entirety of the nation's electrical systems. The threat posed to national security and well-being by the lack of protections upon our power grid and its components leave the U.S. vulnerable not only to hacks and data loss, but nuclear bombings, invasions, and further attacks on our population.

Proposal for Action:
The first initiative is the general strengthening of the hardware and components that make up the U.S. power grid. Development of new materials and modules to be implemented in place of current components as well as the actual replacement of aged structures with these newly-developed durable resources would significantly diminish the likelihood of power failure and revitalize the nation’s electrical systems. Additionally, secondary system redundancies to mitigate potential disruptions or structure overloads should be put into place. In many areas of the country and its territories, above-ground power lines are vulnerable to malfunction in the instance of large or small scale natural disasters and thus could be more easily protected if relocated to subterranean structures as is common in many more recently developed regions.

Funds should be diverted towards the installation of automatic switch networks and Fault Location, Isolation and Service Restoration (FLISR) systems to decrease the length of time needed to identify, locate, and repair outages. Fluctuations in voltage and current disruptions indicative of outages are automatically recognized immediately when they occur by FLISR computer systems, often reducing the period required to restore service from hours to minutes. Though these programs are still in their infancy and are somewhat costly to deploy, they will increase long-term safety and productivity.
Safeguarding the power grid to ensure that it is impregnable should be highlighted as a national priority. The security of the U.S. power grid can be significantly upgraded through investments in increased data and system encryptions. Additionally, the development of more secure physical structures at power plants and substations is in order if defense from physical attacks and invasion is to be implemented.

**Results to be Expected:**

Replacing current systems with upgraded modules and more durable structures will combat the trend of frequent and increasingly-severe power surges and outages and likely decrease the loss of productivity and life that results from such issues. By prioritizing cyber security at the very core of national advancement, the vulnerability that plagues current electricity-dependent developments in the U.S. can be diminished.
Title:
To Reform the Treaty-Making Process in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Congress, federal executive offices, the Office of the President of the United States, state legislatures and executive offices, federal courts, people within the United States

Justification:
Over the course of its existence, the United States has ratified over 1,500 treaties. During this time, the treaty-making process has remained the same—the President signs a treaty and, with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate, it is ratified. However, over the years, many errors in this process have come to light. To begin with, there is no requirement that the United States government respect or comply with these treaties. As such, many of them go partially or completely ignored. This is especially evident in cases of weapons and defense treaties. Furthermore, there is not a constitutional basis for how to deal with withdrawal from treaties, and current custom allows the President of the United States to withdraw from any treaty at will, without consulting any other branch of government. Treaties are also incredibly difficult to create, as they require a 2/3 majority from the Senate, and as such many Presidents have turned to executive orders, which do not require ratification.

To maintain the image of the United States as a reliable partner in the international community, it is necessary to show a true commitment to our word. This proposal adopts an amendment that would make treaties legally enforceable, creates a procedure for nullifying treaties, simplifies ratification, and establishes jurisdiction for legal questions regarding treaties. These reforms will address many of the problems in our treaty-making process that have come up over the years, improving our ability to properly utilize treaty making as a peacemaking tool.

Proposal for Action:

Introduce an amendment to the United States Constitution that would:
1. Mandate that the federal and state governments recognize, enforce, implement, and comply with international law.
   a). This will only apply to international law that has been fully ratified, and would not apply to laws later nullified by the Senate.
2. Grant the federal judiciary jurisdiction over all cases dealing with violations or clarification of international law.
   a). Decisions made by the International Court of Justice, as well as other international courts recognized by the United States, will be recognized as legal precedent for such cases, but only the decisions of the federal judiciary of the United States will be recognized as law.
3. Change the vote threshold for ratification of a treaty to a simple majority of the Senate.
4. State that the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of a simple majority of the Senate, may withdraw from treaties that were previously ratified.
   a). The Senate may withdraw from treaties without any action taken from the President, but only if they vote to do so by a two-thirds majority.

Results to be Expected:
The U.S. will be seen as more reliable in the international community, relations with foreign allies will be improved, negotiations with foreign powers will go more smoothly, use of treaties may increase, use of executive agreements may decrease.
Title:

To illegalize previously convicted felons of violent, financial, and sexual crimes from running for Federal office.

Major Areas to be Affected:

If this were to be adopted it would affect all government position holders, and all politically active U.S. citizens.

Justification:

Some states have laws prohibiting felons from running for state office. However, at the national level, there are no such requirements. This is not only unfair, but unethical and immoral. As a politician, you are not only expected to create and modify the laws, but to uphold them as well. If a citizen commits a felony, they lose their right to vote but not their right to run for office. How, as American citizens, are we supposed to trust these people to make unbiased and useful decisions within our government, if they themselves have broken those very laws?

This is an issue that needs to be addressed at the national level because this directly affects every American citizen. As a politician, you typically do not highlight your worst qualities, and past mistakes. This means that any citizen could unknowingly cast their vote for a candidate who was previously convicted of a crime. This raises the question, which of our current officers have convicted a felony in their past? Would it not be much more comforting to know that the very people we trust with the law have never been caught breaking it?

Proposal for Action:

Make it illegal for anyone who wishes to run for office and has a previous financial, sexual, or violent felony. The officers which are already in office may continue their term, but will not be able to return to a government position afterwards. This will ensure that the positions being held in all federal government systems will be occupied by peoples of integrity and responsibility. Crimes committed that do not fall under financial, sexual, and violence categories will not affect any current, or future politician.

Results to be Expected:

If this proposal be implemented, there never again will be a government position held by someone who has in their past committed a felony. This ensures that you can be confident with every vote you cast that the candidate is fit for the position.
Title:

A Proposal To Reduce the Voting Power of the United States Senate on Legislation Passed by the House of Representatives

Major Areas to be Affected:

The Congress of the United States of America, American Citizens

Justification:

The Senate is inherently undemocratic because of how it apportions each Senator since each state gets two Senators with no regard with how large each state is. This means that Wyoming, with its 577,737 people, has the same amount of representation in the Senate as does California, with 39,560,000 people. This effectively means that a Wyominite has 68 times the voting power of a Californian.

This regressive representation means that the smallest 25 states have 50 senators but only have 18% of the population of the United States, whereas the biggest 9 States have over 50% of the population and only 18 Senators. Ultimately, this means that 18% of the population can control what legislation does and does not pass through the Senate -- as opposed to the House of Representatives, which is apportioned according to population, where any proposal must get the approval of approximately 50% of the population.

In addition to these structural issues, the Senate has procedural measures that are well suited to obstructing legislation that has been already passed by the House. Any one Senator can put a hold on a bill and stop it from going forward. Since these holds can be anonymous, Americans are unable to even hold the Senator accountable. In short, a bill that is supported by a majority of the population the United States may fail in the Senate due to a single Senator putting a hold on the bill indefinitely. Although many bills die in Congress in this manner, others fail to get out of committee due to partisan politics and it not being scheduled or are stopped by a floor filibuster. Often, the mere threat of a filibuster may stop legislation from even reaching the floor. Finally, individual Senators have a disproportionate amount power often: one or two Senators become the deciding votes on legislation and drive the entire legislative agenda of the senate.

The Senate has lost its original purpose. Originally it was meant to represent the states in the national government. However, following the passage of the seventeenth amendment, the senators were no longer elected by state legislatures and became representatives of the people of a state, rather than a representative the State as an entity. As such, this proposal aims to restore a democratic balance to the institution of the Senate by balancing the rights of the states with the rights of the american people as a whole.

Ways that House legislation can be stopped in the Senate: fail on the floor, fail in committee, fail in subcommittee, not be put on the committee/floor calendar, floor filibuster, or a Senator placing a hold on a bill.

Proposal for Action:

Implement the following changes to the powers of the Senate

Suspensive Veto: If the Senate votes with a simple majority of “No” votes on a House Bill then it may invoke a Suspensive Veto on the legislation. When invoked the House may take up the legislation after 1 calendar year from the initial House vote, unless there has been an intervening election, and pass the legislation with an absolute majority of 50% + 1 of the House’s entire membership and send it to the president without the Senate’s consent.

Absolute Veto: If the Senate votes with a 2/3 majority of “No”, a House Bill then it may exercise an Absolute Veto over the legislation where the bill may not be taken back up by the House for the remainder of the Congressional Term.

Senate Inaction: If the Senate fails to hold a floor vote on a bill within 30 legislative days of the House’s passage of the bill then the House may pass the bill again with an absolute majority and send the bill to the president without the Senate’s consent.

Conference Committee: If the Senate exercises a Suspensive or Absolute Veto then the presiding officer of either chamber may establish a conference committee to attempt create a compromise bill that be presented to both chambers that may not be amended.

Appropriations: The Senate may no longer amend appropriations bills from the House. These bills may only be delayed by Suspensive Veto or Senate Inaction for 14 calendar days.

The following things will stay the same: 2/3 vote in both chambers to overturn a Presidential Veto and propose constitutional amendments. The Senate keeps its powers of “Advice and Consent” for treaties and presidential appointments. Senate can keep its own rules such filibuster. Senate legislation still requires a majority vote in the House.
Results to be Expected:

The Congress of the United States will pass laws that are more representative of the desires of the majority of Americans. A very small minority of people will no longer be able to prevent legislation passed through the House of Representatives. It will also become easier to pass important legislation. Government shutdowns are less likely to happen and be shorter when they do occur. Congress shall pass laws in accordance with the wishes of the American public as well and prevent obstruction of legislation.
Title:

A Proposal to Ensure that the United States Can Achieve Heightened Levels of Green Energy Usage and Security by 2050.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

As the Earth is being degraded by climate change, negligent human activity, habitat loss, rising water levels, animal extinction, sea ice breakdown, etc. the United States consumes an exorbitant amount of energy - 90% of which is from nonrenewable sources. It is generally assumed that fossil fuels and other nonrenewable energy sources are justified because they are generally easy to source - however this is false as these resources are being used at practically unreplenishable rates and have a ghastly cost to the environment. Meanwhile, the current structure of the Department of Energy fails to prioritize renewable energy sources which are the key to preventing the Earth’s demise.

Proposal for Action:

In order to achieve renewable energy security by 2050, it is crucial that the United States takes larger steps to do so. This proposal suggests the following:

I. Restructuring the United States Department of Energy
   a. Grant the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) semi-autonomy under the Department of National Defense as this would allow NNSA independence from the Department of Energy, as well as the opportunity to balance their work and research between the Department of Defense and their own coordinating interests. The Department of Energy will still be responsible for interests in nuclear power.

II. Incorporating the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy under the Department of Energy to monitor and ensure that the following checkpoints are met:
   a. 25% renewable energy by 2025
   b. 50% renewable energy by 2033
   c. 75% renewable energy by 2040
   d. 95% renewable energy by 2050

III. Prioritize renewable and green energy funding by means of altering the structure of the Department of Energy’s budget.

IV. Modifications to the United States Department of Defense
   a. By 2025, the United States Department of Defense shall take financial and resourceful responsibility for the NNSA, including the management of the nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear nonproliferation, cybersecurity, and more.

V. Increasing Hybrid and Electric Car consumer tax credits and electric charging station accessibility.
   a. By boosting the the tax credit from a maximum of $7,500 to a maximum of $10,00, more consumers will purchase hybrid and electric cars.

Results to be Expected:

Through the restructuring of the United States Department of Energy, modifications to the United States Department of Defense, and incentivizing electric and hybrid car sales (as they can run on electricity and thus green energy), this proposal seeks to take action to aid in lessening climate change and environmental degradation as well as place the United States in a state of energy security propelled by green and renewable energy.
Proposal #384
Author: Daisey Gotsch, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
The removal of a total of 30% of the federal bureaucracy over 20 years

Major Areas to be Affected:
Cabinet Departments, Independent Agencies, Regulatory Agencies, Non-Profitable Government Corporations

Justification:
It is common knowledge that the United States is swimming in debt, and internal waste increases this debt on a daily basis. It is easy to push blame for this debt and the real truth of the matter is that there are many causes and therefore many solutions, but one simple solution is cutting back on the large misuse of resources occurring within the bureaucracy. There is increasing evidence of billions wasted every year within the bureaucracy, through pointless jobs, or even jobs being performed multiple times. In 2016 it was discovered that The Pentagon has hidden evidence of 125 billion dollars of bureaucratic waste, and even with the waste being brought to light not nearly enough is being done to solve it. A quick google search will uncover hundreds of academic papers outlining how and why the bureaucracy is so inefficient, and it is time to change that. While removing this waste would barely scratch the surface of the mismanagement of money within the United States, it would at least slow the rising of debt. The bureaucracy is only necessary to a certain extent, and by stopping it from expanding beyond this extent the United States could save billions.

Proposal for Action:
A temporary, special, committee would be formed for the oversight of this action. The areas listed above as being affected would be given the option to begin making necessary cuts themselves, or allow the committee to assess what within the department is considered wasteful. A total of 1.5 percent would be removed from the total bureaucratic budget each year over a 20 year period, meaning that if some departments were able to prove less waste they could experience less cuts, and vice versa. The budget being cut would be the most recently approved budget and would be adjusted each year according to inflation in order to ensure a steady wage for those employees deemed necessary and the continuation of necessary actions by the bureaucracy.

Results to be Expected:
The cutting of the bureaucracies budget over this period of time would force better money management without causing major disruption to the lives of regular citizens. Due to the nature of budget cuts some people would lose their jobs, but this small loss would benefit the country as a whole and is therefore a necessary evil.
Proposal #396
Author: Anjelica Dry, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
Reconstructing the United States Constitution every 50 years, to retain relevance.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Justice System, citizens of the United States, United States Congress.

Justification:
The United States Constitution was adopted in 1787, a time when only white, land-owning males, over the age of 21 could vote. Since that time, the US Constitution has only been amended 27 times. The last being over 25 years ago. The United States and the world as a whole has changed since then. The Constitution should take into account modern day concerns and viewpoints, including events and world affairs.

Proposal for Action:
A revised United States Constitution would be presented via U.S. Convention that would include the following:

A Convention of Leaders from all aspects of United States culture, meeting every 50 years.

The convention meets to decide if revision are needed to the current constitution.

One elected representatives from each state along with one representative from each cabinet of the United States.

Changing “We the People” the first line of the Preamble to include every member of the nation.

The term “We the People”, at the time, originally was only intended to include white Christian males.

Changing “We the People” to include every citizens, not just caucasian males.

Providing a clear definition of every amendment, to have a unified interpretation of the meaning of each amendment.

No rights or punishment should be taken away from any group of people.

This includes but is not limited to women, sexual orientation, disabilities, race, religious beliefs, and gender identification.

For an amendment to pass, there must be a two-thirds majority vote.

Results to be Expected:
Decrease in confusion of the constitution. Along with a less-discriminatory justice system.
Proposal #401  
Author: Ian Gould, Delegation: Kansas

Title:  

Major Areas to be Affected:

• Corporations in any way involved in the generation of electricity via nuclear fission or fossil fuel combustion, including the extraction and refinement of fuel and/or the storage of waste.
• The Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Depository.
• The United States Department of Energy.
• The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
• Nuclear scientists and engineers across the nation, both current and prospective.

Justification:

Put bluntly, nuclear power is good. It produces far fewer emissions than fossil fuel combustion, takes up less space and is more reliable than renewables, and is more efficient than both. Unfortunately, nuclear power has been hindered by several factors.

Firstly, nuclear power plants are expensive to build and to run. This bill would offer generous subsidies for the construction and operation of nuclear power plants. It would also guarantee access to larger low-interest, low-risk loan guarantees. This is so private companies feel more financially secure in investing in nuclear power. This proposal would also increase the budget for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to compensate for increased development of nuclear infrastructure.

Secondly, nuclear technology has been advancing at a sluggish pace. Most nuclear reactors in the United States are Pressurized Water Reactors, which was the very first type of reactor to be developed in the 1950’s. PWR’s are not particularly efficient nor safe nor technically impressive, but the sluggish pace of nuclear R&D have kept them as practically only option. Ever since the Manhattan Project concluded in 1945, the federal government has been the driving force in nuclear technological development. But once the cold war escalated, nuclear armament took center stage and nuclear power was left to the wayside. This bill allocates billions of dollars for the development of new nuclear technology, principally Thorium technology.

Thorium, also known as Uranium-233, has been proposed as an alternative fuel to Uranium-235. Though no Thorium reactors have yet been built, Thorium has been modeled to be several times more efficient than Uranium-235 with as little as 1/100th the waste output. Thorium is also 3 times more common in Earth’s crust than U-235 and far less expensive and dangerous to mine. The only barrier to constructing this new generation of nuclear reactors is technology. Research on Thorium reactors began in 1965. This research produced a prototype that operated for 15,000 hours. However, in 1973, research was discontinued as the less complicated Uranium technology had already been established. Scientists estimate that, had research continued, the United States could have achieved complete energy independence by the year 2000. This proposal would re-open Thorium research so that this goal may be realized in the near future. The development of a viable Thorium reactor will take money, time, and brilliant people. This proposal allocates at least $10 billion, gives a period of 15 years before that funding expires, and creates a generous scholarship program so that young people interested in nuclear science and engineering have a path to begin contributing to that field.

The final problem with nuclear power is that all forms of nuclear reactors, including Thorium, produce radioactive waste, which is difficult to store and dangerous if stored incorrectly. In 2002, the United States authorized a facility in Yucca Mountain in Nevada that would store all nuclear waste safely deep underground. Unfortunately, the project was put on hold indefinitely in 2011, largely due to fearmongering by certain politicians. In the absence of a safe facility, nuclear waste has been stored on-site in dry casks made of steel and concrete, a process that is expensive and can result in leaks. In addition, the US government signed a contract in 1998 with utility companies promising to dispose of nuclear waste for them, a contract it has been in breach of, obligating the US government to pay utility companies $300-500 million annually in compensation. This bill would authorize the completion of Yucca Mountain and store all nuclear waste there to ensure the development of nuclear power, the safety of the American people, and significant savings.

This proposal would have a total cost of $22.09 billion immediately upon passage. It would pay for itself in 9.2 years, given a reduction in costs.
The United States cannot continue to operate on fossil fuels, which are harmful to the planet and in limited supply. Nuclear power is a viable alternative, and this proposal means to take any and all reasonable action in support of it.

**Proposal for Action:**

**Subsidies and Incentives**
- The Production Tax Credit for nuclear power shall be increased from 1.8 cents per kilowatt/hour to 2.2 cents per kilowatt/hour.
- The United States will spend no less than 10% of its budget for Energy-Related Tax Preferences on nuclear power and no more than 15% of said budget on fossil fuels.
- The United States shall allocate $21 billion for Energy-Related Tax Preferences, up from $18.4 billion.
- Any and all facilities whose primary purpose is Thorium-based nuclear power and/or refinement of Thorium-based nuclear fuel shall be free from all federal taxes for 10 years following its completion, provided the facility remains operational.
- The corporate welfare allocated to corporations involved in the extraction, refinement, and/or combustion of fossil fuels shall be reduced by 10% per year for 10 years.
- The maximum Federal Loan Guarantee for the construction of advanced nuclear power plant shall be raised from $18.5 billion to $30 billion.
- The maximum Federal Loan Guarantee for the construction of uranium (thorium included) enrichment facilities shall be raised from $4 billion to $5 billion.
- The Federal Loan Guarantee for "clean coal" plants, which carries a maximum of $8 billion, shall be abolished.
- The budget of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be set to $1.4 billion, up from $970 million.

**Research and Development**
- The budget for Nuclear Research & Development shall be increased from $922 million to $15 billion.
- No less than 66% of the budget for Nuclear R&D must be used for the development of Thorium-based Nuclear Power. The Department of Energy shall determine how the remainder of the budget is allocated.
- The budget for Nuclear R&D shall be revisited after 15 years to assess whether Nuclear R&D shall achieve its goals.
- The budget for coal power R&D, which currently stands at $522 million, shall be eliminated.
- $1 billion shall be made available for the creation of a federal scholarship program for students pursuing careers in nuclear science and engineering.

**Waste Management**
- Construction of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Depository shall be resumed immediately. The facility is to be made operational as soon as possible.
- Upon completion of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Depository, all current and future waste produced by nuclear power facilities shall be stored therein.
- Upon completion of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Depository, a 12-month transition period will begin wherein the Department of Energy will reimburse all costs to transport any nuclear waste currently stored in dry cask storage to the Yucca Mountain facility. If any waste has not been moved to Yucca Mountain by the end of the transition period, the responsible parties will be fined $1 million per month until the waste is moved.
- $200 million will be allocated for the construction of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Depository as well as waste transportation costs. This allocation shall be discontinued after construction is completed.
- All personnel involved in the completion and operation of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Depository and/or the transportation of nuclear waste shall be defined as essential and thus may not be furloughed in the event of a government shutdown.

**Results to be Expected:**
- A large-scale increase in the construction and operation of nuclear power plants across the United States, accompanied by a gradual phase-out of fossil fuel power plants.
- The construction of a commercially-viable Thorium Reactor and its gradual replacement of pressurized and boiling water reactors.
- The completion of a safe and effective place to store nuclear waste, resulting in a decrease in harmful radiation leaks and a significant monetary saving on behalf of both utility companies and the federal government.
- Ultimately, a reduction in carbon emissions.
Proposal #413  
Author: Ayesha Nasir, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
To extend full House voting privileges to all six non-voting members of Congress, which includes delegates and the resident commissioner from D.C. and the U.S. territories.

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, District of Columbia, the United States House of Representatives.

Justification:
The United States House of Representatives is comprised of 435 members representing constituents spanning the 50 states as well as six additional members representing U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. Each member, delegate, and resident commissioner (delegate who represents Puerto Rico specifically) reserve the right to serve on a select, conference, and/or standing committee. Similar to traditional members, delegates and the resident commissioner are allowed to vote in committees, but unlike members, they are prohibited from voting on the full House floor. Votes in committees for delegates and the resident commissioner are not a right but a privilege granted by the voting House and can be continued or ended at the discretion of the members. Territories are inadequately represented due to full house voting restrictions on legislation. When delegates and the resident commissioner are temporarily granted floor privileges by the House (dependent upon majority party in power) votes are not considered decisive and can be easily revoked. The lack of voting security for districts that represent U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals abroad is in fundamental contradiction to our nation's founding principles.

Proposal for Action:
Establish statutory voting privileges for the resident commissioner and five delegates when the House is meeting as a Committee of the Whole. All six members will retain their respective titles of “resident commissioner” and “delegate” thus distinguishing themselves from U.S. representatives, remaining in accordance with Article I Section II of the Constitution and House Rules. The delegates and resident commissioner will represent their constituents, with election cycles remaining the same as determined by their respective districts.

Results to be Expected:
By guaranteeing voting privileges, the United States will fully manifest our founding principle of equality. This proposal serves as the foundational beginning of equalizing rights for all U.S. territories, paving the way for future legislation regarding inclusion, taxation, elections, and potential statehood.
Title:
A proposal to eliminate the “nuclear option” in the United States Senate and maintain the rights of the minority party

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Senate

Justification:
In Alexis de Tocqueville’s seminal study of the United States, he noted with alarm that while tyrannical abuses of power do not frequently occur in America, there exist no barriers against them. He saw the tyranny of the majority as the greatest threat to American democracy.

Such a tyrannical majority is currently a threat in the United States. In the Senate there exists a parliamentary procedure loophole known as the “nuclear option.” It enables the majority party in the Senate to invoke cloture and change the rules of debate with only a simple majority, rather than the typical three-fifths and two-thirds respective majorities (known as Rule XXII). It works as follows: after a failed cloture motion, a point of order is raised by the majority leader asking to interpret Rule XXII such that only a simple majority is required to invoke cloture on a certain type of business. Once the presiding officer declines, the majority leader can appeal the decision and overturn it with a simple majority, effectively changing the precedent.

This “nuclear option” was first used in 2013 by Democrat Harry Reid as a temporary measure to push through executive and judicial nominations. In 2017, Senate Republicans took that precedent and further limited minority rights by extending the option to Supreme Court nominations.

A system where the rules are bent to advance the agenda of one party while silencing the other and leaving it hungry for revenge is a dangerous and unsustainable one. A less efficient Congress is a small price to pay for the right of everyone to fight for their beliefs.

Proposal for Action:
The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration ought to pass a resolution eliminating the “nuclear option.” The resolution would prohibit different interpretations of Rule XXII, requiring in every Senate a three-fifths majority to invoke cloture, and a two-thirds majority to change any Senate rules—unless a two-thirds majority decides to reverse this resolution.

Results to be Expected:
Eliminating the nuclear option will ensure that the majority party does not drown out the minority party. Although this may make it more difficult for Congress to enact legislation, it will encourage cooperation across the aisle to pass important legislation, helping to heal the polarization in the country.
Title:
Combating Climate Change with Nuclear Power

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
With finite resources and large negative externalities, fossil fuels need to be phased out. Still, the G7 Fossil Fuel Subsidy Scorecard measured the US against other G7 countries on each country’s progress in eliminating fossil fuel subsidies. The US ranked the worst out of the G7 countries, spending over $26 billion a year, in the form of research grants, tax expenditures, and direct expenditures, propping up fossil fuels. Some argue that the best way to do this is with renewable resources. However, these sources are not efficient enough at generating energy to fulfill the needs of our country. With our energy consumption continuing to rise, renewable sources cannot logically and cost-effectively meet our energy needs. The one energy source that can be highly efficient and carbon neutral is nuclear power.

Many people are fearful of nuclear power because of a couple of unfortunate and preventable accidents and that it shares its name with a weapon. Nuclear power is not generated in the same way a bomb would be created, meaning comparing it to nuclear weapons is inaccurate. According to many researchers, all other forms of energy are actually responsible for more deaths. This is because carbon-based fuels produce air pollution that leads to the deaths of thousands every year and the making of other energy is also harmful to air pollution. In fact, the mortality rate of nuclear power in the US is 0.1 death/kWh, compared to coal, 10,000/kWh, natural gas, 4,000/kWh, and even hydro 5/kWh. Furthermore, out of all energy sources nuclear and wind have the smallest carbon footprint producing only 15g of CO2 per kWh.

Currently, about 19% of our energy comes from nuclear power, and the potential for growth in that number is huge. The main reason the amount of energy produced by nuclear sources has stagnated is because of the cost of building and starting up a nuclear plant. The US Energy Information Administration estimated that for new nuclear plants to go into service in 2019, capital costs will make up 74% of the cost of electricity. These costs are so high due to the necessary safety regulations needed to open a new reactor. Once the opening stage is complete, the cost of making nuclear power is very low and competitive with fossil fuels. This is shown in France, where 74% of their energy is nuclear, and they have 26.5% cheaper energy costs than the average in Europe. They are also able to export energy and bring in 3 billion dollars annually.

Proposal for Action:
I. The Department of Energy will work to eliminate all subsidies for the carbon-based fuels of coal, oil, and natural gas in the United States Budget
II. The money saved, and additional funding added together to equal no less than $26 billion per year, will be distributed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to the nuclear industry in the following ways:
   A. 80% to defray the cost of government regulations in the construction and maintenance of nuclear power plants
   B. 15% in grants to the research and development of more efficient and standard nuclear reactors
   C. 5% in grants to research into nuclear fusion technology

Results to be Expected:
With nuclear power now more incentivized, more nuclear reactors will be built, and the share of energy produced in the United States by nuclear power will increase. The fossil fuel industry will be phased out with an increase in nuclear power. This increase in nuclear power will help combat climate change. While some jobs in the fossil fuel industry may be lost, more jobs in the nuclear industry will be created.
Proposal #517
Author: Grace Alberts, Delegation: Wisconsin

Title:
An Act to Require All States to Adopt a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) of at Least 50% of Overall Energy by 2035 and 100% of Overall Energy by 2050.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Earth, the environment, and all of its inhabitants (i.e. global population, utility companies, animals, public service commissions, and fossil fuel plants).

Justification:
Renewable energy is currently the least expensive form of energy in the world. RPS is a goal that many states, colleges, utilities, and other organizations have already adopted to increase their production of energy from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal. As of 2019, twenty-nine states have adapted these regulations. According to Berkeley University, California has a current RPS of “50% of electricity comes from renewable sources by 2050”.

The prices of fossil fuels are putting a drastic dent in the country’s economy. The cost of these nonrenewable sources lead to the fare of business operation and goods being more costly in the states. A report done in 2009, states that by 2050, America will spend four hundred fifty billion dollars on fossil fuels alone.

A main concern today is unemployment. As the world continues to be drained of fuels, the employment of the fossil fuel production continues to decline. In 2017, the renewable energy industry employed 10 million people around the world. This number continues to rise.

What experts forget to take in account is the amount of money spent and lost on horrific nuclear, coal, and other fossil fuel spills and disasters, and health care associated expenses. According to BBC Press, the Fukushima nuclear disaster clean-up is over $180 million ($20 trillion yen) and continuing to rise. Presently, the planet is still suffering from the spill. By enabling renewable resources, the United States would not only help to prevent further disasters, but also help protect the environment as a whole. This includes the factors of climate change.

Proposal for Action:
This legislation will require that each state mandates the 50% RPS by 2035 and the 100% RPS by 2050 for total renewable energy by whatever means necessary (appropriate for each state). The federal government will work with the individual states to help assure a smooth transition. Because of the wide variety of utility configuration throughout the country, there will most likely be different procedures required.

For example, most public utilities are under the direction of state public service commissions, making it necessary for the public service commissions to adopt the proposal’s listed RPS. Cooperative utilities have other procedural requirements for adopting policy. An annual increase to offset existing fossil fuel production at a rate of 3.3%, will achieve the 2035 and the 2050 goals. However, due to individual state circumstances, they could vary this rate to accommodate their specific needs and circumstances to reach the goal.

Depending on the state, it might make more sense for them to increase at a different rate based on the economics of the renewable energy technologies and the decommissioning of the fossil fuel power plants.

Results to be Expected:
The inaction of this proposal will force the United States to help slow down climate change. This legislature will also have the potential to prevent wars over resources and rigid foreign relations. Inevitably, there will no longer be a need to import fossil fuels, making the United States more independent as a country.
Proposal #541
Author: Claire Bolash, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
Amend procedural rules of the United States Senate to require all bill amendments to be relevant.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States Senate and the citizens of the United States of America.

Justification:
Non-relevant, or nongermane, amendments have often been used by United States Senators as a means of blocking a bill from being passed (poison pill bills) or to pass legislation that would not stand on its own (riders). These amendments are not in keeping with the wishes of the majority and frequently waste taxpayer money. Senators also trade support for riders or poison pill bills for legislative favors. An effective way to ensure that the people govern for the people, rather than for their party or themselves, would be changing the procedural rules of the Senate regarding amendments so that they are the same as those in the House.

Proposal for Action:
1. Amend the procedural rules of the United States Senate to adopt Clause 7 of Rule XVI of the procedural rules of the United States House, which reads “No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.”
2. A germane amendment will be defined as an amendment with the same fundamental purpose and subject matter as the bill in debate, which will be decided by the Chair.
3. The Senate may move to suspend the rules of germaneness if they so desire to open up the floor to nongermane amendments.

Results to be Expected:
An end to the partisan weaponization of amendments to block the passage of bills and an inability to pass legislation incapable of standing on its own.
Proposal #543
Author: Emma Roski, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
A Proposal to Establish a Board of Governors

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congress, Governors, the legislative process, and State Constituents

Justification:
Each state has two Senators and a different amount of House Representatives that is proportionate to their population. However, this is not enough representation for the states in the Federal Government. A Board of Governors would allow each of the states and their constituents to have a more direct influence on Federal legislation. Since Governors are located closer to home, it is easier for constituents to lobby and directly influence them compared to their Senators and Representatives in D.C. These Governors can then act on this and in return directly influence federal legislation in favor of the people in their states. This allows for the constituents voices to be heard more in the legislative process.

Proposal for Action:
An amendment to the Constitution will be added and read as follows:
A Board of Governors, consisting of a governor from each of the 50 states, will have the power to override any act by Congress within a 10 day period of its passage in both chambers. 2/3 must vote nay in order for this veto to pass.
If the veto does pass, the act by Congress will return to the chambers for revisions. The Board will then have the ability to override a second time within a 5 day period of its passage in both chambers. If the veto passes again, the act is officially dead.
If the veto does not pass, the act will continue on to the president.

Results to be Expected:
The states will have a greater role in preventing unfavorable legislation and constituents will have a greater influence in the legislative process.
Title:

Government shutdowns to be prevented by mandating continuing resolutions; and withholding congressional salaries and requiring Congress to convene each day while a continuing resolution is in effect.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Congress members, federal bureaucrats.

Justification:

From December 22, 2018, to January 25, 2019, the United States endured the longest government shutdown in its history. 53 thousand TSA employees were forced to work without pay. 9,424 immigration court hearings were cancelled, just in the state of California. Over the course of the 35 days that the government was shut down, 3.65 billion dollars were accumulated as payment owed to federal workers. During this shutdown, the government not only abused, but directly endangered its citizens.

Even more bewildering, this was the third shutdown to occur just during the Trump presidency. Yet, there are no legal provisions put in place that would prevent an event like this from happening in the future. It is imperative that America learns from its mistakes. The looming threat of shutdowns is something that federal bureaucrats and concerned Americans should not have to face. The amendment provided in this proposal guarantees that a horrific event such as this will never happen again.
Proposal for Action:

1. Propose a constitutional amendment that mandates continuing resolutions for all congressional budget proposals; and withholds congressional salaries and mandates that Congress convene daily while such continuing resolution is in action.

2. Propose an amendment as follows:

1: If any appropriation measure for a fiscal period is not enacted before the beginning of such fiscal period, or a joint resolution making continuing resolutions is not in effect, there shall be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to continue any program, project, or activity for which funds were provided in the preceding fiscal period in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding period; or, if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal period did not become law, then in a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal period.

2: Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal period pursuant to this provision shall be at a rate of operations not in excess of 100 percent of the rate of operations provided for such appropriations Act or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal period.

3: Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal period pursuant to section 1 for a program, project, or activity shall be available for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in appropriations and ending with the date on which the applicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal period becomes law (whether or not such law provides for such program, project, or activity); or a continuing resolution making appropriations becomes law, as the case may be. An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal period pursuant to section 1 shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made, or funds made available for the preceding fiscal period.

4: The preceding shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal period if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations by continuing resolution) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.

5: If a pay period occurs during a session of Congress during a period described in section 1 of this amendment, the payroll administrator of each House of Congress shall deposit in an escrow account, and exclude Congress Members from, the payments otherwise required to be made, with respect to that pay period, for the compensation of each Member of Congress who serves in that House of Congress. Such administrator is to release the amount deposited in such escrow account to such Members of Congress only upon the expiration of the period described in section 1 of this amendment. The amount deposited in such escrow account during such period of time shall be equal to the rate of Congressional pay under current law, with respect to the length of such period.

6: On each day on which appropriations and funds are made available pursuant to section 1 of this amendment, including weekends and legal public holidays, each House of Congress shall convene and hold a quorum call of its members.

Results to be Expected:

A period of government-shutdown will no longer be possible for the United States federal government. Additionally, the passage of new budgets for proposed fiscal periods will be incentivized, thus making congressional budget proceedings more efficient.
Proposal #567  
Author: Elias Chen, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
A Resolution resolving, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), that the Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. relations with the United Nations, Diplomatic talks with the DPRK, Negotiations between India and Pakistan, Relations with China, U.S. posturing as a nuclear power and nuclear threat.

Justification:
After over half a century of effective steps toward the elimination of nuclear testing, the United States has lost its place as a leading figure in efforts toward nuclear peace. Since the Eisenhower administration, the U.S. has been forging treaties to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, in doing so, taking steps toward the safeguarding of the American people. But with the recent dismantling of international nuclear policy, the legacy of disarmament passed down from countless bipartisan measures under Republican and Democratic administrations is under threat.

Ever since the height of the Cold War, the United States has been a bastion of reasoned and rational measures to prevent annihilation. Considering the incalculable damage posed by nuclear weapons, it would be foolish at the present time to deregulate threats of this magnitude. Nuclear weapons and the development of nuclear weapons must be monitored to maintain peace. The ability to implement monitoring systems will drastically improve diplomatic relations, as there should be no doubt as to the opposing party’s nuclear capabilities and extent of their nuclear programs.

The ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) would be a singular moment after over 60 years of international efforts toward deproliferation. The gravity of over 140 signatories cannot be overstated, and it is incumbent upon the United States to shepherd meaningful action. The total prohibition of nuclear testing for any purposes is the culmination of a lifetime of efforts by the international community and heralds the coming of a new age of international peace. Our fostering of a new global conversation around disarmament will usher in a new understanding of arms control in the modern era. Furthermore, due to the complex nature of nuclear testing, the treaty’s creation of a systematic monitoring program will hold nuclear states accountable for the first time in history.

Proposal for Action:
Congress shall resolve to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and so declare the United State’s full support to furthering measures of disarmament and all other systems of nuclear monitoring.

Results to be Expected:
While the ratification won’t immediately correlate to full implementation, our full support can expect to increase pressure on the seven other remaining required countries who’ve yet to ratify (India, Pakistan, Israel, DPRK, Egypt, Iran, and China). The measure would put further political pressure on China, the only other Non-Proliferation Treaty signatory to not yet ratify the CTBT. The ratification will increase public dialogue on disarmament and nuclear weapons in the modern era, putting areas of nuclear hostility into the global limelight; diplomatic focus will emerge on the India-Pakistan conflict. There will likely also be a reignition of diplomatic talks with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in order to discuss their signature of the treaty.
Title:
Proposal to Add Commercial DNA companies to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

Major Areas to be Affected:
Commercial DNA companies, Commercial DNA customers, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Genetic data buyers

Justification:
By the start of 2019, more than 26 million Americans have used at home genetic testing and are completely unaware of HIPAA’s involvement. In 1996, Congress passed a federal law named the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) designed to protect medical/health information provided to health plans, doctors, hospitals and other health care providers. HIPAA only applies to an organization if it is either a “covered entity” or the business associate (BA) of one. Since then, at home genetic testing such as 23andme, Ancestry and MyHeritage have been popularized and do not fall into HIPAA’s category of health/medical information. With this, millions of consumers’ data are being unsafely stored and used.

DNA Testing companies frequently sell their customers data to pharmacies, universities and cosmetic establishments for research purposes. According to an article by Forbes, 23andme has sold access to its database to at least 13 outside pharmaceutical firms. One buyer, Genentech, paid $10 million for the genetic profiles of people suffering from Parkinson’s. The constant trading of data for financial gain opens a drastic gap in unprotected information. Hacks, data leaks and misuse of information are only bound to happen in a matter of time, leaving millions of Americans oblivious to what can become of their genetic data.

Proposal for Action:
The Food and Drug Administration will push Congress to amend the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and include all at-home genetic testing to its requirements. Congress will increase its scrutiny to these companies past transactions of their consumers’ data and oblige them to issue a transparent statement of what has occurred and the new set rules of at home genetic testing. These companies are required to notify their customers if they were among the many whose data was sold and allow them to have an option to remove it from all databases. Consumers who consensually agree to the selling of their genetic data will receive a detailed report of who receives their information and what will become of it.

Results to be Expected:
At home DNA testing companies will begin to gain a trustworthy reputation. With that reputation, customers can begin to use these services for their advantages such as preventing or even curing possible diseases. Companies will be able to create safer databases and learn how to properly manage all approved genetic transactions and become more aware of the genetic buyers’ intentions.
Title:
A Proposal to Utilize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Develop Natural Disaster Prevention and Notification Methods in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Department of the Interior, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, state and local agencies directly involved in disaster relief, residents of disaster-prone areas, taxpayers, military budget

Justification:
According to a statement released from the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters and the United Nations, the average number of natural disasters reported each year increased more than 60 percent in recent decades compared to the twentieth century. As disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires continue to ravage the United States, more resources are required to clean up the damage and the human cost continues to rise. In 2005, 1,833 people died in Hurricane Katrina because flood levees failed to control water levels. Just this year, 91 people died in the wildfire in Paradise, California and over 26,000 residents were permanently displaced from their homes, costing the state more than $3 billion. These examples, as well as many others, demonstrate how ill-prepared the United States is for mitigating the cost of natural disasters, and how the system is reactionary - rather than preventative - by design.

Disaster prevention and notification systems are severely lacking in the United States, but there are solutions to help solve these problems. For instance, wildfires can be detected using thermal imaging cameras that can be used to automatically send out evacuation messages to local residents, and damage from hurricanes can be mitigated through flood levees and improved evacuation routes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a branch of the US military that conducts major infrastructure projects all over the world, both domestically and abroad. Their mission statement is to provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation’s security and energize the economy. They operate through the use of the U.S. military budget, which currently is at an all-time high of $686 billion.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ mission statement will be expanded to include the development of disaster prevention and notification systems in the United States. Congress will be required to allocate a portion of the current military budget each year to be used by the Army Corps of Engineers to work on disaster prevention projects at their discretion. The Army Corps of Engineers will work with adjoining government agencies, such as the Department of the Interior and FEMA to approve disaster prevention and notification projects. The exact allotment of funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ and the specific steps the organization will take in fulfilling their mission statement will be determined case by case each year, based on a determined level of risk of natural disasters.

Results to be Expected:
The United States will be better prepared to withstand natural disasters and mitigate both economic damage and loss of human life. Using its expanded mission statement and budget, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will likely increase its domestic operations and recruit both military engineers and civil contractors. Over time, the federal government will make a profit on its investment, as damage will be decreased and the cleanup associated with natural disasters will not be as pertinent.
Title:
To Incentivize the Creation of a Whale Milk Industry in America

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Dairy Industry, The United States Department of Agriculture, The Agricultural Industry, the conservation movement, Whalers

Justification:
Every year in America dairy cows produce the equivalent of 32 billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere through flatulence. Further, this industry perpetuates the abuse of animals for the purpose of economic efficiency, when in reality this efficiency does not exist. While statistics are still few and far between on feed efficiency for dairy cows, studies have shown that even in the most genetically "gifted" dairy cows, pounds of feed per pound of milk produced still isn’t anywhere near equal, inflating the price of dairy. Further, the planet is facing the environmental issue of vast extinction. 200 to 200,000 species will go extinct each year, and the impact this has on the overall ecosystem is immeasurable. But these issues all seem highly separate, is it possible to solve all of them at once?

Proposal for Action:
According to the Natural Environment Research Council, commercial whale milking is “not impossible”. It may seem completely and utterly foolish to think that incentivizing the milking of whales is a solution to any issue set out above; but it poses a surprising number of benefits. Firstly: whales assist substantially in ocean carbon absorption. Their movement facilitates the spread of food to carbon-absorbing lifeforms, and their fecal excretions produce food for plants which absorb carbon dioxide into the ocean. This absorption means that, in spite of the fact that whales DO fart, they still remove more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than they add. As well, the feed efficiency for a whale is vastly better than for cows. According to Dawn Noren, a research fishery biologist for NOAA, “you need to have a relationship with the whale” before you can milk it. What this necessitates is no cruel treatment, and often, a lack of captivity for wild whales. This natural requirement of free-range whales means the only feeding you do is when you persuade them to come ashore for milking. This combined with the fact that you get roughly 40 times the amount of milk from even a small whale than a dairy cow means that economic efficiency is truly optimized with whales much more so than with cows. Finally, the almost completely obvious solution for reducing extinction events is by economically encouraging the growth of whale populations. The original cow herd was made up of roughly 13 cows thousands of years ago. Today there are roughly 10,000 to 25,000 blue whales alone, and placing economic benefit on protecting this population has numerous positive environmental implications; especially considering the vast number of roles the whale plays in the oceanic biome.
Therefore I propose the following actions by the U.S. Government:
Reallocation of half of the current dairy subsidies (roughly $20 billion) towards subsidizing the creation and implementation of a whale dairy industry,
Create a requirement for subsidy that the company use “free range” tactics (defined as a method of livestock raising in which animals roam freely) and,
Requiring that the U.S. Navy defend burgeoning whale dairy farmers according to applications received via the office of Defense Pricing and Contracting.
Through the implementation of these reforms we can shrink an oversized dairy industry, improve our situation regarding global warming, promote conservation, and optimize our economy. All just by drinking different milk.

Results to be Expected:
While not immediate, the dairy industry will shift from using primarily cows to using primarily whales for milk. We will have made a substantial step towards reducing our carbon emissions, the whale population will rise substantially over the next century and whale milk will become a new staple of the American diet.
Title:
To clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch by removing and breaking down plastic and plastic fragments.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Global Environment, the Fishing Industry, Human Health, and Marine Life

Justification:
In this modern age, humanity has turned to plastic for the ease of consumption and production. In 2016, 480,000,000,000 plastic water bottles were sold worldwide while takeout containers accounted for 269,000 tons of plastic put into the ocean that year. This modern era has seen an exponential usage of plastic throughout its history starting the day plastic was created. While plastic is not inherently bad, the chemicals inside of it and used to produce it are. Phthalates, BPA, and PVC are just a few chemicals in plastics that find a way into our bodies. These chemicals are toxic and build up over time in our systems, which cause major health problems. Phthalates, for instance, has been linked to causing asthma, an increase of allergies, and development disorders. (MadeSafe.org) These chemicals, however, are not the biggest issue humanity faces from increased use of plastic. The biggest issue is what happens to plastic after someone is done with it.

Every year the average American uses 85 pounds of plastic. In 2014, only 9.5% of plastic used was recycled and 15% used to produce power. Every other piece was thrown away to sit in a landfill where water runoff would lead it to pollute the soil and water. Eventually, this plastic makes its way into the ocean and forms clumps or islands of trash until every piece gathers in one place. One place this happens is in the Pacific Ocean where a large Garbage Patch has formed. As of now, 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic make up just the Great Pacific Garbage Patch where it slowly breaks down into various sizes. It is estimated that the size of the Garbage Patch is twice the size of Texas. The plastic making up this patch comes in four various sizes: Microplastics (0.05 - 0.5 cm), Mesoplastics (0.5 – 5 cm), Macroplastics (5 – 50 cm), and Megaplastics (anything above 50 cm). (TheOceanCleanup.com) Each piece is dangerous in their own separate ways- Mega and Macroplastics wrap themselves around marine animals and suffocate them, while Meso and microplastics are ingested by small fish and even some microorganisms.

Humans should care and need to care about the plastic in our oceans because they have a major impact on marine life and even our own lives. Roughly 700 marine species encounter man-made debris, 92% of it being plastic. 17% of these species are on the Red List of Threatened Species, which is a list of species with a high-risk level of extinction. If you recall the chemicals listed above, you will remember that those chemicals are harmful to humans and also to anything that consumes it. Sadly most of the animals that encounter this plastic do not know any better and eat it in large quantities. For instance, sea turtles within and around the patch can be found to have 74% of their diet made of plastic, which provides no nutritional value and does not leave the animals for a long time meaning no actual food can get inside the creature causing the animal to die of starvation. These animals do not die of starvation though because the chemicals in the plastics kill them long before they can starve. Another issue marine life faces in entanglement with the plastic. This is where things such as plastic nets get wrapped around the animal and don’t come off. Some animals can live with this and only have their swimming hindered, but some animals struggle to take this entanglement off and become so twisted that they sink to the ocean floor and die. Yet, some people look at this and still think why should I care, this does not directly affect me.

The plan proposed will be different from other cleanups because it will focus on all four forms of plastic. Most cleanup organizations focus only on the Mega and Macro plastics, which are easily spotted and can be found on almost every beach. That, however, does not eliminate the entire problem of plastic getting into the food web and causing chemicals to breakdown and harm all marine life. To truly clean up the ocean, you must focus on all four forms of plastic and how best to collect them. This proposal also goes beyond other cleanups because it is focusing on stopping plastic from traveling across the globe on ocean currents by targeting one of the largest gatherings of plastic on the Earth.

Why the US? Why should the US be responsible for cleaning up the trash island when most of it does not even come from the US? The US, no matter what people say, is a global leader and quite a few countries will follow the US’s lead and assist in cleaning up the rest of the garbage patches. Furthermore, this not only benefits the US’s economy by helping create better environments for fishing
Proposal for Action:

A three-phase plan to clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

1. The Planning Phase
2. Mega, Macro and Mesoplastic Cleanup, or the Visible Cleanup Phase
3. The Microplastic Cleanup, or the OEM Phase

Phase one, or the planning phase, will be a time period where the cleanup group will be formed and begin planning how best to zone off and collect the garbage. This group will consist of but is not limited to, the US Coast Guard, Navy, US Army Corps of Engineers, several ocean conservation groups such as The Ocean Conservancy group, The Environmental Defense Fund, Blue Frontier Campaign, and Oceana, NOAA’s National Ocean Service, the U.S Geological Survey agency, and companies who are willing to assist. During this phase, the coalition will plan and create the necessary tools to clean up the Garbage Patch. For example, they will decide what type of boats to use and what type of trash each boat will pick up. During this phase, they will also modify a naturally occurring microbe that will assist in the cleanup process by breaking down the plastic products. This microbe is called an OEM or oil-eating microbe and naturally consumes oil based products. This includes both petroleum and plant-based oils. What will, or should happen, is these microbes will be modified and tested to create an enzyme that boosts the rate at which PET, or polyethylene terephthalate, products are degraded. This enzyme is originally produced by a bacteria called Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6, but the gene will be taken from this bacteria and inserted into the OEM’s.

Phase two will be the first part of the major clean up process. During this time period boats will go around and collect all of the Mega, Macro, and Meso plastics through a skimming process. Simply put, nets will be attached to the back of the Coast Guard and Navy boats and will drive through the trash to gather as much of it as possible. After as much trash as possible can be gathered through this process, the cleanup process will move onto phase three. However, it should be of note that whatever plastic can be placed into the recycling system will be.

Phase three will consist of the microplastic cleanup and will most likely take the most time despite the scale which it is operating on. During this phase, the modified microbes will be released into the ocean and carefully monitored while the microbes breakdown and consume any and all microplastics. The predicted process for this microbe is for it to placed in a central location and to grow and consume its way to the edges of the Garbage Patch. After the microbe can consume all that it can, the microbe will begin to starve and die off. Eventually, there should be no more of the microbes floating around.

Results to be Expected:

The complete and total destruction of the Pacific Garbage Patch
The repopulation of marine life in the affected areas
A system that will attempt to prevent another Garbage Patch from being created
A similar plan to clean up the four other major Garbage Patches in the other parts of the ocean
Title:
To remove and filter waste out of rivers, ponds, and streams.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Citizens, Cleaning Corporations, Clean Water Activists, Fishers, Swimmers, FDA (Food and Drug Administration) DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), and US Department of Health and Safety.

Justification:
Swimming, kayaking, tanning by the river were all activities that used to take place quite frequently. Unfortunately, due to pollution and littering a lot of our once beautiful natural scenic areas are now very run down and their beauty is more difficult to admire. Over 40% of lakes within the United States are too polluted or fishing, aquatic life or swimming. In addition, 1.2 trillion gallons of untreated sewage, stormwater, and industrial waste are dumped into U.S. water. More people die every year because of unsafe and untreated water then they do from all forms of violence. If the water, we are drinking is not safe for us to be drinking then how are we supposed to be able to use it for recreational use. Our rivers, lakes, and ponds are such a wonderful natural creation and we do not take enough care of them. They would be wonderful for recreational use such as swimming, fishing, as well as other aquatic activities. Unfortunately, we have done so much damage forever creating issues with the safety of those activities in those places. In a country such as America where resources never cease to exist there are even some places where you cannot obtain safe and drinkable water.

Proposal for Action:
Unfortunately, there is not an available timely way to accomplish something of this proportion overnight. A wonderful way to start would be to discontinue the putback of untreated water into these water flow systems. At a later date, we could continue the process of cleaning and sanitizing the water that is flowing. By removing waste substances to do away with the physical waste from the water would be the next step. A water filtration system at certain locations throughout the major water flowing systems is another step that could be taken. If we stop the pollution, we just have to right the wrongs of those before us. There are several different companies that work with and that will benefit off of contributing to cleaning up the waterways. As a nation, we will benefit due to more jobs for employment long term as well as short term. Not only will this provide job stability for more citizens it will also economically stimulate the United States.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal will allow these wonderful natural resources to be able to swim in, fished in, and boated across once more. It will help the ecosystems return to a more natural balance which will benefit those to come.
Proposal #156
Author: Keegan Bittner, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
To ban offshore oil drilling on the east coast.

Major Areas to be Affected:
East coast states with direct access to the ocean.

Justification:
With alternative energy becoming more efficient and cost-effective, the need for offshore drilling continues to shrink. In many cases offshore drilling is to no benefit of the states of which the oil rigs work off of. The risk for massive environmental damage far outweighs what the state(s) gain. Many east coast states rely on their coastlines as major sources of income from tourism and the jobs that come with it.

According to the US Energy Information Agency oil use in the US will peak by 2028, which means demand for oil will soon drop. Seismic testing, a method used to find new pockets of oil, which involves shooting large airguns down to the seafloor, each shot as loud as a jet engine. These shots damage the ocean floor and the Interior Department estimates it kills more than 130,000 marine mammals per year.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, that killed eleven people in the Gulf of Mexico and caused over $65 billion in damages is a prime example of what can go wrong and has. The oil spill caused massive pollution in the Gulf of Mexico.

Proposal for Action:
Ban all offshore drilling on the east coast by 2021. Explore and implement alternative energy sources.

Results to be Expected:
Roughly 95,000 jobs would be lost or 30% off all offshore drilling related occupations. However the east coast states themselves would not be affected too much. Most revenue generated by offshore drilling comes the Gulf of Mexico, as do the other 70% of the jobs. East Coast states would benefit from a cleaner and more stable environment allowing tourism and fisheries to flourish.
Title:
A proposal to fix problem dams

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
There are 87,000 plus dams in the United States, impounding 600,000 mi of river or 17% of water in the nation, and 85% of those dams have outlived their average 50-year lifespan, putting lives, property, the environment, and the climate at risk unless they are repaired and upgraded. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (AMSCE) reporting for the National Council on Public works, the US dam infrastructure has a letter grade of a “D-“. The US has received this rating for the last decade due to the fact that the nation’s dams are aging, underperforming, have a lack of care, and due to deferred maintenance. In 2013, the National Inventory of Dams (NID), maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, listed 87,359 dams in the United States. Exactly 17% (14,726) were classified as high-hazard potential and exactly 14% (12,406) as significant-hazard potential. With one-hundred and thirty million Americans living in the inundation area of these failing dams we cannot afford to defer the maintenance on these dams any longer. In order to protect the millions of Americans living in the deadly shadow of these dams, we must create change.

Proposal for Action:
In order to combat our nations failing dams, this proposal will instruct the US Army Corp of Engineers to change their policy of inspecting a dam every 5 years to inspecting a dam every 2 and a half years to better monitor the conditions and the maintenance required to keep these dams from falling into a significant or high-hazard potential category. This proposal will also instruct the US Army Corps of Engineers to use the ASCE Individual state report cards to allocate resources and funding towards the states with the worst grade. After the dams in the state with the lowest grade the Army Corps will then turn its focus to the state with the next lowest grade.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal will help protect over 130 million Americans from potentially deadly flooding from dam failures, increase our dam infrastructure grade, and allow for better water management in the United States.
Title:
Integration of Human Engineered Coral Reefs

Major Areas to be Affected:
Damaged coastlines, Devistadied fisheries, recreational/commercial fishermen, IUCN, NOAA, PEIS CRCP, universities, private and individual corporations

Justification:
El Niño waters have traumatized the Great Barrier Reef. With the ocean water becoming too warm, corals expel algae (zooxanthellae) living in their tissues causing the coral to turn completely white. In just one season coral bleaching, decimated nearly a quarter of the vast ecosystems, which once sprawled nearly 150,000 square miles and provoked the decline of reefs, decreasing from 22 percent to 14 percent from 2016 to 2018. Nearly 25% of all ocean life thrives on coral reefs, making these fragile habitats a necessity to ocean ecosystems. The risk of losing reefs is 90% will be in danger by 2030, and nearly all of them by 2050. Over 500 species of fish alone live on the Florida Reef, the third largest in the world. The Florida Reef Tract now hosts just three percent of the once-dominant staghorn and elkhorn cover that it had in the 1970s. These became some of the first corals to be included on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species, and are both now listed as “Critically Endangered” – one step away from a listing of “Extinct in the Wild”. In 1996, UNESCO designated the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System a World Heritage Site, with the former British colony responsible for protection. It’s a mandate that the country has at times struggled with. By 2009, the site was on UNESCO’s “danger” list, with the organization saying that the country needed to enact better management and safeguards. December 2018, Belize became the first country in the world to put a moratorium on all offshore oil exploration and drilling in pursuit of creating a healthier and more stable ecosystem. Ten years since the report was first issued, the overall health of the Mesoamerican Reef has improved from a 2.3 to a 2.8 however, the scale is out of 5.0. Genetically engineered coral has been created by a team at America’s prestigious Stanford University, in a project they hope will serve as a “blueprint” for future coral conservation. With more than $375 billion per year in revenue from services like tourism, fishing, and 3.5 billion people depending on the ocean for their primary source of food there is no better reason to make the research for a solution a top priority among universities as well as private and individual corporations.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will pass a law requiring the implementation of engineered coral in replacement of all declining reefs within national boundaries and strongly encourage those belonging to international water starting in January 2020. Marine Biology courses in Universities nationwide with a documented feasible solution for the rehabilitation of the reefs will be founded according to research done in order to encourage positive outcomes. Universities will be founded by a coral conservation tax, like that of Belize, placed on all detrimental plastic items by December 2019. If solutions trials results are inconclusive by such a time only those universities/corporations who have supplied the best results thus far will be allowed continued to extend on research for the following 4 years and be funded based on IUCN restrictions/regulations. All the engineered coral will be modified to withstand the rising ocean temperatures and will be placed over previously living reefs in effort to rehabilitate the habitats

Results to be Expected:
Universities along with private corporations will work together to engineer reefs to be able to withstand rising ocean temperatures. Due to the natural migration of fish, will allow for continued growth or reformation of an ecosystem in order to prevent a mass extinction. Also with a growing ecosystem humans will be less likely to out fish our oceans in this decade and those which follow.
Title:
Establishing Water Extraction Limits

Major Areas to be Affected:
Water Bottling Corporations

Justification:
The environmental effects of underground water pumping is completely unknown to the American citizen. If America maintains the rate of water pumping it is currently at, we will drain the country dry of its natural resources. In the year 1995, over 27 trillion gallons were pumped from America's natural aquifers; this being the most current information on the amount of water being pumped. Underground water is what supplies our country with over half of its drinking water. This over pumping if not limited, will leave our country’s natural aquifers dry. The overuse of this natural resource is problematic and if this resource is put at risk so will our water supply. This pumping is disrupting the natural water cycle as the fresh underground water is what supplies fresh surfaces waters. Surfaces waters being such as rivers, streams, and lakes are being completely drained from the over mining of the water. Furthermore, large water bottling corporations make billions from natural water resources. The lack of restrictions or policy on “water mining” leaves companies to drain the natural water aquifers without any restrictions. Each state in America has different restrictions for water mining and can approve of companies pumping. An example being Michigan, who approved Nestle to pump over 400 gallons a minute. Nestle only has to pay a $200 fee to pump. Nestle in 2016 made a profit of 7.4 billion dollars off of bottled water. They make a huge profit and pay next to nothing for it. This large amount of pumping with little to no restrictions leaves towns without protection and companies to exhaust their natural resources. The Underground Injection Control is a very limited outline that is constantly worked around. These federal outlines within the (UIC) leaves the power within states. “provides minimum requirements for the (UIC) program promulgated under the SDWA.” part 144 of the (UCI) regulations. There are little to no rules on what companies can do, and restrictions are mostly left to the states. For example, a town named McCloud in northern California fears that these water companies will drain their natural water aquifers. They receive little to no information of what these companies are doing, although they are aware that the companies are making billions off of them. Nestle once again strikes fear into another town. Nestle proposed to pump 1,250 gallons a minute from McCloud. Reasonably, residents feared that this would drain their above ground waters and then contribute to climate change.

Proposal for Action:
To create a nation jurisdiction for bodies of water to protect from drainage. This would be a federal law that would establish a regulation for amount being pumped from natural aquifers and surface waters. Companies would still be able to pump but not at the current volume that they are at. This would prevent surface water from being drained and allow them to recharge properly also further the longevity of this natural resource. This law would be enforced by United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Results to be Expected:
By putting in place these limitations, this would allow our natural aquifers and ground waters to slowly recharge. Also, water bottling companies would not be able to produce at the same volume. This would protect our environment from further damage.
Title:
To provide a system to regulate and monitor water purification to a higher state than currently implemented to avoid unhealthy levels of minerals and metals in the nation’s water supply

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the American People

Justification:
Clean and healthy water is a necessary life resource that needs to be provided to all people. It is a human right to have access to water. With the current water regulations that are in place via the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the U.S. EPA, several loopholes are exploited by different states across the United States. This tactic is jeopardizing the safety of our people in an attempt to save a few dollars. The effects of it have been seen in elevated levels of lead in Flint and Detroit, Michigan, and elevated levels of other contaminants in poorer rural areas such as most of Idaho; Osage County, Oklahoma; Kings County, California; Hudspeth County, Texas; Taylor County, Florida; and Fergus County, Montana to name a few. The water in these poor areas is of such a low quality because in the overall picture, they are easily overlooked and/or considered to be insignificant.

The effects of having these contaminants in the body can lead to several health issues with prolonged exposure. Particularly dangerous contaminants that are not currently required to be regulated such as zinc and the corrosivity of the water can cause severe damage to the nervous system, the cardiac system, and major organs. If these contaminants continue to go untreated, the percentage of the population that is currently affected will increase, leaving more people with dangerous water in their taps.

Proposal for Action:
The United States Environmental Protection Agency and The Center for Disease Control and Prevention will enforce new guidelines for water testing. They will issue new regulations to the states detailing the following guidelines:

I. All states will be required to regulate the fifteen(15) national secondary drinking water contaminates in addition to the eighty-eight(88) contaminants that are already required by the U.S. EPA.

II. Water districts who test the drinking water supply of any area will be required to publicly disclose their findings.

III. Homeowners looking to sell their homes must get the tap water in said homes tested for the eighty-eight(88) contaminants that the U.S. EPA regulates along with the fifteen(15) national secondary drinking water regulations. They must disclose all test results to potential buyers.

   i. If the water testing comes back with an unsafe elevated level of contaminates, the homeowner will be responsible for replacing the water pipes on the property or supplying a filter on the incoming supply line. The filter can only be utilized if it is deemed possible based on the conditions of the pipes.

Results to be Expected:
With these guidelines in place, the overall quality of water in the United States will be greatly improved. With the contaminates under improved regulations, the health of American people, especially those living in poorer cities, will be greatly improved.
Proposal #194
Author: Selia Jindal, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
Reforming the National Flood Insurance Program

Major Areas to be Affected:
Victims of natural disasters, tax payers, recovering communities

Justification:
According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners’ Center for Insurance Policy and Research each of the 50 states has experienced flooding in some capacity in the past five years. The United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA reported that floods are the number one natural disaster in the United States, for over 90 percent of all reported natural disasters have involved a flood. As extreme weather patterns worsen as a result of changing environmental conditions, the unfortunate reality is that floods will continue to become more common. Rising sea levels and intensified precipitation patterns make floods an even greater concern for our future. Moreover, development increases the risk of inland flooding, as soil, which can absorb water, is often replaced by concrete surfaces. Thus, flooding is not purely a regional, or even a coastal, issue, but is rather a hazard faced around the nation. Since flooding can be unpredictable and very destructive, insurance companies have historically found it too risky to cover. In the 1960s, after large floods devastated homes across the country, the government found itself paying tremendous amounts in needed disaster recovery. The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, which set up the National Flood Insurance Program or NFIP, was then passed. The government resolved to incentivize private companies to provide flood insurance to at risk homes by paying a fee for every flood policy sold, subsidizing insurance in at risk areas, and paying any discrepancies between the amount of money collected and spent when insurance companies faced losses. The intent was to use the pre-existing insurance model, while supporting capitalistic growth and helping citizens recover from floods. However, it unintentionally motivated people to put their personal safety at risk. Roy Wright, the FEMA Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation stated that the government “presumed that if we told people that they were at risk, they would move out because of the risk. That has not proven true.” Instead, the discounted rates have incentivized individuals to remain in flood prone areas.

The NFIP is now $25 billion in debt. The funds are not being used as originally intended. Many individuals purchase beach homes, second residences, or vacation homes on waterfront property. Lavish structures are built in areas where floods are projected to occur. Left to the forces of the economy, insurance companies would recognize the risk and charge increased rates prompting consumers to neglect to accept such terms and resolve to purchase land in a safer area. However with the subsidies, insurance companies take on the risk and increase their profit margins, as the government effectively declares it will foot the bill through the NFIP. Consumers then purchase risky properties at the government’s expense. A policy intended to help citizens struggling to recover from natural disasters is thus taken advantage of by people looking to purchase vacation homes through this loophole. Moreover, repetitive loss properties make between one and two percent of properties and account for over 30 percent of claims. Additionally, 19,600 insurance payments have been made that exceed the property value. For instance, one home in Texas, valued at $55,921, has flooded over 40 times and received $428,379 in claims. The impact of repetitive loss properties can be seen across the nation. On the Gulf Coast of Florida, under one percent of homes account for 25 percent of claims. In Louisiana alone, 7,223 repetitive loss homes have received over $1.22 billion; Avoyelles Parish has 31 repetitive loss properties while have flooded 137 times and received a total of $1,352,211. Furthermore, one in five homes covered by the NFIP is a non-primary residential structure; one in six of those structures is classified as a repetitive loss property. As river patterns change, areas that were not once in danger become increasingly riskier investments, making them harder to sell. Thus, many properties flood frequently and receive government funds each time to help with the process of repairing. Constant repairs can inhibit the ability of residents to focus on things such as their careers and families. Many community members that are socioeconomically disadvantaged cannot afford to construct or purchase homes on higher land. Therefore, they are forced to stay in a dangerous region and constantly face the risk of flooding. Under the current dictation of the NFIP and FEMA programs, many are allotted funds to repair their homes - providing a temporary fix to a long term problem.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal would effectively eliminate the coverage for secondary residential structures, or vacation homes. Thus, incentivizing
individuals to make safer purchases and allowing the resources allocated to the NFIP to go towards helping those in need recover from natural disasters.

Moreover, this proposal would mandate that owners of repetitive loss structures be automatically be granted optional government buyouts; currently the process for applying for a government buyout must travel through numerous channels and takes years in most cases.

**Results to be Expected:**

This proposal aims to reduce the number of individuals residing in high risk areas by offering financial mobility to citizens that feel trapped in flood prone regions. These opportunities would be beneficial to socioeconomically challenged households seeking a safe place to reside, as it provides a long-term solution. In addition, millions of tax dollars would be saved, which the NFIP desperately needs, as it is currently $25 billion in debt. Thus, funding a buyout program would be more cost effective to the alternative of repeatedly investing money in properties that are bound to flood again shortly thereafter. Moreover, this comprehensive approach to reforming the NFIP includes securing the reallocation of resources from beach homes to flood recovery, which would increase the funds and resources available to those truly in need. It is imperative that these disaster mitigation and recovery services are fully operation, especially as storms intensify and floods become even more common. This proposal provides the urgent reforms that are necessary in ensuring the increased longevity and future viability of the NFIP.
Title:
Homes for The Homeless

Major Areas to be Affected:
The homeless within the United States, Cities who have a large homeless population, State Governments.

Justification:
In the United States right now there are about 552,000 homeless individuals and statistics show that this problem is only getting worse. These people have no choice but to make the streets their home, and in some cases are not able to lift themselves above the poverty line. Some of the states that have the most homeless individuals are California, New York, Texas, and Florida. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, San Francisco spent about $54 million dollars on cleaning their streets, which can be largely traced back to their homelessness problem. Another shocking statistic is that a homeless person is three times more likely to die than the general population. The question is; Should the United States take care of its own citizens first? Yemen, a country that has been in a messy civil war since 2014, has been one of the most unstable and unpredictable places on earth. Since October 2017 the United States has given over $721 million dollars in aid which has indeed helped those stuck hardest by the war. However, the United States has a bad history when we deal with the middle east, case in point with the Iraq and Syrian terrorist group named ISIS coming into power. The country does need aid, there is no argument here, however, the United States owes it to its own citizens to give to them first, instead of giving to those of foreign counties.

Proposal for Action:
The United States shall cut 25% of all funding that we send to Yemen each fiscal year, and in turn they shall use it to renovate, build, and maintain homeless shelters across the nation. These shelters in 10 years shall be made part of the United States Interagency of Homelessness budget for the upcoming fiscal years. This proposal does not cut all funding to Yemen; however, it makes sure that a portion of the money and aid that we send overseas comes back to help struggling citizens.

Results to be Expected:
The United States’ problem of homelessness shall be lessened, and thus it will give not only hope to those who suffer on the streets, but it will allow them to better themselves and build up from poverty. This proposal will also increase the number of those who will be able to join the workforce and be contributing members of society.
Proposal #235
Author: Nathaniel Catts, Delegation: Model UN

Title:
Protecting the world’s waterways and cleaning them of toxic waste and trash.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Governments of the world especially those of countries bordering an ocean, and citizens of those countries that live along major waterways or on the coast.

Justification:
Humans are the source of the problems regarding pollution. We are the ones who throw our trash carelessly into the water without realizing the consequences. This trash will then travel and eventually collect together making huge masses of plastic and other garbage throughout the oceans. The mounds of trash are detrimental to the marine life and overall water quality. This immense amounts of trash is also destroying one of the world’s natural wonder coral reefs. If we chose to do nothing to stop trash and toxic waste from polluting the oceans, by the year 2100 the world’s oceans may be too polluted for humans to even swim in and most marine life will most likely be dying off.

That is why we need to begin the act of cleaning the oceans free of our trash. Humans are the reason the trash and waste is in the ocean in the first place so it should be our job to clean it up in order to protect the marine life and water quality for future generations. There are many methods to cleaning the oceans; however with such a dire need to clean them quickly to save what marine life is left studies have shown that the best way is a trash collecting barrier.

Proposal for Action:

Require all countries with a major waterway running through them or those that border an ocean to employ the use of floating trash collecting barriers. These barriers will be able to collect the trash flowing throughout the oceans and rivers without affecting the marine life that is living there. These barriers will be placed in different spots throughout the oceans and will act as an artificial coastline, catching the trash that has built up.

No one barrier will span the length of an ocean it will only span a certain section approximately 90 miles off of a coastline. The exact cost will be determined if this proposal is enacted as well as the methods by which nations will fund the implementation and use if these barriers. Countries bordering multiple oceans will have to employ the use of more than one trash collecting barrier. Require all countries that employ a trash collecting barrier to have routine check-ups to look for damage to the barrier and ensure it is working properly. This will ensure it is not broken and it will also ensure that the barrier is not harming marine life.

Results to be Expected:
By using these trash cleaning barriers, millions of pounds of trash that is floating in the oceans and rivers will be collected every year. This will be the first step in cleaning up the oceans that we have polluted. Collecting the trash will allow for the preservation of marine life and water quality for future generations and will also help to an end to the destruction of many of the oceans natural wonders such as coral reefs.
Proposal #238
Author: Andrew Szumski, Delegation: Model UN

Title:
To promote the growth of water sustainability by educating about the severity of this issue, investing time to solve this crisis, and contributing to the research and development of technological solutions.

Major Areas to be Affected:
countries in the world, especially developing countries and the general population.

Justification:
The quickly depleting amount of safe and drinkable water worldwide is an international crisis. Water is crucial to life, and a readily available supply of water is required for civil society to develop, progress, and prosper. Water supplies are critical for drinking, sanitation, energy, and food production. These uses of water are central to basic survival; no societal advancement can be made until these baseline functions are fulfilled. The combined pressures of increasing population, changing weather patterns and pollution will continue to add to the burden of supplying safe water to the world’s population for drinking, industrial and agricultural uses. Extreme drought conditions have consistently plagued our world and continues to grow as the scarcity of water is increasingly rapidly. Today, 1 in 9 people lack access to safe water and 1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet. 844 million people are living without access to safe water, and 2.3 billion people living without access to improved sanitation. Every 2 minutes a child dies from a water-related disease, and 1 million people die each year from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related diseases. Children are often responsible for collecting water for their families, taking time away from school. Access to safe water and sanitation changes this. Reductions in time spent collecting water means there is time to go to school during the day and when they aren’t at school learning, kids have time to play. Currently 1/3 schools lack access to basic water and sanitation. As for the private sector, the time spent gathering water or seeking safe sanitation accounts for billions in lost economic opportunities. Access to safe water and sanitation at home turns time spent into time saved, giving families more time to pursue education and work opportunities that will help them break the cycle of poverty. In fact, $260 billion are lost globally each year due to the lack of basic water sanitation. The water problem has been an intense focus of study and technology development for a number of years. National labs, Universities, think tanks, environmental groups, international working groups and the private industry have all focused on the problems associated with the provision of clean and safe water supplies. This has resulted in a vast body of knowledge and a variety of developed technologies that could be useful in solving global, regional, national and local water issues. The General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”. Throughout this decade, the United Nations agreed to focus on the people, and said “We have the tools to achieve access to water and sanitation for all. In some cases, the tools need to be enhanced; in other cases, we need simply to use them.”

Proposal for Action:
I: Allow the United Nations to play a leading role in promoting the cooperation and building of partnerships between nations concerned with the water issue, and should require a platform for continued discussion, policymaking, and mainstreaming of water-related issues.
II: To streamline water and sanitation into national development planning and budgeting processes, and to include sustainable use and efficiency, address wastewater, promote education, and raise awareness in each nation.
III: promote international cooperation, hydro-diplomacy and water-related mediation to address transboundary water issues. The “Global Observatory for Water & Peace” is an example of an approach to facilitate such platform by collecting and disseminating existing knowledge and acting as a neutral facilitator. IV: To include financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, and high water-use sectors, such as energy, agriculture and industry in national and international developing plans and policies concerning water. V: Mobilize financing for infrastructure and building capacities for access to water and sanitation. We must rely on all sources available, national and international, public and private, as well as blended and innovative financing.

Results to be Expected:
Countries worldwide will be highly determined to provide safe and drinkable water to the general public. We will begin to see the countries of the United Nations to collaborating and developing diplomacy regarding water sustainability. Also, an increase in
awareness and education on water usage will be sparked worldwide. Lastly, we will see institutions becoming more involved in promotion of development of solutions to this crisis.
Proposal #244  
Author: Tapasya Nangpal, Delegation: Model UN

Title:
Encouraging firmer enforcement of federal levee standards.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Army Corps of Engineers, National Committee of Levee Safety, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Municipal governments in river-flood prone areas

Justification:
The contiguous United States has 3,500,000 miles of rivers. While rivers are an invaluable natural resource, river-flooding costs the United State billions of dollars in damage. The Midwest alone experienced at least 3 billion dollars worth of damage as a result of river-flooding in March 2019. In addition, flooding is the primary cause of natural disaster-related deaths in America. As of now, the US relies on levees to reduce the risk of flood-related damage. Levees are regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE has an approval process in place for municipal and private entities who wish to increase or decrease the height of their levees. Receiving approval is not a federal or state requirement; however, it is required in order for the levee to be “accredited”. Accreditation is the best way to ensure that levee owners have an incentive to abide by the standards set by the USACE. Accreditation allows for FEMA to recognize the protected area as reasonably safe, thereby making federal insurance optional for property owners. The issue lies in there currently being an estimated 20,350 miles of unaccredited levees in the US. The lack of consistency with levee development in the United States has created a new problem called “levee wars”. Many affluent towns are able to expand non-accredited levees or lobby for reduced height restrictions. While these benefits the town in the short term, it greatly impacts the communities upstream by increasing their risk of flooding. Many studies have concluded that higher levees lead to increased height and speed of water flow. As a result, when one community builds a higher levee, the communities around have less protection from the higher and faster flow. This conflict is also reflective of America’s wealth gap. In Missouri, many residents in Pike County noticed that their flooding dramatically increased after a town across the river in Illinois lobbied for permission to get higher levies that their side could not afford. This instance is one of many, and shows that the current state of levee development regulation favors rich communities and allows less privileged communities to pay a large economic cost. The implications of this problem extend far beyond flood damage. Property values are dependent on the need for flood insurance in an area. If a town cannot afford to protect itself from floods, its property values decrease dramatically and restrict the population of that town to those of lower socioeconomic classes. In America, flooding is a problem that disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities, and by increasing the transparency and enforcement of standard, the nation can better ensure the safety of all its people.

Proposal for Action:
The US Army Corps of engineers will be tasked with creating a set of height standards for levees over a river. These standards should set a minimum and maximum height based on the general needs of all people and development within close proximity of the river. be evaluated and amended periodically. The USAC will be responsible for informing surrounding towns of the levee development and the potential threat it could pose to them. Along with informing the towns, the USAC will advise them of what they should do with their levees and give them the option to request the USAC reevaluate the approval of the development. All projections for how flood risks will be affected by new levees should be made public. All levees in America must be accredited by the USACE by federal law, including levees that have already been built.

Results to be Expected:
The aim of this proposal is to ensure that all levees in America are accredited, and that all communities are aware of the levee development around them. This would result in a reduction of properties that require federal flood insurance. In the long run, it would allow communities with high propensity towards flooding to have safer levees and a better property value.
Proposal #298  
Author: Ian Moffatt, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:  
Variable Allocation of Variable Water Resources in the Colorado River Basin and Other Major Interstate River Basins

Major Areas to be Affected:  
Department of State, Department of Corrections, Department of the Interior

Justification:  
As time goes on, development in the American West will continue to negatively affect scarce Colorado River basin water resources. The system of fixed allocations from an inherently variable resource is no longer tenable, particularly given that the current allocation systems promises more water than is actually present. Short-term drought and long-term climate variations could easily lead to situations where even the pretense that all water promises can be met will no longer be credible. With further population growth and economic development in the desert Southwest, the unsustainable patchwork of water agreements governing the Colorado River basin will collapse in the absence of a rational replacement. However, the issue of inadequate interstate water compacts is not unique to the Colorado River or to desert regions. The Ipswich River in Massachusetts ran dry six times between 1998 and 2008, and Western Resource Advocates states that the same could happen to the much larger Colorado River due to overuse, climate change, and poor management. This demonstrates that, even in relatively wet regions of the nation, water is not an inexhaustible resource. Even in areas where rivers are not expected to run dry, overpumping can lead to catastrophic decline in the health and economical viability of estuarine systems.

Proposal for Action:  
Qualified members of the National Academy of Science and the National Academy of Engineering will be tasked with developing a committee of 20 people, to be chosen by the presidents of the two academies respectively, and equally representing both academies. The committee will be called the Coordinated Hydrological Planning Technical Review Committee (CHPTRC). Each delegate to the committee must have expertise in hydrology, climate science, or other relevant fields. The task of this committee will be to develop technically feasible options that eliminate over-allocation of water, and provide for annually varying water allocations that are based on objective, measurable, relevant factors like mountain snowpack in the Western United States. The committee will meet annually to review the successes or failures of their previous decisions and release new water allocation recommendations. The committee can also be convened at the request of a state participating in an interstate water compact. Other issues that would be addressed by this committee are degradation of estuaries by over-extraction of water upstream. Under the U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Legislative Branch, Section 10 Powers Prohibited of States, “[no] State shall, without the Consent of Congress, … enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State.” Given the wholly irrational character of the current allocation system implicit in the various inter-state agreements on Colorado River water sharing, and other interstate river basins, these inter-state agreements [compacts] might not survive legal challenge. The US Government should have a more rational plan in hand in that event, which would be provided under the auspices of this committee.

Results to be Expected:  
The committee that this legislation seeks to create is tasked with the amelioration of the negative effects of poor planning, climate change, and gross overuse of the United States’ water resources. While agriculture might be restricted in years of inadequate water, cities and towns in the desert Southwest will be put on a predictable, equitable and sustainable path to the water resources needed for human physical and economic survival and development, and the Southern Seaboard’s ecosystem will prosper.
Proposal #299  
Author: Karla Ortiz, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
Faster Disaster Relief Aid

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security

Justification:
Disaster relief aid has been a significant issue that has not been responded to properly. Currently, it has been 18 months since hurricane Maria destroyed a large portion of Puerto Rico and killed around 2,000 people. Since then Congress has been debating how much aid they should provide to Puerto Rico, but no legislation has actually been passed. This is 18 months that Puerto Ricans have had to deal with food shortages, damaged infrastructure, lack of healthcare, and electricity. Currently, any legislation that has been proposed has been shut down in Congress or has only been passed by the House of Representatives. This is also an issue with hurricane Michael where there are still hundreds of people living on the streets due to lack of money. Although FEMA has provided the residents of Florida with some aid it is not sufficient for these people to go back to normal living standards. The amount of money that FEMA provides to people affected by natural disasters is not nearly enough which results in struggling life conditions such as homelessness.

Proposal for Action:
Provide an additional 10 billion per year to FEMA for any future natural disasters that may occur and 4 billion per year for disaster sites that are still in need of additional aid one year after the disaster.
Any remaining funds that are not used can be added to a surplus program in case of extreme circumstances such as a national catastrophe that requires a greater amount of money.
The 10 billion can only be used for the aid of future natural disasters.
The 4 billion can only be used for affected sites one year after the disaster if they are still in need of aid.
FEMA can decide how much money is needed for each classification of natural disaster that is declared.

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of faster disaster relief aid, Americans would be able to continue their lives despite the devastation that may have occurred. By providing this aid, it would help businesses recover faster, help with access to healthcare, rebuilding of infrastructure, and allow people to properly recover from the damages. With the additional funds that are being provided to FEMA it will assist in making aid more efficient. In addition, the surplus program would be established in case of a national catastrophe and can be also used if a natural disaster requires more aid than planned for with the initial funds. This will also allow for aid to be provided as soon as it is needed with no waiting time that may occur due to the inability to pass legislation quickly.
Proposal #310
Author: Chris Yang, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
To expand and increase funding and requirements for the Housing Trust Funds in the US

Major Areas to be Affected:
The US, low income-households, urban environments, states without any funding for the HTFs.

Justification:
Despite the fact that the housing crash was merely a decade ago, another housing crisis appears to be on the horizon for some major cities. In fact, between 2010 and 2017 alone, the prices for homes in poorer urban neighborhoods rose 50 percent faster than the rich neighborhoods. It is clear that the big cities in the United States are crowding out their low income citizens, and actions must be taken in place to help the low income families have housing.

The Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is an affordable housing production program that complements existing Federal, state and local efforts to increase and preserve the supply of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for extremely low- and very low-income households, including homeless families. HTF funds may be used for the production or preservation of affordable housing through the acquisition, new construction, reconstruction, and/or rehabilitation of non-luxury housing with suitable amenities.

Proposal for Action:
The US government should help expand and increase grants for the HTF programs throughout the states, and help develop funded HTF programs that do not receive it right now. Also, increasing the minimum percent on spending of the HTF grants must be increased to 90%, from the original 80%. HUD, the housing and urban development of the US, will allocate HTF funds by formula annually. A State must use at least 90 percent of each annual grant for rental housing; up to 20 percent for homeownership; and up to 10 percent for the grantee's reasonable administrative and planning costs.

Results to be Expected:
- Increased affordable housing for low income families
- Increased participation in the HTF
- All states participating in the funded HTF programs
- Increased spending of the grant on home issues
- Overall decrease of homeless people
Title:

Eco-friendly Farming Act of 2019

Major Areas to be Affected:

Environmental Protection Agency, Inland Wetlands, Industrial and Subsistence Farmers, Aquatic Wildlife, Phosphate Mining Companies, Rivers and Streams, Consumers of Agricultural Products

Justification:

Since 2015 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been pushing to redefine the waters it has jurisdiction over (also known as the “Waters of the United States,” or WOTUS), as specified under the Clean Water Act - but has so far been unsuccessful. The WOTUS provisions, in their original form, only allow the EPA regulatory authority over “navigable” water. These waters are typically viewed as interstate, moving bodies of water. This provides key exemptions for bodies of water like irrigation ditches and retaining ponds, commonly relied on by America’s farmers. However, by protecting America’s farming interests, these regulations have placed America’s inland and non-tidal wetlands at a serious disadvantage.

Inland wetlands are flooded lands within the American landmass, most commonly along rivers or in depressions in the ground where water collects. Because these areas are often only flooded during rain seasons, they do not qualify as “navigable” waters, meaning they can be and have been destroyed. Furthermore, American farming practices, like those of using phosphate fertilizers, place inland wetlands in further danger. As seen in South Africa in 2018, phosphate-based fertilizer accelerates the production of algae, which, if left unchecked, can effectively destroy the ecosystem of surrounding areas. This is of special concern to America’s wetlands, as water from these bodies commonly flows into other rivers and streams.

Furthermore, these bodies of water serve as beacons of biodiversity. America’s wetlands serve as home to over 160 species of birds and an estimated 30% of America’s entire plant life. With record rains being felt across the United States, it is imperative America moves to protect these natural sponges to not only reduce risks of flooding for downstream locations, but also promote environmentally-friendly farming practices and increased biodiversity.

Proposal for Action:

The authority of the EPA under WOTUS will also be expanded to include the non-navigable waters currently not under the purview, including those used for farming purposes such as irrigation ditches and retaining ponds. The requirements to receive an exemption from the Clean Water Act (CWA) for agricultural activities will also become more stringent, requiring farmers to fulfill more environmentally-friendly criteria.

In addition to the already-existing criteria, farmers will need to transition toward the use of phosphate-free fertilizers. 25% of fertilizers used by a farmer will need to be phosphate-free by April of 2022, 50% by April of 2025, and 100% by April of 2030.

To account for the increased cost of agricultural operations, the federal government will administer farming subsidies with funding received from a new 0.3% income tax placed on all phosphate mining companies operating in the U.S. This tax is expected to generate $200-225 million by the year 2030.

Results to be Expected:

By eliminating the use of phosphate-based fertilizers, this proposal will help to avoid harmful algae blooms in inland wetlands that threaten biodiversity. With this proposal, wetlands will remain a hub for incredibly varied flora and fauna, allowing for ecosystems of paramount importance to remain intact. Additionally, species inhabiting the rivers and streams that flow into wetlands will be able to live in healthier waters free of harmful chemical pollutants from upstream farms.

In addition to maintained biodiversity, this proposal will also deliver consumers agricultural products that are healthier and more natural, as they will be free of many pollutants found in the currently-abundant phosphate-based fertilizers.
Proposal #480  
**Author:** Michael Berger, **Delegation:** New York

**Title:**
To expand the Department of Homeland Security to include a new agency whose focus is on the research and proposals of natural disaster mitigation.

**Major Areas to be Affected:**

**Justification:**
In recent years, the United States has been increasingly affected by series of devastating natural disasters and the effects of climate change. From rising sea levels to hurricanes and wildfires, these natural disasters have cost us dearly, both economically and in lives. According to a federal report, in 2018 alone natural disasters cost the United States over $91 billion. In 1953, the Netherlands, famous for its natural disasters, was flooded with a major North Sea surge. It disintegrated the outdated dikes and dams, and flooded much of the country. The floods resulted in 1,836 deaths, 200,000 animal casualties, and flooded 200,000 hectares of land. To combat this, the Dutch government created a Delta plan which cost more than $2.5 dollars. However, its effects were priceless. The Netherlands have virtually experienced no major flood devastation since its construction, even rising ocean levels. Today the risk of river and sea flooding has been reduced from once every 100 years to once every 1250 years. In modern times technological advances have spurred natural disaster prevention construction projects that increasingly effective in other countries such as the, Norway, Italy, China, Japan. These structures significantly reduce both the financial and human damage natural disasters are capable of inflicting. This will in the long term pay for these structures ten times over in the assets saved from potential natural disasters. More importantly, this must be done on a federal level, for state and local governments simply lack the funds, resources, and manpower to construct and maintain these structures. Other federal departments that currently possess these responsibilities such as FEMA and the CBO are burdened with several other tasks, and this issue deserves immediate attention.

**Proposal for Action:**
The Department of Homeland Security will be expanded to include an agency whose purpose is to fund research for natural disaster mitigation methods and infrastructure. It will also be responsible for creating natural disaster construction project proposals, that will be brought before Congress. Current agencies such as FEMA and CBO that possess these specific responsibilities will transfer them to the new agency. The Department of Homeland Security will determine its budget.

**Results to be Expected:**
By creating an agency that will research new and modern natural disaster mitigation devices, the United States will save hundreds of billions of dollars over the course of time, by minimizing the economic damage these natural disasters can inflict. The citizens of the United States and their homes will also be better protected from these natural disasters.
Title: A federal ban on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

Major Areas to be Affected:

All fracking or gas drilling companies based in the United States will be affected, such as Exxon Mobil, Devon Energy and Chesapeake Energy. This proposal will also affect people who live near fracking sites.

Justification:

Fracking has been considered controversial, especially by environmentalists, due to its effects on water contamination and air quality as well as its significant role in greenhouse gas emissions. According to the documentary Gasland, in Dallas, Texas, fracking has produced more greenhouse gas emissions than transportation use within the area. Additionally, when natural gas is extracted, large amounts of methane are released into the air, which is a gas that heavily contributes to climate change and is twenty-five times more powerful than carbon dioxide. According to Environment America, since 2005, 239 billion gallons of water have been used for fracking and in 2014, 5.3 billion pounds of methane were released into the air. According to the National Institute of Health, another problem with fracking is that it has caused many people to develop asthma, become violently ill, in some cases leading to premature death, as well as caused some people to have permanent brain damage.

While fracking can offer many benefits, from lowering gas prices to increasing employment opportunities, the negative effects of fracking outweigh these benefits. Switching to more environmentally green options, such as wind, geothermal, solar and hydropower energy, would still provide numerous employment opportunities. If fracking continues, more pollutants like methane will be released into the air and more people will face serious health problems.

Several states in the U.S. have already banned fracking including Vermont, New York, and Maryland, as well as several countries including France, Bulgaria, Scotland, and Germany. It should now be time for the United States to recognize this environmental crisis, as so much damage has already been done, and permanently ban fracking.

Proposal for Action:

1. The federal government shall prohibit fracking.
2. The federal government will mandate that all gas drilling companies based in the United States who decide to start producing a different form of energy that is more environmentally friendly such as geothermal power, hydropower, wind energy or solar power, must have it approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.
3. This proposal will go into effect five years from when this legislation is passed.
4. If a gas drilling company ends all fracking production two years from when this legislation is passed, they will receive a 5% tax break on the cost converted to switch to renewable energy.

Results to be Expected:

Fracking constantly poses many hazards from contaminating water that then becomes unsafe for any use to polluted air to induced seismic activities. If fracking is banned, these hazards to human health and the environment will no longer be as prominent. Additionally, companies will have to switch to other forms of energy that are better for the environment, thus helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our planet.
Proposal #573

Author: Adia Keene, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
The establishment of a protocol for natural disaster response and funding for major U.S. territories.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Coast Guard, and the U.S. National Response Team (NRT) at-large. The major U.S. territories: American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Justification:
In September of 2017, Hurricane Maria, one of the deadliest Atlantic Hurricanes of the century so far, struck Dominica, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. After trenchant debate over numbers, it was determined that the storm left behind 3,000 casualties in Puerto Rico alone, making it the second deadliest storm in U.S. history.

Given the scale of this hurricane, and the wreckage it left behind, it would seem only common sense if the U.S. dedicated intense emergency relief to its major territories as swiftly as it did in Houston with Harvey or Irma in Florida, but such was not the case. After the impact of the first few hurricanes of 2017, FEMA reported scarce supplies available for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Only 20,000 meals were provided to Puerto Rico, as opposed to Florida’s 5.1 million. Additionally, half of the FEMA personnel who were present on the island were unqualified to assist.

The issue of limited emergency relief isn’t localized to Atlantic territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands), though. The major Pacific territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands) find themselves equally neglected in times of dire need. There was a four day delay in federal response to Tropical Storm Gita in the American Samoa. The Typhoon Mangkhut, which sent 2,100 people to shelters and cost the government of Guam $4.3 million, did not guarantee any federal aid.

The U.S. reluctance to provide federal aid to US territories has proven one thing: there is a failure to recognize residents of U.S. territories as American citizens. A change is necessary to ensure that all U.S. citizens are treated equally in the instances of natural disaster emergency response.

Proposal for Action:
The following measures will be implemented to ensure that U.S. territories are guaranteed equivalent aid in emergencies.

1. Justifying the denial of aid on the basis that a state will lose funding at the expense of a territory, or vice versa, will be impermissible when appropriating emergency response funds. This does not ban budgeting, but rather prohibits determining budgets based on the perceived value of a state or territory.

2. The NRT organizations must develop a singular, flexible formula for determining federal aid that considers urban populations, impacted agricultural and industrial land, and predicted casualties. This formula is to be applied consistently between territories and states. FEMA will have the ability to designate additional aid from its personal budget if the situation demands it.

3. Natural disaster relief training will be mandated for all Coast Guard and FEMA responders situated in the territories as well as states. Unimpacted states that provide emergency relief to territories and other states on their own initiative will receive compensatory federal project grants.

Results to be Expected:
The major U.S. territories will be more secure in the case of a major disaster, with better-equipped responders and greater federal funding.
Proposal #579

Author: Micah Barut, Delegation: Hawaii

Title:
Nationwide drug testing for homeless shelters and food stamps

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Department of Human Services, homeless families, and food stamp recipients

Justification:
There are families that have low income and can’t afford a home. According to a 2008 survey by the United States Conference of Mayors, 68% of single homeless are having problems with drugs while 12% of homeless families are having problems with drugs. In the United States, there were 7 states that passed similar to this: Utah, Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Kansas. In 2014, 38,970 applicants were tested in Missouri. There were 48 people who came positive. The budgeted cost for Missouri’s testing program was $336,297.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal requires all homeless shelters and food stamps to require drug testing. Homeless family and individuals will only have this test one time. They can renew their testing every 2 years. Each food stamps and homeless shelters will have a list of homeless individuals/families to see who completed the drug testing. The reason why this proposal will impact homeless people because it will be easier for them to have shelter and free food.

Results to be Expected:
This will reduce the numbers of homeless on the streets.
Title:

Immigration and Customs Enforcement and US Customs and Border Patrol Reform

Major Areas to be Affected:

Immigration, undocumented immigrants, future immigrants, border states

Justification:

16 years ago the Department of Homeland Security opened its doors. One of its first acts was to create ICE and CBP to enforce and investigate immigration law and patrol and regulate the border respectively. In those years—and increasingly in recent times—these two agencies have made many blunders, heard interns calls for reorganization, and inhumanely dealt with immigrants. While this job is most definite one that needs to be done; in order to ensure an efficient and humane immigration system these agencies and affected areas of the executive branch must follow new mandated rules.

Proposal for Action:

The following rules will be imposed on any immigration agency chiefly ICE, CBP, and EOIR:

- Right to Counsel in immigration court (a representative who knows the immigration court procedures and speaks the language of their client)
- These agencies must cooperate with willing local authorities and Nonprofits (giving information and allowing their help)
- Any inhumane practice, such as separating families, or any other practice that is cruel and unusual is not to be allowed.
- Returning to the policy of the Enforcement and Removal Operations office of devoting resources to first locating felon undocumented immigrants and then other undocumented immigrants.

Results to be Expected:

An efficient and humane immigration system
Proposal #004
Author: Hayden Welty, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
To reappropriate one billion U.S. dollars from additional EA-18G Growler electronic aircraft to international security efforts at the U.S.-Mexico border in Fiscal Year 2020.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States of America, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Inter-American Development Bank, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, the El Salvador Office of the Vice President, the Technical and Planning Secretariat (SETEPLAN) in El Salvador, the El Salvador Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Honduran Ministry of Finance, the Honduras Ministry of Government Coordination, the Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Guatemalan National Competitiveness Program (PRONACOM), the Honduran Planning and Programming Secretariat (SEGEPLAN), and the Honduran Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Justification:
The Plan for the Alliance of Prosperity in the Northern Triangle (A4P) has been developed by El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala in an effort to address the structural causes that beget migration—both documented and undocumented—outward, and typically, northward towards Mexico and the United States. The plan aims to improve economic outcomes and quality of life within the Northern Triangle as a means of dissuading displacement and generating satisfaction. While the plan is mostly funded by the three countries in the Northern Triangle themselves, given the strong results of the project over the last four years and the U.S. security and border implications that this plan possesses, it is overwhelming clear that the U.S. should contribute to the funding, get involved in the amelioration of the life-threatening conditions that have displaced millions of refugees, and work to resolve the “national emergency” at the southern border in a more effective manner. The best way to reduce so-called “illegal” immigration and additional migrant traffic is to improve conditions in origin countries in the first place. The clear correlation between the performance of Mexico’s economy and Mexican immigrants to the United States, for example, illustrates this point lucidly: when economic growth is steady and strong, Border Patrol forces apprehend less Mexicans at the border, and when Mexican economic growth is sporadic and stagnant, the Border Patrol finds more immigrants from the country. Additionally, in terms of explaining the funding sources, the EA-18G Growler electronic aircraft program is a superfluous waste of funding. Aside from the fact that the U.S. Air Force already possesses several of these aircraft, experimental testing on the model and other upgrades have proven to be largely fruitless. A far better way of tackling U.S. national security than to purchase more unused planes would be to focus efforts on improving conditions south of the border in Latin America.

Proposal for Action:
Instead of investing billions of dollars into additional orders of the EA-18G Growler electronic aircraft that may never even be used in combat, the United States will reallocate one billion U.S. dollars from that program into the Plan for the Alliance of Prosperity in the Northern Triangle, following up on its already existing meagre collaborative effort in a more substantive way. With input from the Inter-American Development Bank, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development will allocate monies to individual countries and corresponding programs. This proposal does not discontinue the EA-18G Growler electronic aircraft program, instead re-allocating only portion of its newfound funds that were appropriated in Fiscal Year 2019.

Results to be Expected:
Aside from simply improving conditions within these three countries themselves, funding the Plan for the Alliance of Prosperity in the Northern Triangle will also directly benefit the United States, too. Better conditions in the Northern Triangle will drastically decrease the number of refugee migrants that border authorities must process and the judicial system must try, thereby lightening the incredible workload faced by border authorities and judicial authorities. The factors that have propelled millions of legal migrants and millions more undocumented immigrants to make the dangerous trek from the Northern Triangle over the last few decades will become less poignant and significant, decreasing this flow and adding credibility to struggling governments in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
Additional EA-18G Growler electronic aircraft program will not be purchased in this fiscal year; the United States military, however, will still function as the most powerful defense force in the history of the Earth, and the supposed “national emergency” at the southern border will lessen in its intensity, scope, and effect.
Title:
Making Birth Control more accessible for the malleable youth

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public Hospitals, teens, insurance,

Justification:
Did you know that out of all the industrialized countries in the world, the US has the highest teen pregnancy rates? The CDC states that female pregnancy rates between the ages of 15-19 is 18.8%. The majority of these teen mothers are a minority. No parent wants their child to have sex. Even though every parent wants their child to be innocent and pure, every person has their own free will; teenagers included. Why should we leave our negligent youth to the mercy of their parents wishes? No person should have to risk pregnancy simply due to a lack of accessibility. Another added benefit of implementing this, is that it will cost nothing.

Proposal for Action:
My proposal would make birth control accessible to any person over the age of 14, regardless of insurance, to, without parental consent in any public hospital. This would include free consultations about anything regarding sexual wellness, free condoms, and the ability to get a prescription for the pill.

Results to be Expected:
A reduction in teen pregnancies and the possi spread of STDs would be expected. By giving teens the vital access to basic kinds of birth control,
Proposal #025
Author: Hanna Skikne, Delegation: California

Title:
Cannabis seized by the DEA, US border protections, and US customs shall be sold to governments where the sale of recreational or medical use of cannabis is legal.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Cannabis dispensaries, DEA, US economy, US border protection and customs.

Justification:
In 2016 alone, the DEA seized 5.3 million cannabis plants, all of which were disposed of by the federal government, most commonly through incineration. With many places now having legal sale of cannabis, the federal government would be able to gain an immense profit solely through the sale of these seized substances, rather than by destroying them. If you take the pounds of weed seized by US borders and customs in 2014, being 4,330,475 pounds, and sold it at the Colorado wholesale price, it would have generated $23,589,364,764 for the United States government, and potentially even more depending on the THC levels of the substance.

Once the cannabis is confiscated, the DEA tests the substances’ quality in a laboratory, so it can be assured that the only product being sold is to legal standards and safe for use. As for any additional costs of selling and transporting the cannabis, by defunding the federal program of cannabis eradication, it would save close to $18 million dollars, which could be redirected for those needs. Additionally, incineration only causes further harm, as it releases toxins into the air, hurting both citizens and the environment. Overall, this cannabis could be put to much better use, it is a commodity that should be monopolized on, as it poses minimal negative fiscal impacts while providing a large revenue. This is not a proposal to legalize cannabis but rather to legalize the Federal Government’s ability to redistribute for profit.

Proposal for Action:
All cannabis seized by US border protections and US customs will be relinquished to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which, along with the DEA’s own seized cannabis, will be documented, thoroughly tested for any unwanted/unsafe substances, and tested to determine THC levels. All of the cannabis that is deemed safe under legal standards for use and sale, will be sold to governments in countries where the use of cannabis is legal. In the case of an illegal or unwanted substance, other than THC, being found in the cannabis, that quantity of seized cannabis will be disposed of.

Results to be Expected:
Increased revenue due to the newly sold commodity.
Title:
A proposal to combat evergreening efforts from pharmaceutical companies.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Since the enactment of the Hatch-Waxman amendment in 1984, the price of medications and other health services has remained alarmingly high. The Hatch-Waxman amendment requires generic drug manufacturers planning to market generic versions of a previously patented drug to file an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA). This ensures that all generic drugs on the market are either patented or do not infringe on unexpired patents. According to The University of California School of Law, this amendment allowed for 72 percent of medical patentees to abuse a process called evergreening. Evergreening is a process in which companies produce multiple patents of the same product, but each one is tweaked so the company is able to hold a monopoly over the product for longer than intended. This is done by combining two or more drugs, different packaging, varying its purpose, and other procedures that do not improve the efficacy of the product. As a result, other companies, as well as consumers, lose money, and the medical field loses innovation for new products.

For example, the price of Lantus, long-lasting insulin, rose over 18 percent annually from 2012-2016. During that time, U.S. taxpayers bought more than $22 billion worth of Lantus through Medicare and Medicaid. Lantus ranked number two for total overall expenditure in 2016 for both Medicare and Medicaid. Lantus is also highly over patented. Since government approval of the drug in 2000, 70 evergreening patents have been filed by Sanofi, the company that owns Lantus. If granted, these additional patents would give Sanofi monopoly protection for up to 37 more years, almost double the amount of time a firm receives for a regular patent. AbbVie’s Humira also used evergreening to extend Humira’s patent life from 2016 to 2034, allowing AbbVies to gain a predicted $288 billion in additional revenue. A study done by the Association of Accessible Medicines showed that at least 74 percent of the new patents in the FDA’s records were associated with existing drugs on the market. Of the roughly 100 best-selling drugs, almost 80 percent obtained a patent that extended the monopoly period beyond the duration of the initially-granted patent.

Proposal for Action:
The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will create a new committee under the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) as well as implement anti-evergreening requirements that potential medical patients will have to pass before becoming established patents. The categories 424, 514, and 530 of the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) system will be required through anti-evergreening measures. All categories listed are for “Drug, bio-affecting, and body treating compositions” patents. The anti-evergreening requirements are to include, but not limited to: checking for combinations of two or more drugs, dosing rage and dosing route, biological targets for old molecule, delivery profiles, mechanism of action, derivatives and isomeric forms, screening methods, dosing regimen, packaging, different methods of treatment, and any other requirements the USPTO deems fit for scrutiny. If one of the requirements is found, the patent will be reviewed further and possibly denied. A new sub-committee under the PTAB will be established called the Evergreening Prevention Committee (EPC). The EPC will handle all evergreen patent cases, continuously search for evergreening patents within the USPTO, and will be referred to if a patent examiner questions a patent for the purpose of evergreening. The committee will have the power to reject any established and incoming patent for the purpose of evergreening with a simple majority. The USPTO along with the Department of State will be able to determine who will be apart of the EPC.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal will allow for a free, competitive market in the pharmaceutical field which will drive down prices of medications from 60 percent to 95 percent according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Overall innovation will increase in the medical field due to competitive markets. Citizens will be able to afford medications and properly take care of their health.
Proposal #078
Author: Sarah Sobalvarro, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
To implement Puerto Rico as the 51st state.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Ever since 1898 when Puerto Rico was first made a US territory, there have been Puerto Ricans pushing for statehood. Many do not view the island as a part of the United States, and this has lead to the citizens of Puerto Rico not having equal opportunities when compared to those living in one of the fifty states. Puerto Rican citizens can be drafted for the military and have fought in numerous wars for the US, but they are not allowed to vote in their territory, giving them no say in what or who they are fighting for. The territory is only granted a resident commissioner, who sits in the House of Representatives but is unable to vote and is left to represent the interests of 3.2 million people- a population greater than 21 states in the union- without a voice.

They also are required to pay full tax contributions to Social Security and Medicaid, the healthcare provider which nearly half of all Puerto Ricans rely on, and yet the US government has continuously neglected the federal programs of Puerto Rico. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, if Puerto Rico had become a state the government would be responsible for providing roughly 83 percent of Medicaid costs, but because of its territorial status they only cover 15 to 20 percent- something that has had devastating effects on the 44% of Puerto Rico’s population that have incomes below the poverty line.

There have been five referendums for statehood over the past fifty years, and the past two referendums have both passed overwhelmingly in support of statehood.

Proposal for Action:
A Referendum shall be held on January 5th, 2020 in Puerto Rico that includes one question with two possible answers:

"Should the US territory of Puerto Rico remain in its current territorial status, or should it be incorporated as the 51st state?"

If the majority of voters who vote without spoiling the ballots vote against statehood, then the current status of the territory shall not change. If the majority of voters who vote without spoiling the ballots vote for statehood, then Puerto Rico shall be accepted as a US state, and one month after this referendum occurs there shall be a constitutional convention with the citizens of Puerto Rico to write a state constitution. There shall be a referendum on if the people of Puerto Rico accept the new constitution; if so, it shall then be sent to the people of Congress, who shall need to review and accept it to pass. If not, then a new constitutional convention shall occur and a new constitution shall be drafted for the state.

Results to be Expected:
After implementing Puerto Rico as the 51st US state, Puerto Ricans shall now have a voice in both the Electoral College, the US Senate and the US House of Representatives, shall be able to vote within the territory, and shall be able to pass legislation to permit public utilities to restructure debt. As has been shown with Alaska and Hawaii, the newest additions to the 50 states, the per capita income would most likely increase, and there shall be more federal funding to federal programs within the island.
Proposal #218  
Author: Cera Mitchum, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
To limit prescription drug prices to a multiple of their production costs.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Drug companies, insurance companies, healthcare providers, pharmacies, and the general public

Justification:
Prescription drug prices have increased drastically in the last decades. These increases are rarely due to significant changes in a drug's production or effectiveness, but instead caused by arbitrary incentives that do not benefit the consumer. Under current laws, a drug company can purchase a drug from a competitor and increase the price with no restriction, as in the infamous case of Daraprim. This life-saving prescription originally cost $13.50 a dose, but was increased over 5000% to $750 after being bought by a new company. While price jumps are more uncommon, gradual annual increases are industry standard and much more damaging. Practices like these have caused consumer spending on prescription drugs to double since 1990 - not because of higher doses or greater access, but because of cost. Disproportionate prices most directly affect those paying out of pocket, such as those in the Medicaid gap or the uninsured, but they also impact the general public who pay indirectly through higher insurance payments and taxes. Free market policies rely on the ability to opt-out of purchasing a product whose price doesn't match its value. Unlike most goods, prescriptions are not an optional product. It's a necessity, and should be priced as such. Drastic, unfounded price hikes at their best require consumers to pay unfair prices for a product without alternatives. At their worst, they force the poor and uninsured to ration or delay essential treatments that cost almost nothing to produce. Prescription drug prices must be accessible to the public while remaining profitable for pharmaceutical companies.

Proposal for Action:
The US Government must enforce pricing restrictions on necessary prescription drugs. Prescriptions list prices will be set as 400% of production, labor, and a percentage of research and development cost. The percentage of R&D will be determined as the total cost up to and including the year of commercial release over the projected total number of cases five years after release so long as this percentage does not exceed 50% of a prescriptions total cost.

Results to be Expected:
This setup allows pharmaceutical companies to remain profitable while managing costs for both insured and uninsured individuals and the federal government as a whole. This will not only have economic benefits, but will reduce preventable diseases, encourage medical innovation, reduce administrative costs, and improve quality of life, and provide the public with reliable access to life-saving prescription drugs.
Proposal #256
Author: Annalyn St. Ledger, Delegation: New Jersey

Title:
Making Naloxone (Brand Name: Narcan) Available OTC in Retail Pharmacies and Online

Major Areas to be Affected:
Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Department of Health and Human Services

Justification:
Naloxone, commonly known as the brand name Narcan, is a life saving nasal spray that counteracts the effects of an opioid overdose. Since 2015 in New Jersey alone, Naloxone has saved 16,000 people from the brink of death, almost all of those doses being administered by law enforcement officials. However, though the life-saving drug is available to the public, it is just not accessible. As it currently stands, Naloxone is available for standing order in 42 states as well as the District of Columbia, meaning it is available for anyone who is aware that their pharmacy stocks it. This shift from prescription-only to standing order has been a huge win in the past five years but does not go far enough to ensure that Naloxone is readily available to everyone in order to combat overdoses. Consumers wishing to buy Narcan have several barriers between them and the drug. Despite not needing a prescription, customers still need to ask for the medication through the pharmacist in the store. There are several downsides to this barrier to access. First, the stigma surrounding the entirety of the opioid epidemic and specifically around addicted people makes it that much harder for people to feel comfortable asking their pharmacist for Naloxone. As part of a presentation to the FDA, a pharmacist being interviewed explained “I think it, for me, I think it might ruin a relationship even knowing the background of somebody, but you don’t want to step over those boundaries where you would ruin a relationship, then they will go and talk to their friends, “Oh, she thinks I’m an addict.” On the other hand, a person recovering from addiction explained about the process, “I think that if you go to the pharmacist and…bring it up that you are interested in getting Narcan…automatically red flags go up in that pharmacist’s mind. Why do you want Narcan? Do you think you are going to overdose? Then all of a sudden there you are the criminal again.” However, the stigma around getting Naloxone is irrelevant if it’s not stocked in pharmacies anyway. Pharmacies in states that have already approved Naloxone on standing order are not stocking Naloxone. In Indiana, 50% of pharmacists cited being uncomfortable dispensing Naloxone. In New York City only 37.5% of pharmacies have Naloxone stocked and are willing to dispense. In California, only 24% of pharmacies were willing to dispense Naloxone on standing order. All of these studies were done in 2018 at least two years after Naloxone was first made on standing order within each individual state. The resistance to stock and dispense Naloxone is often because of a lack of awareness of state regulations as well as the stigma discussed before. Third, both the US Surgeon General as well as the former head of the FDA have advocated for over the counter Naloxone with the former head of the FDA saying, “With the number of overdose deaths involving prescription and illicit opioids more than doubling over the last seven years to nearly 48,000 in 2017, it’s critical that we continue to address this tragedy from all fronts. This includes new ways to increase availability of naloxone, a drug used to treat opioid overdose.”

Proposal for Action:
Make Naloxone and all brand name equivalents available over-the-counter for purchase without prescription, standing order or individual.
Facilitate the development of FDA-approved consumer-friendly Drug Facts Label.
Make Naloxone legal for purchase online as well as in stores.

Results to be Expected:
Making Naloxone over the counter would reduce barriers around getting naloxone, including stigma, awareness, availability, and price. Having Naloxone be sold out in the aisles with Tylenol or Claritan would reduce the stigma around it, as it should be viewed as medicine, not unlike Tylenol, but with even less negative side effects. Additionally, a federal law of this size and magnitude could raise awareness on both the side of the consumer as well as the pharmacies. A more aware consumer is able to have Naloxone on hand in case it is needed and save lives and a more aware pharmacy is more likely to stock Naloxone in the first place. Naloxone would now be
able to be sold without barriers online as well, which would allow for more widespread availability. Finally, Naloxone as of right now is incredibly expensive because of the lack of competition in the market. OTC Naloxone would increase competition, drive down prices, and make Naloxone more affordable for people who need it on hand.
Proposal #271

Author: Alison Walsh, Delegation: New Jersey

Title: An Act to Ban the Prescription of Drugs Online

Major Areas to be Affected:
Online prescription companies, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and prescription drug consumers

Justification:
Americans are taking more prescription drugs than ever, and one way that this demographic has expanded is through the prescription of drugs online. Companies that facilitate the prescription of drugs online have recently begun to grow in the United States. While it is illegal to be prescribed classified drugs online, lifestyle drugs for hair loss, anxiety and other symptoms are allowed to be prescribed online. A major concern is the inverted doctor-patient relationships. On these websites, consumers self-diagnose and select the drug they want, then fill out some medical information, and finally have a doctor review their information and selection and then prescribe the drug. Through this method, underlying causes of their symptoms are likely to go unnoticed, as symptoms such as erectile dysfunction can be signs of arterial disease or diabetes. Additionally, it makes it easier for people to lie to obtain prescription drugs for non-medical uses, as the doctors have no medical record to verify the information with. Another concern with this practice is that drugs are not being prescribed for their FDA approved uses. For example, Propranolol, a beta blocker used to reduce blood pressure, is being marketed by online companies and prescribed for social performance anxiety, with the consumers having no knowledge that it is not FDA approved to treat anxiety. Even drugs that are prescribed for the FDA purposes have been found to come without their FDA warnings. FDA warnings are essential as they mention any side effects the drugs may have or if certain drugs cannot be taken alcohol, which if ignored could cause serious health risks. This process is ultimately concerning in regards to the safety of its consumer, and should not be legal.

Proposal for Action:
The FCC will ban the prescription of all drugs online by January 1st, 2020
The FCC will have oversight by an advisory board chosen by the DEA and FDA
Any companies found to continue to facilitate the prescription of drugs online will be fined
1st time offense: $750,000 fine
2nd time offense: $1,000,000 fine
3rd time offense: $2,000,000 fine
Any doctors found to be prescribing drugs online will be fined
1st time offense: $250,000 fine
2nd time offense: $500,000 fine
3rd time offense: $750,000 fine and loss of medical license
Funding for this initiative will come from the aforementioned fines

Results to be Expected:
By banning the prescription of drugs online, it will increase in-person doctor visits, which will then allow for safer and more effective diagnosis and prescription methods. Overall, this would improve prescription drug consumer safety and health.
Proposal #275
Author: Aria Nanda, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
To increase the accessibility of life-saving medical drugs.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. citizens suffering from chronic illnesses (i.e. Type 1 and 2 diabetes mellitus), Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, pharmaceutical companies, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Justification:
According to the Commonwealth Fund, the price of many lifesaving medical drugs has risen significantly in recent years. Since 2000, the United States has seen nearly a three-fold increase in pharmaceutical spending per capita. Additionally, in 2015, the Commonwealth Fund reported that the United States spends 30% to 190% more on pharmaceutical drugs than nine other developed countries (Switzerland, Germany, Canada, France, the U.K., Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden). Time Magazine reports that pharmaceutical companies such as Mylan have tripled insulin prices and raised the price of the EpiPen by 500% between the years 2007 and 2016 resulting in high-profit margins. These rising drug prices have negatively impacted all Americans; however, Americans in lower income brackets are particularly impaired. These Americans are forced to go without drugs that are necessary to their health, wellbeing, and survival. Beyond the ethical justification for making lifesaving drugs attainable for all Americans, there are significant economic and social reasons for creating a constitutional limit on rising drug prices. According to an NPR report, one out of every four people suffering from diabetes has rationed insulin due to its extreme cost. The rationing of insulin can lead to a deadly condition known as diabetic ketoacidosis. In 2018, three Americans suffering from Type 1 Diabetes died to rationing insulin according to the Right Care Alliance.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal calls for a limit on the pricing of medical drugs. This proposal suggests that the Department of Health and Human Services create a maximum limit on the prices of all prescription drugs. These limits would be determined based on a variety of factors. This proposal suggests taking into account state-determined minimum wages as well as the cost of manufacturing each drug. For example, a BMJ Global Health Report states that the production of a vial of human insulin ranges between $2.28 and $3.42 compared to atorvastatin, a cholesterol-lowering statin, which approximately costs below $0.31. These state-specific limits will place restrictions on pharmaceutical companies.

Results to be Expected:
There is likely to be significant opposition to this proposal, especially given the power of those who benefit from profits generated by the pharmaceutical industry. However, a positive receipt of this proposal is anticipated for the following reasons: 1) the moral obligation of Americans to ensure that each citizen is able to care for their own health, driven by a belief that health is a human right. 2) the economic impact of a healthier U.S. population will lead to higher GDP growth and less financial loss to sick days and high insurance costs.
Title:
Regulating Pharmaceutical Patents on Insulin

Major Areas to be Affected:
Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Pharmaceutical Companies, Health Insurance Companies/Departments

Justification:
Frederick Banting sold the patent to insulin, a natural hormone responsible for regulating blood sugar levels in Type 1 and 2 diabetics, for $1 to the University of Toronto on the basis that he did not desire profit from a product designed to save lives. In the last five years alone, though, insulin prices have tripled and continue to rise. The lowest price for a prescription of insulin in the United States from one of three dominating but reputable companies, the most affordable being Humalog produced by Eli Lilly, is approximately $275 for an uninsured diabetic. In comparison, the second highest price in the world stands in India, still averaging about $163 less than the U.S. The UK only charges $6 for the same dose. T1 International, a non-profit dedicated to ensuring every Type 1 diabetic has affordable access to insulin, calls America’s current insulin pricing a “crisis.” The high costs have led to individuals with diabetes holding out on dosages, taking less insulin than prescribed, missing meals, or even obtaining expired, more reasonably-priced doses from the black market to maintain their blood sugar levels.

Proposal for Action:
To avoid monopolizations from companies like Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi that ultimately allow the three companies to inflate their prices, patents placed on insulin formulas will be regulated to give generic brands a greater chance at entering the marketplace. Instead of solely setting expiration dates on patents, the government would use its powers stated in 28 U.S.C. § 1498 to contract with generic brands and aid them in production or limit patents the big companies try to invoke. Enforcing regulatory procedures promotes lower pricing, an increase in competition, and different approaches to insulin production, such as creating biosimilars.

Results to be Expected:
Individuals with diabetes will be able to better afford their life-saving doses of insulin. The three leading distributors of insulin also can expect better regulation and a lower chance of instating significant price increases. Generic pharmaceuticals may also be encouraged and able to participate in the industry and contribute to the leveling of prices. In addition, the market for insulin can diversify and provide patients with more options for treatment.
Proposal #320
Author: Julia Holmes, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
To Establish a Constitutional Right to Privacy

Major Areas to be Affected:
National Security Agency; Central Intelligence Agency; Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Constitution

Justification:
In 1928, Justice Louis Brandeis explained with his dissent in Olmstead v. United States that all American citizens have a "right to be let alone." This right would later be further defined by Griswold v. Connecticut, establishing the right to marital privacy, Roe v. Wade, solidifying the right of individual autonomy, and a combination of the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 9th amendments from the Bill of Rights. Currently, both Congress and corporations are infringing on American privacy rights. The government collects trillions of text messages, calls, and documents monthly, while private corporations sell consumer information daily. The right to privacy is embedded in a complicated thread of substantive due process. Overruling a single one of these cases could strip the privacy protection most Americans cling to for equal marriage rights, bodily autonomy, and protection from American intelligence agencies. Therefore, establishing a clear right to privacy would further protect the implied rights of American citizens.

Proposal for Action:
The Constitution shall be amended as follows:
The people have a right to be let alone, and it shall not be violated by corporations or Congress in the absence of the law being substantively related to the achievement of an important government objective.

Results to be Expected:
Court rulings such as Griswold and Roe will now have clear Constitutional backing. As a result, Infringements on American privacy by the government through programs such as PRISM and TAO will cease. Private corporations will be forced to re-evaluate their own privacy protection standards to better protect the consumer.
Title:

A proposal to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana for recreational uses. A 14.5% federal tax will be placed on marijuana and funds gathered from this tax will be used toward the Affordable Care Act and regulation of Marijuana.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

The criminalization of marijuana has created many problems with the criminal justice system, imprisoning 8.2 million Americans between 2001 and 2010. This mass incarceration is not only expensive but also threatens the livelihood of Americans. This act of legislation is attempting to decriminalize marijuana and place a heavy tax on this commodity. The provisions. In turn, this taxation will be used toward the inspection of the marijuana products being distributed and will be used towards the Affordable Care Act.

A similar policy to that of alcohol will be enforced, allowing people over the age of 21 to purchase marijuana, as stated enforced in the National Minimum Age Act of 1984. This will help promote proper brain development for people under the age of 21 and prevent brain damage. Exceptions to the age of purchase will be enforced by state legislation when accounting for religious purposes, medical purposes, and etc. Similarly, like alcohol, states will have the ability to prohibit or permit the production of Marijuana in the home. However, on federally owned or rented property, only federal legislation will be upheld.

The legalization of marijuana will create economic opportunity and boost the economy by creating a new market. Consumer spending on Marijuana will benefit the economy and promote economic growth. In turn, new job opportunities, both indirect and direct, would develop including consulting firms, software engineering, financial services, lending services, construction (of new firms), greenhouses, etc. This will benefit the economy through domestic trade as well as opening a new market between the United States and other foreign powers.

The passing of this act will promote the safer consumption of marijuana. It will prevent the need for the purchase of unregulated marijuana and destroy the illegal marijuana industry currently in place. This will prevent the exploitation of people within the industry through its regulation. It will also prevent the use of harmful or traced marijuana products by consumers. Consumers who use cannabis for medical use would also have the product more readily available as a result of this act.

The legalization of marijuana will allow for the pardoning of Americans who have been incarcerated under charges relating to marijuana. This will ultimately result in a decrease in the number of prisoners in correctional institutes. The cost of funding correctional institutes will decrease as a result of fewer prisoners inhabiting the prisons. This legislation will remove marijuana from the “Schedule I” drugs on the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) from the Nixon Administration. People under the age of 21 can be tried for the use and possession of marijuana, in accordance with alcohol legislation. Moreover, it will be illegal to use this substance while operating heavy machinery such as cars, trains, boats, and etc.

Furthermore, the tax in place will ultimately help the 44 million Americans without health insurance have basic coverage. This will promote positive health and well-being of Americans nationwide. Money collected from the purchase of marijuana will be used towards granting universal healthcare to Americans. The money will also help the 38 million Americans who have insufficient healthcare receive more substantial healthcare.
Proposal for Action:

Marijuana will be legalized and a 14.5% tax will be placed on marijuana and funds gathered from this tax will be used toward the Affordable Care Act, granting universal healthcare access. Funds will be used towards paying for the healthcare of Americans who qualify.

In this process, the decriminalization of marijuana will take place, this process will require the freedom of people arrested for marijuana law violations. Past convicts on these charges will be pardoned for their actions. This will remove marijuana from the "Schedule I" drugs on the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) from the Nixon Administration.

The Food and Drug Administration will be regulating marijuana for safe consumption. Some of the money collected through taxing will be used towards paying for regulators and inspectors. Similar measures to that taken for alcohol allowing the legal consumption and sale of Marijuana to people over the age of 21. People under the age of 21 can be tried and arrested for possession and consumption of marijuana in accordance with alcohol policies.

Results to be Expected:

Some short term results of this act of legislation include the decriminalization of marijuana and the pardoning of drug offenders who possessed or used marijuana. This will decrease the number of people in prisons and create more jobs, boosting the economy. It will allow for the legal sale of marijuana. Ultimately revenue will be collected through the 14.5% percent tax on marijuana, which will be used towards the regulation of marijuana as well as universal healthcare. The intentions of this bill are to provide sufficient healthcare to all Americans and promote the legal use of regulated marijuana.
Title:
To exclude Puerto Rico from The Merchant Marine Act of 1920.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Puerto Rico and southeastern ports along mainland United States.

Justification:
Due to requirements made by The Jones Act or Merchant Marine Act of 1920, Puerto Rico suffers from crippling debt. The Merchant Marine Act of 1920 requires all goods that are transported to and from American ports to be carried by American ships. Foreign ships that wish to transport goods, including important necessities like food and fuel, to Puerto Rico must reroute to mainland American ports and switch their cargo to American ships before delivering goods to U.S. Territory. The problem then becomes the cost of transferring cargo from foreign to American ships, since Puerto Rico is required to pay these expenses. In 2013, a Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported that The Merchant Marine Act hurts Puerto Rico’s economy. It is estimated that shipping costs from the U.S. East Coast to Puerto Rico are double what they are to the nearby Dominican Republic, mainly due to the constraints of The Merchant Marine Act. Puerto Rico is United States territory, however citizens of Puerto Rico do not enjoy the right to vote, despite being U.S. citizens. This is problematic because it forces Puerto Rico to be bound to The Merchant Marine Act without fair representation in The U.S. Government. Since Puerto Rico does not have official U.S. state status they are not able to declare bankruptcy, further decimating their economy.

Proposal for Action:
To amend The Merchant Marine Act of 1920 to exclude Puerto Rico.

Results to be Expected:
As a result of removing Puerto Rico from The Merchant Marine Act, their economy should experience significant relief from exorbitant spending on importing goods. As a result of less spending it should help Puerto Rico regain the amount of money in circulation as well as gain money from tariffs collected when importing goods directly into Puerto Rico.
Title:
Price regulation of prescription and over-the-counter drugs price

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), pharmaceutical companies

Justification:
In the United States, one in four people report paying for their prescription is difficult, and Americans pay more out of pocket for prescription drugs than any other country (Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll August 2015, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). The purpose of this proposal includes the following: prevent drug prices from being able to be hiked by pharmaceutical companies and control the price of drugs on the market based on treatment ability and side effects. The HHS is currently prohibited by federal law to participate in any type of negotiation with drug companies regarding drugs covered under Medicare Part B or Part D and does not currently regulate any other drug prices. The lack of regulation by a federal authority has resulted in prescription drug spending growing to a new all time high of $333 billion dollars (Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services). This has increased the burden on households and the federal government—who share a nearly equal portion of total health spending. The Food and Drug Administration currently approves drugs whose known provided benefits are greater than the risks associated with said drug. This has resulted in drugs that are very similar to an existing drug being released onto the market (either as house/generic brand drugs or as a competitive biosimilar). In many instances the new drug may cost significantly more than its competitor without any additional benefit. This was the case with a colorectal cancer treatment drug, Zaltrap, in 2012. Zaltrap cost twice as much as competitors—about $11,000 a month—but was still being prescribed to patients instead of its cheaper, equally effective counterpart. The lack of price control has lead to price hikes for a multitude of life saving drugs: insulin, cancer treatment medication, steroids, antibacterial drugs. There are many instances in which prescription drugs have entered the market at a price 5,000% greater than their previous iterations. Price hikes like these lead consumers—both with and without insurance—faced with a difficult position regarding their health. These situations often result in rationing of vital medications (that should be taken at the prescribed dose and no less) due to their prices.

Proposal for Action:
With this bill the HHS will be given the ability to regulate the price of drugs based upon their efficacy in terms of treatment/clinical outcomes and the number/severity of side effects in comparison to existing drugs of a similar nature. The HHS will have the ability to establish a review process at multiple levels: price change resulting from prior mergers and/or the sale of patents and new drugs approved by the FDA before sale in the open market. During the review process, the HHS will negotiate with the company presenting the drug; however, if no consensus is reached between the two parties the drug will not be permitted to be sold to a consumer or prescribed to a consumer.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal should result in both the federal government and the general populous saving billions of dollars per year that is currently being poured into unnecessary and unethical price hikes. The federal government should save $11 billion a year through negotiating prices (Congressional Budget Office). American households should be able to afford life saving drugs with reduced concern for potential financial impact while reducing insurance premiums. Drug companies will also receive more incentives to innovate and develop new, better drugs (small improvements will not be financially feasible).
Proposal #443

Author: Kevin Diaz, Delegation: District of Columbia

Title:
Decriminalize marijuana across all states and expunging non-violent marijuana-related offenses from criminal records

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal prisons, Department of Justice, incarcerated individuals

Justification:
There were 1,632,921 arrests for drugs in 2017. 659,700 people were arrested for violating existing marijuana laws. Of those arrests, 599,282 people or 90.8% were arrested for possession only. According to Vera Institute of Justice, it costs roughly $31,000 to house an inmate per year, which means that the taxpayer spends about $18,577,742,000 per year on marijuana inmates alone. A large amount of inmates drug convictions are for marijuana possession alone. It is unfair that some people will struggle to integrate back into society because they were affected by the draconian laws. Having a criminal record can prevent a person from getting their dream job or being admitted to a school of their choice. It can also affect their immigration status, ability to obtain housing or have a good life. Even if your criminal record is old, it will still follow you for the rest of your life. Instead of police officers focusing on petty crimes such of possession of marijuana, they can be focused on more serious crimes such as murder. According to the American Civil Liberty Union, on average, an African-American person is 3.73 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than a white person, even though both races use marijuana at similar rates. Of marijuana possession arrests in the District of Columbia, a staggering 91% were African-American. In Mississippi, 69% of all marijuana possession arrests were African-American. In Georgia and Louisiana, the numbers are 64% and 61%, respectively. These figures are further illuminated when taking into account the difference between the African-American percentage of marijuana arrests and the African-American percentage of state populations. In Illinois, for instance, African-Americans make up 15% of the population, but account for 58% of the marijuana possession arrests. Decriminalizing marijuana can help reduce racially-driven arrests for marijuana usage.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal calls for Congress to decriminalize marijuana and to expunge non-violent marijuana-related offenses from criminal records. The Department of Justice will be tasked with ensuring application at a federal level in every state. States will be required to enforce and mandate it to their police forces to effectively foster change in the criminal justice system. Each state will develop their own process on how to manage currently incarcerated individuals.

Results to be Expected:
There will be a marked decrease in incarcerated individuals. The money being spent on housing inmates can be spent into public schools and public health programs. Additionally, programs can be developed to assist individuals release after their criminal records for marijuana related crimes are expunged.
Cap Drug Pricing for Insulin

Major Areas to be Affected:

Insulin manufacturers, Pharmacy Benefit Managers, Diabetes patients

Justification:

Insulin products have been skyrocketing in price for the last decade. In fact, insulin prices have nearly tripled from 2002 to 2013, according to a report from the American Diabetes Association. Unlike many other pharmaceutical drugs, insulin does not have a price cap. This is extremely detrimental to diabetes patients because pharmaceutical companies can keep raising prices because insulin is manufactured privately. Conversely, pharmaceutical companies blame PBMs (pharmacy benefit managers) for their high prices. PBMs are third-party administrators of prescription drug programs that act as middle-men between pharmaceutical manufacturers and insurance companies. Pharmaceutical companies claim that while they do create the high list price, they do so to pay PBMs rebates, discounts, and fees. Ultimately, the insulin supply chain is so complex that every party involved has collectively exacerbated the insulin price epidemic. Insulin prices especially impact patients with low health insurance premiums and high-deductible plans. These patients often have to pay their entire deductible, ranging from $500 to $7,000, in order to even acquire a copayment. Even after their copayment begins, health insurance companies only pay up to a certain amount, leaving patients to pay the rest. Consequently, several patients have rationed insulin, used expired insulin, and have even purchased it from the black market because of the astronomically high prices.

Proposal for Action:

The FDA will create an independent monitoring commission to regulate insulin prices. This commission will be appointed by the FDA director and will be composed of experts specializing in drug regulation and well-respected physicians. They will create a ceiling for insulin prices and will penalize pharmaceutical companies if they go above it. The penalty for violating this ceiling will be the suspension of the company’s insulin products in the market until it adheres to the regulation. In addition, another ceiling will be created to control the amount of funds pharmacy benefit managers demand from pharmaceutical companies.

Results to be Expected:

Capping insulin prices will prevent pharmaceutical companies and pharmacy benefit managers from increasing their rates. Consumers will no longer have to pay an exorbitant amount for insulin, and it will become more accessible to diabetes patients. In addition, pharmaceutical companies and pharmacy benefit managers will be held accountable for present/future insulin rates that go above the mandated ceiling. The objectives of this proposal are to establish a thriving insulin system, decrease the amount of fatalities caused by lack of access to insulin products, and reduce the rate of hospitalization. Ultimately, this insulin system will be one step closer to a future with more inclusive and transparent healthcare.
Proposal #509  
**Author:** Dahlia Scher, **Delegation:** Washington

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**Title:** Prescription Drug Cost Management

**Major Areas to be Affected:** Pharmaceutical companies, Drug manufacturers, American People, Department of Health and Human Services

**Justification:** Over the years, prescription drug prices in the US have been continuing to rise making it harder and harder for people who need the medications to access them. Many of these prescription drugs like Epipens or Insulin are life saving medications that are absolutely necessary for certain citizens to live. Allowing the government to monitor prescription drug pricing and void any government granted exclusivity, like through patents, will help to maintain a fair and affordable price for drugs by incentivizing companies to maintain affordable prices to avoid losing their government granted monopolies. This is necessary because it needs to be shown that human life is more valuable than the capital earned by pharmaceutical companies in this country.

**Proposal for Action:**

Require the Department of Health and Human Services to review the pricing of all prescription drugs on the market and compare with the manufacturing cost and average sale prices in other countries in order to determine whether there is unfair pricing. If drug is determined to be unfairly priced for the consumer then the manufacturing company will be given 60 days to adjust prices before government granted exclusivity is voided. After the annulment of any government granted exclusivity (effective on the date exactly 60 days after the unfair pricing has been determined), the government shall grant open, nonexclusive licenses allowing any entity to buy, sell, import, or make the drug in the United States. Any entity that is under these open licenses will have to pay a royalty to the holder of the patent on the drug that is determined by the internal revenue service.

**Results to be Expected:**

Prescription drugs will become more affordable for the everyday consumer either through price drops by pharmaceutical companies, or by more competition through open licensing agreements.
Proposal #532

Author: Drew Dozier, Delegation: District of Columbia

Title:
Declassifying marijuana as a Schedule 1 Drug to an over the counter drug (OTC)

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, American citizens, Federal and state penitentiary

Justification:
Since the 1930s and 40s and the beginning War on Drugs, the government has considered marijuana a dangerous drug. Because of this belief, coupled with the evolution of the War on Drugs, marijuana has been classified as one of the most lethal and addictive substances. The DEA defines schedule one drugs as “drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse”. This classification, Schedule 1, has also been used in classification Heroin, LSD, Ecstasy, and Peyote.

Marijuana should be declassified as a schedule 1 drug and reclassified as an over the counter drug (OTC) for four major reasons. First, marijuana’s Schedule 1 status has affected millions of Americans across all demographics because of mandatory minimums and 3 strikes laws. Secondly, legalizing marijuana could also contribute to tax revenues and increase the national budget. Colorado alone has raised $905,508,416 since 2014, and $266,529,637 in 2018 alone. Third, marijuana’s schedule 1 status has prevented and/or heavily inconvenienced millions from utilizing marijuana, a drug that could possibly help treat health care conditions like nausea relief in chemotherapy patients, neuropathic pain relief, and food intake with HIV patients. Studies done by the American cancer society have shown that marijuana does not meet Schedule 1 criteria as it has several medical uses, does not have a high potential for abuse compared to other Schedule 1 drugs, or high risk of physiological or physical dependence. Lastly, despite relatively equal usage among Caucasian and African Americans, the persecution of marijuana users has been swayed heavily against people of color. Studies conducted by the ACLU found that although Caucasian and African Americans use the drug relatively equal, African Americans are four times more likely to be arrested on marijuana charges.

Proposal for Action:
The federal goverment will declassify of marijuana from the list of Schedule 1 drugs and reclassify marijuana as an over the counter drug (OTC).

Marijuana will be held to the same standards as alcohol and tobacco products.

Results to be Expected:
First, marijuana’s legalization would receive Americans from unfairly harsh punishments. Secondly, rescheduling marijuana, the United States of America will save the 3.5 billion dollars we spend annually from the costs associated with enforcement, which includes, but is not limited to, arrest, trial, incarceration, and rehabilitation, while also possibly raising millions of dollars in tax revenue. Third, Americans will have access to a helpful drug that can treat a range of illness. Lastly, we will get rid of an oppressive tool used to unfairly incarcerate American citizens.
Title:

Promoting the Progress of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Competition: Decreasing the current lifespan of patents and eliminating periods of exclusivity companies currently have, for both newly developed and pre-existing drugs in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Pharmaceutical companies and US patients/citizens that use/take some form of medication.

Justification:

Many big drug companies in the United States, for decades, have starved the pharmaceutical industry by making their medication less-accessible to both patients and younger, and less established companies, through the abuse of patents and periods of exclusivity on their medication. The Copyright and Patent Clause included in the United States Constitution, which enables Congress to, “promote the progress of science and useful arts” by securing investors and author’s exclusive rights to their writings and discoveries for a “limited period of time”—has lost its meaning and effect, as major pharmaceutical companies, like Reckitt Benckiser, have (recently) promoted neither when the company was able to extend its period of exclusivity for their drug Suboxone, with an additional nineteen years of protection.

Proposal for Action:

Decrease the amount of time pharmaceutical companies have on patents for newly developed drugs, down to ten years of protection as opposed to the current, twenty-years. This is to be the only form of patent protection that pharmaceutical companies in the US have on newly developed medications.

Pharmaceutical companies are to no longer, be able to file new patents on preexisting medications with patients that are active and/or have already expired.

Eliminate and deny pharmaceutical companies that option to file for any period of exclusivity. This includes: Orphan Drug Exclusivity, New Chemical Exclusivity, “Other” Exclusivity, Pediatric Exclusivity, and 180-Day Exclusivity.

In addition to the periods of exclusivity mentioned in section three, the CDER Exclusivity Board is to permanently shut down and be discontinued.

Results to be Expected:

Increased competition (more businesses) in the pharmaceutical industry, cheaper and more accessible forms of preexisting medication available to patients/US citizens, the end/cut-off of monopolies controlling drug prices and the availability of medication to the general public.
Title:

A proposal to implement widespread immigration reform in order to ensure the safety of US citizens and mitigate difficulties of current legal immigration.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Populations of southern border states, the Federal budget, incoming immigrants, the Judicial system, and the immigration system.

Justification:

According to Pew Research; in 2016, there were roughly 10.7 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States. In 2017 the Federation for American Immigration Reform found that Illegal Immigration cost the US a combined total of roughly $116 billion per year. At the same time, in its current state, immigration is an extremely time-consuming, grueling process. For those living in areas with larger immigrant populations, it’s common to wait upwards of two years for a citizenship application to go through. This unfortunately drives many to immigrate illegally. For these reasons, immigration must be severely overhauled.

Proposal for Action:

The process of immigrating legally should be streamlined and expedited.

Currently, to be eligible for citizenship a person must have lived in the US with a green card for five years at the time of applying for citizenship. This should be changed to three years.

The US immigration website should be updated to accommodate common languages, such as: Spanish, French, German, Italian, etc.

The English-speaking requirement for the Citizenship test will remain unchanged.

Current Federal Law allows for 675,000 immigrants worldwide into the US annually with exceptions for family members. This ceiling should be increased to 1,000,000.

Currently, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) claims to be working on reducing the amount of time a person must wait for their naturalization application to six months. However, it’s common for one to wait two or more years.

An independent committee should be created and tasked with evaluating the performance of this office to determine a plan for action in order to cut this time down.

A process for illegal immigrants currently living in the United States to become citizens should be created.

After implementation, illegal immigrants currently living in the US should be given a two-year period to fill out a citizenship application without fear of repercussions.

This would only apply to those who haven’t committed subsequent crimes after entering the country.

The 14th amendment should no longer be interpreted to incentivize “anchor babies.”

The intended purpose of this amendment was to give legal rights to former slaves in the days following abolition.

The original section under this amendment interpreted in this way reads as follows: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

Those born in the United States to parents who are non-citizens would not be under the jurisdiction of the United States, therefore the current interpretation of this clause should be changed to solely apply to children born to legal citizens.

This would remove the incentive for people to break the law in this way, while at the same time incentivizing legal immigration.

A wall shall be erected on the southern border.

Estimates place the cost of a wall anywhere between eight and seventy billion dollars. When compared with the annual cost of illegal immigration on taxpayers, this cost is dwarfed.

Results to be Expected:

The expected results of this proposal would be a quicker and easier time for immigrants looking to enter our country, illegal immigration would be harder to pull off and be less enticing, illegal immigrants desiring to become citizens but scared of consequences could apply for it and hopefully begin to pay into our system, and the cost of illegal immigration on the American taxpayer would be greatly alleviated.
A proposal to re-open the MAVNI program.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Military, recruiting, immigration.

Justification:

The Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) program was a successful recruitment program in which qualified immigrants could obtain citizenship through serving in the military (3 years of active duty, or six years in the Selected Reserve). For many years, this program recruited over 10,000 immigrants with a variety of skills in healthcare and language to strengthen our military services. In 2016, more stringent background checks were implemented by the Department of Homeland Security and the MAVNI program was frozen, leaving several thousand recruits without any way to advance. In 2019, the Trump administration suspended this program indefinitely. Most MAVNI’s were reportedly not given notice of why they were being discharged, but their citizenship status was jeopardized because they were enlisted, but were not allowed to serve. Many of these people had honorably served in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations around the world. These people who have dedicated their lives to America now risk deportation. If these soldiers were to be sent back to their home countries, they potentially face the death penalty, jail time, or torture for treason. Due to the suspension of this program, the military has not been able to meet recruiting standards. The lack of people enlisting has lead to the military relaxing recruiting standards, leading to them filing for more drug and criminal waivers. These immigrants have done everything right: they have gotten an education and have demonstrated patriotism towards the United States. Instead of being rewarded with an expedited path to citizenship, these immigrants now face deportation.

Proposal for Action:

Re-open the MAVNI program.

Results to be Expected:

More qualified recruits enlisted, easier pathway to citizenship for qualified immigrants, higher recruitment rates, improved diversity in military.
Proposal #127

Author: Kulsoom Ghias, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
To prohibit a question of citizenship on any US Census in the future

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S Department of Commerce, Individuals taking the US census, US citizens, undocumented citizens

Justification:
Adding the question of one’s citizenship on any US census in the future would be disastrous to America, as a whole. According to a government estimate, around 6.5 million people will not be counted if a citizenship question was added to a US Census. Currently, US censuses are taken by all individuals living in the US, including those who are not citizens. US Censuses determine where federal funding will be allocated, primarily based on population density within a district which is vital to ensure that the needs of specific underprivileged communities are met. If a question of one’s citizenship was added, then many urban areas and cities would lose federal funding despite the need for it since many undocumented citizens reside in urban areas and cities.

Furthermore, adding a question about one’s citizenship would prohibit accurate representation within the US House of Representatives. The court case US Department of Commerce vs. New York, No. 18-966 required an “actual enumeration” every 10 years, with the House of Representatives to be determined by “the whole number of persons in each state.” Having a question of one’s citizenship on the US Census would also essentially neglect districts that are in need of federal aid since federal spending is determined by the number of people within a district. The population within a district is collected through a US census every 10 years; if undocumented individuals are not considered apart of a population of a district, the amount of money that would be distributed to each district would not go to where the money is needed since undocumented individuals would not be considered.

Proposal for Action:
To prohibit the question of one’s citizenship on any US census in the future

Results to be Expected:
Federal Aid will be accurately allocated to the districts in each state with populations in need of monetary aid strictly based upon the number of people living in the district
The US House of Representatives will be apportioned more accurately based upon the “whole number of persons in each state” which upholds the rulings of the US Department of Commerce vs. New York court case.
Proposal #129  
Author: Samuel Shideler, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:

To appropriate funding for additional immigration judges and law clerks in the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR).

Major Areas to be Affected:

Executive Office of Immigration Review, Department of Justice, Asylum Seekers.

Justification:

The number of pending immigration cases across the United States is at an all time high. According to Syracuse University's live immigration data tracking (TRAC Immigration), there are nearly 870,000 pending cases, a number which has increased by more than 100,000 cases for the past five years. New York and Los Angeles courts are areas of particularly high concentration; they account for roughly 200,000 of total cases. These are cases in which an immigrant seeking asylum or facing deportation is waiting to go before an immigration judge. While these individuals are waiting for their hearing, they are either detained or are free but unable to work due to a new executive policy restricting their activities. The office in charge of these hearings, the Executive Office of Judicial Review, is not properly staffed to manage this surge in cases; there are currently roughly four hundred immigration judges, including retired judges who work part time. TRAC immigration states that 215,569 cases were heard in FY 2018, meaning each judge heard, on average, more than five hundred cases a year. This volume places an immense amount of pressure on judges to make quick and half-formed rulings, preventing them from properly deliberating on each case and creating a stressful, unrewarding work environment, according to a report compiled by the American Bar Association (ABA). Adding new judges will increase the EOIR's capacity for managing cases and, in the long term, reduce the excessive burden on judges as the rate of new cases draws closer to the rate of rulings. Additionally, the greater wealth of institutional knowledge that a larger corps of judges will provide long term benefits to the quality of rulings made by immigration judges. Additionally, the ABA report previously referenced also found that the job of immigration judges is made significantly more difficult and taxing by the lack of legal clerks to assist them. There are currently 87 law clerks employed by the EOIR, or one for every five judges. The lack of legal clerks prevents judges from receiving assistance with the research and writing that is requisite to properly evaluate and rule upon each case they face. Additional legal clerks in each immigration court will give judges the legal assistance they need to provide written opinions and understand the context of the cases on which they rule; according to the ABA, many judges complain of being unable to properly research the conditions that asylum seekers come from, which inhibits their ability to rule justly on their cases. The proposed allocations for each hiring are based on the EOIR budget requests to increase the number of employed judges by 150 over two years.

Proposal for Action:

Appropriate $31,500,000 to EOIR to employee 150 new immigration judges and to fund the associated office expenses
Each judge, when hired, is to be assigned to the immigration court with the highest case to judge ratio
Appropriate $4,500,000 to EOIR to employee 63 new law clerks
A minimum of one law clerk will be assigned to each court, then each new clerk will be assigned to the court with the lowest clerk to judge ratio

Results to be Expected:

This action will result in a more efficient, effective immigration court system. Judges will have lighter workloads, enabling more careful and thoughtful deliberation. A lighter workload will also result in more formal and informal cooperation between colleagues, lightening the mental strain of the job and increasing productivity. Additional time to craft quality decisions will result in improved job satisfaction and reduce stress and turnover in the occupation. Additionally, the backlog of pending immigration cases will be reduced significantly as more hearings occur and more cases are resolved.
Proposal #164  
Author: Kemy Barrera, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:

Reenactment of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Major Areas to be Affected:

Current recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program

Justification:

On September 5, 2017, U.S Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the government was terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (or DACA) program. More than 800,000 recipients (Dreamers) have reaching the expiration date on their status. Many of these Dreamers came to the United States at a very young age. Many of these Dreamers don’t speak the language of their place of origin and many don’t remember the place that at one point they called home because they were brought to this country at such a young age. With the termination of the program, many recipients are at risk of deportation once their status is expired. If the time were to come, with the loss of 800,000 Dreamers, many are going to lose the life they have built here in this country. Everything that they have come to love and live will be taken away from them. All the things that they have overcome, it will be taken away if nothing is done.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal will reenact the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Many of these Dreamers came to the United States at a very young age. Some don’t speak their native language and many don’t remember the place they use to live due to coming to this country so young. Dreamers have created and have accustomed to the culture that has been created here. With the guidelines that DACA has, Dreamers had to be in the United States before June 5, 2007 in order to be accable for the program. Which means that many have not been able to visit the country they came from or see if they have any connections back where they came from due to the guidelines that make them accable for the program. Many of these young adults are at risk at being deported and will lose their jobs once their status has expired.

With the reenactment of DACA, they are only allowed to be in the country with a work permit and are not granted citizenship and will have to renew their status every two years. Many of these Dreamers have been apart of the program for seven years since the Executive Order was made by President Obama. Many have gotten the opportunity graduate high school and have been able to attend college and earn a degree. Although they have gotten their degree, recipients are not allowed to get the certification of the state and are not allowed to work in field of what their degree is for due to. These recipients have lived the way that most have lived and should be considered for citizenship. For the past seven years, many have not been able to get the same opportunities as a documented citizen. Although every DACA recipient has the same responsibilities that a U.S citizen has, they are still not guaranteed citizenship or residency through this program. Many pay taxes and bills, attend school, and do the daily activities that many citizens do. Many of these Dreamers are able to do everything that a United States citizen is able such as buy a car, build up their credit, buy a house, go to college and earn a degree but the difference is that they are not allowed to leave the country, cannot have a felony, must be on a good behavior because if they do one thing wrong, they are at risk at getting their document taken away and being deported.

Results to be Expected:

Many of the recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals will be able to continue to work and live in the United States. They will be able to continue and improve the life they have built for themselves and their families. Many will be able to continue to go to school and not worry about the termination of the program. If proposal were to be implemented, there would still be the opportunities for DACA recipients to that they have been currently granted.
Title:
Removing Monetary Penalties for Companies Hiring Illegal Immigrants

Major Areas to be Affected:
Immigration and Customs Reform, Private Corporations

Justification:
There is currently an extreme employment shortage in America yet we are cracking down on illegal immigrants. Over half of the farm workers in our nation are illegal immigrants. Fifteen percent of the construction workers lack necessary employment papers. In the service industry, about nine percent of the workers are undocumented, and the list goes on. Projections estimate that we need 800,000 more workers in construction, to be maids, and to work in agriculture within the next decade. These jobs will go unfilled without illegal immigrants in our country. We need to make it easier for them to stay and work in the United States in order to support our economy and ensure prosperity for years to come.

Proposal for Action:
It is necessary to rid fines on employers if found to have hired an illegal immigrant through the means of ICE raids or audits. This safeguards businesses from the worry of paying millions of dollars in fines for hiring the workers their business needs to stay afloat, and due to the current legal structure, places no burden on the company for having to question immigrants about their legal status.

Results to be Expected:
Companies would be able to continue or begin to hire illegal immigrants without the current legal barriers or financial threats of an ICE audit or raid. The companies would be able to continue to provide service and be less cramped to find employees in the tight labor market. This aids the US economy as a whole, but does not guarantee any legal citizenship or treatment, beyond those of a typical employee, in the United States.
Title:
To make retention of counsel mandatory in immigration court, and that immigrants be provided a lawyer free of charge if they are unable to afford one.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Congress, the Attorney General, Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), United States immigration attorneys, immigrants within the United States, immigration court justices

Justification:
As of now, our immigration system is a perfect storm of bureaucracy, overloaded courts, and unserved justice. Immigration court, unlike the other judiciary entities of our nation, is under the jurisdiction of the executive branch. In traditional criminal or civil court, an independent member of the judiciary would adjudicate a case. However, immigration courts, known broadly as the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), fall under the Department of Justice. The result is that both the prosecutor, who is from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the adjudicator are of the same branch of government; leading to a lack of checks and balances to ensure a fair trial. Furthermore, in the face of these already skewed odds, immigrants are presented with another disadvantage. Though immigrants have the right to retain counsel, should they be unable to afford it, the government does not provide them with a lawyer. Without counsel, they can not adequately advocate for themselves in an unfamiliar country, before unfamiliar people, more often than not, in an unfamiliar language. The result is people, even children, appearing in court to advocate on their own behalf without sufficient experience or information. This is the case for the vast majority of immigrants. In fact, in 2016, only 37% of all immigrants facing deportation managed to secure their own counsel, while there is a growing disparity in the increasing amounts of immigrants detained by ICE and decreasing levels of due process for immigrants. For those who were detained, that percentage drops to 14%. Without adequate representation and advocacy, the immigration system is not only unfair but ineffective, as the defendant is unable to properly communicate with the court. Without a lawyer, children in immigration court are allowed to remain in the United States in less than 10% of cases. With representation, both adults and children are 5 times more likely to win their case. While counsel is not a guarantee in traditional civil court, the distinction between immigration court and ordinary civil court must be made as their consequences are wholly different. Deportation is not qualified as criminal, meaning these individuals would not be thrown in prison; however, being sent home for many can be quantified as a death sentence. This gravity must be recognized and met with reform within the court system.

Proposal for Action:
Congress will appropriate funding to guarantee lawyers for immigrants in the 2021 fiscal budget. Funding for the attorneys will come from the reallocation of funds from immigration enforcement. This will counteract the growing disparity between immigrants captured and immigrants given due process and a timely trial, improving the efficacy and fairness of our immigration system.

The Attorney General will instruct immigration court judges not to proceed against immigrants prior to them retaining counsel.

Results to be Expected:
Should this proposal be implemented, immigrants, individuals simply seeking better lives for themselves and their families, would be given a fair chance. A significant difference can be made even with this small step in the right direction.
Combating Illegal Immigration Economically, Socially, and Politically

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Department of Labor, United States Department of Commerce, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Border Patrol, Sanctuary Cities, Department of Justice

Justification:
The issue of illegal immigration is undeniably a significant threat not just to the financial health of our nation, but to our security and way of life. The simple notion that one can circumvent our system, can avoid working hard, can cut the line, and be rewarded for it, is repugnant to everything we stand for as Americans. The justification for this proposal can be divided into 2 main sections: The Economic Justification, and The Social/Security Justification

Economic:
While advocates of illegal immigration argue that they contribute to the economics of our societies and provide tax dollars, this belief is simply not planted in reality. According to a study by FAIRUS, illegal immigrants consume a net 113 billion USD in federal and state tax dollars on average. While it is true illegal immigrants are technically not eligible for welfare, the costs of public education, housing, and medical care all contribute to a colossal amount of tax-dollars spent on these migrants. Additionally, while many claim illegal immigrants contribute to the economy by working "jobs Americans don't want to do" this claim is once again, not footed in truth. A study by CIS found that these so called jobs, primarily in industries such as childcare and construction, actually have majority native-born workers, debunking the myth that Americans refuse to do them. Illegal Immigration actually hurts American workers, as a study by the Kennedy School of Govt at Harvard found that illegal immigration hurt the wages of competing American workers by around 10%, as they were willing to work for lower pay. This makes illegal immigrants more attractive candidates for businesses as they are not concerned like regular Americans about building a better life - they care only about remittances. Remittances, or money sent out of the U.S. to family abroad, destroy the economy and upend the sensitive market flow that exists in a society. The Washington Examiner reported that last year, 120 billion USD went out of the U.S. and into countries with high levels of illegal immigration. While people should have the economic freedom to do what they please with their money, the trend of illegals taking and then shipping money out of our nation cannot be ignored. It is for those economic reasons that my proposal should be adopted.

Security/Social
In May 2019, arrests at the border reached their highest level in over a decade. Due to the dangerous flow of migrants flooding the border, many have used and exploited these people to commit crimes such as rape and extortion in exchange for safe entry through. The United States has a moral obligation to crack down on such exploitations by de-incentivizing and destroying the human trafficking trade that exists on our border, to preserve law and order as well as morality. But even domestically, illegal immigration is a threat to our security. A study by the Crime Research and Prevention Center found illegal immigrants were 118% more likely to be involved in a violent crime. Many illegal immigrants have arrived only to join street gangs like the MS-13 that destroy inner-city communities as well as bolster the illegal drug trade. The sheer thought of not knowing who the 11 million people are who crossed into our nation is frightening and provides a compelling argument for the adoptation of my proposal on social and security grounds.

Proposal for Action:
I: The Department of Homeland Security and ICE will inform visitors with a visa to the United States periodically of their time and date of departure, helping to prevent accidental illegal immigration.
II: The U.S. Department of Labor will mandate businesses of an e-verify employment system to ensure that all employees are legal residents of the United States. Any organization found in violation will be fined 10,000 dollars on the first offense, and have three warnings, with each future offense increasing by 10,000 dollars. If there is a fourth offense, the business(es) will be terminated.
III: The Department of Homeland Security shall construct and fortify a physical and technologically advanced border wall that spans the entirety of the U.S.-Mexico Border with the exception of natural barriers, at the discretion of the Border Patrol. Congress shall allocate 20 billion dollars for this task.
IV: The United States Government will cut federal assistance to cities that protect illegal immigration from law enforcement.

V: Congress shall allocate an extra 5 billion dollars of annual funding for the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

VI: The number of immigration courts under the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall be expanded to 100 instead of 58, helping to expedite deportations and reducing the backlog of cases.

Results to be Expected:

- Decrease in the number of illegal immigrants present in the United States.
- Reduced spending on illegal immigrant education, housing and healthcare.
- Reduced arrests at the U.S.-Mexico Border
- Reduced annual flow of illegal immigrants into the United States
- Reduce in the backlog of immigration cases
- Slight reduction in overall crime.
- Expedited wage-growth for low-skill American Workers.
- Increased consumer spending and salary.
Title:

Repealing DACA and Providing Active Recipients With Lifelong Permanent Resident Cards

Major Areas to be Affected:

700,000 active Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival Recipients, Department of Homeland Security, and US Immigration Customs and Enforcement

Justification:

Whether Democrat or Republican, many people like to focus on the politics of immigration rather than the policy. This issue subsequently leads to nearly a million people without permission to work in the United States, and at risk of being deported.

In September of 2018, the Trump Administration put out a memorandum that will gradually phase out the DACA policy. Because of this, all of the recipients who rely on the policy to maintain their livelihood now live a life of uncertainty. The memorandum did not come up with a compromise for the issue, instead, it created a solution to please Trump’s constituents: those of which who are mainly non-recipients. By giving the active DACA recipients permanent resident cards, or “green cards”, it allows them to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. With the green card, they can vote in all non-federal elections and sponsor children and spouses.

It is important to remember that the people who are eligible for DACA did not choose to come to the United States, it was out of their ability to oblige to the law. The government should not penalize them because of decisions others had made. This approach to the DACA issue provides a compromise, rather than a solution. No party will ever be satisfied with just one solution.

Proposal for Action:

I. Repeal the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy set forth by the June 12, 2012 memorandum.
II. Granting all active recipients with lifelong permanent resident cards, allowing a two year grace period to ensure every recipient has received a valid card. Recipients cannot be deported in the two years if valid DACA identification was shown.

Results to be Expected:

Former DACA recipients will have the right to live and work in the United States permanently, and will not have worry about reapplication. Both the Democrats and Republicans will be satisfied with the compromise, preventing further polarization on the immigration issue in the United States.
Title:
Decreasing Undocumented Immigration and Increasing Fair Naturalization

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
According to the U.S Census Bureau, Documented immigrants often face a language barrier in the United States, and though many eventually learn English, it’s a long and difficult process for many with green cards. Currently, if a legal permanent resident seeks to naturalize, they have to take an English reading test, an English writing test, and an English speaking test as part of the naturalization process. Additionally, they must take a civics test, and it may only be taken in English. These tests, by nature, discriminate against green card holders from non-English speaking countries, especially if they didn’t have the economic resources to learn English.

The department of Homeland Security estimates there to be over ten million undocumented immigrants living in the United States currently, and this number has been rising since 2000. Undocumented immigrants often slip through the cracks, paying taxes while unable to access many benefits granted to documented immigrants. The United States should take action to reduce the number of undocumented immigrants entering the country and adopt measures to convert those rising numbers of undocumented migration into documented immigration. Currently, the opportunities for prospective immigrants to obtain green cards are extremely limited, making it difficult for the common prospective immigrant to immigrate and leaving them with one feasible option: cross the border illegally and live life as an undocumented immigrant.

Proposal for Action:
The United States Department of Homeland Security should amend the naturalization test as follows: 1. Eliminate the English requirement for naturalization, which entails eliminating the reading, writing, and speaking portions of the naturalization test. 2. Allow each prospective naturalized citizen to take the civics test in the language they prefer to best assess their knowledge of American Civics.

The United States should adopt a two-pronged solution to tackle undocumented immigration. First, The United States should comprehensively address border security. $5 billion should be spent to upgrade points of entry, tighten checks between points of entry, and construct border fencing. No more than $3.5 of the $5 billion may be spent on border fencing. Additionally, the United States should expand the diversity lottery program to promote economic inclusivity in immigration and decrease illegal immigration. Currently, there are eighteen countries not eligible for the DV-2020, and no country should be ineligible, so all nations will be made eligible to participate in future diversity lotteries. Additionally, beginning with the DV-2021 lottery, it should award 200,000 green cards, with at least 100,000 coming from Latin American countries. This would lead to the elimination of the current regulation which restricts any nation from contributing more than 7% of the program’s selected recipients.

Results to be Expected:
There are several immediate impacts of this proposal. Firstly, this settles an immigration debate which has stonewalled Congress and led to the longest government shutdown ever. It disincentivizes and works directly to prevent undocumented immigration, and implements a program to reward immigrants who immigrated legally with a path to citizenship. It eliminates the discriminatory policy of mandatory English-learning for legal immigrants. This proposal will lead to a decrease in undocumented immigration and an increase in legal immigration. It also may be expected that more green-card holding Americans will naturalize to become citizens.
Proposal #326
Author: Ben Harris, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
Overhaul of the S class visa and immigration informant programs

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Department of Justice, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Nationalization Service, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, immigrants

Justification:
Although the United States has suffered few major terrorist attacks since September 11, 2001, we must not become complacent against the very real threat of terrorism. This threat is an evolving one. Most attacks are being carried out by “lone-wolf” and “home-grown” terrorists. To combat this, the FBI has expanded its use of informants. The FBI informant process is riddled with abuse and corruption. Specifically, immigrants have been used because of they are more susceptible to threats and more easily controlled. Congress, to aid the FBI’s efforts to counter terrorism and crime, created the S class visa in 1996. The S class visa can be further subdivided into two major categories: S-5 and S-6 visas. There is a third class (S-7), but it is simply for the members of the families of S visa recipients and has no legal caps. Recruiting informants by focusing on pre-existing ties to terrorist or criminal organizations, and giving these informants specific targets, rather than general searches, would help increase the effectiveness of FBI informants. However, it is important that these individuals receive the awards they are due.

Proposal for Action:
The S-6 visa requirements will:
1. Encourage trust and cooperation from informants by allowing informants to enforce their bargains with the FBI,
2. Emphasize pre-existing ties to terrorist or criminal organizations by requiring that informants possess critical and reliable information prior to agreeing to inform,
3. Increase the number of available visas to a limit determined by Congress that is proportional to the FBI’s need of immigrant informants in terrorist and criminal cases,
4. Lower the barriers to the S-5 and S-6 visas,
5. Provide congressional and judicial oversight throughout the entire proceeding to ensure proper treatment of the informant, while permitting redacting and sealing confidential information, or information relevant to ongoing investigations,
6. Limit the use of informants to circumstances where there is reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing and there is a specific target,
7. Overturn the 1996 Justice Department Regulation 28 C.F.R. § 0.197 to enforce plea bargains and remove the restriction on DHS approval of the S Visa,
8. Abolish the requirement that S-6 Visa recipients be eligible for monetary rewards under the State Department Rewards for Justice Program,
9. Formalize the use of immigration benefits for terrorism and criminal intelligence by providing material witness visas,
10. Simplify the application process for an S visa by:
   a. Removing the requirement that the head of the Department of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State formally approve the recipient, except in the context of screening and background checks,
   b. Permitting self-application, wherein the applicant applies for the visa on their own behalf,
   c. Permitting the FBI to apply for, approve, and award S visas,
   d. Clarifying the standards applicants must meet to apply,
   e. Abolishing the “danger of retaliation” requirement for S visa applicants,
11. Permit judicial review and the right to protest deportation and deportation hearings for immigrants under the S visa program,
12. Change the classification of S visas from temporary non-immigrant visas to legal permanent residency.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal will encourage free speech, reverse the chilling effect on civil liberties, reassure and protect Muslim communities,
increase the number of credible informants in the FBI program, while giving them their due rewards.
Title:
Increasing the United States’ Quota on H1B Visas

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Labor, Technology Industry (IT Firms), and Chinese and Indian immigrants.

Justification:
Academic institutions have long relied on international networks, like the H-1B visa program, from which to source the most successful and talented scientists. The low quota present (a statutory limit of 65,000 visa numbers available for new hires, and 20,000 additional visa numbers for foreign professionals who graduate with a master’s degree or doctorate from a U.S. university) in the status quo hurts the high-tech industry in the United States by discouraging the smartest people from working in the United States and instead seeking jobs in competing countries like Canada, who accepts over 300,000 foreign nationals annually. Over the past several years, USCIS has received a greater number of petitions than there are visa numbers available because the annual cap for H-1B visas does not meet the current demand for high-skilled workers. Sixty-five percent of technology companies said in response to the lack of H-1B visas they had hired more people or outsourced work outside the United States, and there is virtually full employment in the STEM field, signaling a lack of supply for an ever-increasing demand for workers. With the current quota in place, the United States is at a serious risk of losing its competitive edge in innovation and research, which is detrimental because high-skilled migrants consistently boost innovation and productivity outcomes.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) will increase H1-B visa quotas to equalize the applicant pool and improve the standards of living of both immigrant and domestic workers.
The USCIS will increase the H-1B visa number given in the following ways:
1. Implement an annual H-1B visa distribution of 200,000 available H-1B visas.
   a. Note that not all available visas must be issued, but that 200,000 available visas are a minimum.
2. Increasing the number of available H-1B visas is subject to change every five years.
   a. This will be done empirically depending on the proportion of applicants in the prior five years, economic stability and growth, and the unemployment rate.
3. Maintain at least 20% of the number of accepted H-1B visas for foreign professionals who graduate with a master’s degree or doctorate from a U.S. university.

Results to be Expected:
Increasing the quota of H-1B visas has been calculated to add an estimated $456 billion to GDP and $113 billion to federal tax revenue over the next ten years. This is largely because an increase in the workforce generates more revenue, and thus the economy. Furthermore, this positively affects domestic workers. From the creation of the H-1B program from 1990 to 2010, H-1B-driven increases in STEM workers were associated with a significant increase in wages for college-educated, U.S.-born workers in 219 U.S. cities. A 1 percentage point increase in foreign STEM workers’ share of a city’s total employment was associated with increases in wages of 7 to 8 percentage points paid to both STEM and non-STEM college-educated natives, while non-college educated workers saw an increase of 3 to 4 percentage points. The United States faces challenges in meeting the growing needs of an expanding knowledge-based, innovative economy. Increasing the quota allows companies to fill vital positions and enable them to expand within the United States.
Proposal #337

Author: Tarryn Harris, Delegation: Tennessee

Title:
To initiate a visa pilot program between the United States and Latin American countries to explore the benefits of an immigration pattern that ensures the transfer of skill specific information between the destination country and country of origin.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
From the fiscal year 2012 to the fiscal year 2018, around 1.8 million Mexican immigrants were repatriated. The highest rate of repatriation, 256,000 immigrants in one fiscal year, occurred in 2018. In conjunction with the growing number of immigration arrests, the current administration has made it harder for immigrants to apply for asylum, as well as dissolved the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program, for those who are from Honduras and El Salvador. The national government has eliminated several pieces of legislation that offer safe and legal pathways into the United States, which has only led to more desperate and dangerous attempts to cross the border.

In other countries, where immigration is a substantial issue, researchers have explored a comprehensive program for destination countries and origin countries to work together through the exchange of information valuable to job sectors with labor shortages. Adopting a similar program could allow immigrants to experience greater economic opportunity, which will translate across border lines in mutually beneficial ways. The United States is seeing the detrimental effects of uncontrolled and uncooperative immigration policies as the topic becomes highly politicized, and it is imperative that we attempt to create meaningful legislation that can ultimately reduce the push factors for illegal immigration.

Proposal for Action:
The USCIS will oversee a new pilot visa program that creates a partnership with Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala. Immigrants will spend 5 years in the United States learning English and the skills needed to be successful in a specific field (the specific fields will be determined based on the needs of both the destination country and the country of origin). After completing training and sufficient work experience, the immigrant will return to their country of origin, bringing back valuable knowledge to be used in a job sector similar to the one they were trained in during their time in the United States. While in the U.S. immigrants will be subject to all the rights and responsibilities of a green card holder that are outlined by USCIS.

As part of the pilot program, there will be extensive preliminary research done to assess immigrant, private, and public business buy-in. Without this research, data will be skewed by confounding variables such as insufficient immigrant, private, and public business buy-in. Should we find that there is not adequate immigrant, private and public business buy-in to reasonably implement the program we will terminate the initiative to assure that there is not an extraneous use of government funds.

Results to be Expected:
If successful, the pilot program will be offering Latin American countries sustainable growth to their economy, and decrease immigration rates for the United States. Empowering immigrants with skill-specific education will encourage progress and change in their countries of origin. By attempting to eliminate the many push factors that are forcing immigrants to leave, this longitudinal study offers a comprehensive solution to the growing immigration problem while keeping the interests of all affected areas in mind.
Title:

To reappropriate funds from the U.S. Department of Defense to address the influx of immigration from the Northern Triangle.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States of America Department of Defense and Governments of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras will be affected in this proposal.

Justification:

Asylum seekers from the Northern Triangle of Central America increased five-fold from the year 2012 to 2015. Gang violence, drug trafficking, and corruption constantly threaten the citizens of these countries. El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have developed The Plan for the Alliance of Prosperity in the Northern Triangle. The plan aims to address the root causes of out-migration found in the region. Given more financial support, this initiative will continue to thrive. The U.S. must assist in solving an issue that directly affects the security on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Proposal for Action:

A fraction of funding from the U.S. Department of Defense will be used to assist in funding the Plan for the Alliance of Prosperity in the Northern Triangle. Programs within these countries associated with the Plan for Alliance will receive this reallocated money.

Results to be Expected:

An increase in financial resources for the Plan of Alliance of Prosperity will assist in improving conditions of the Northern Triangle. As living conditions ameliorate, out-migration from the Northern Triangle will decrease. This, in turn, will decrease the number of migrants traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border.
Proposal #387

Author: Sara Isaacson, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
To amend the immigration process to form a newer, more just system.

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Citizenship and Immigration Services, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, State Department, Immigration and Naturalization Services, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Homeland Security

Justification:

Our immigration system is outdated, inefficient, and it allows for gross violations of human rights. It also ignores the ways that America’s imperialist actions have destroyed lives and made it impossible for some people to be safe in their own country. We can no longer allow for this absurd, slow, detrimental system to continue. It is time for major reform to make the process smoother and fairer for those seeking entry into our country.

First, we must end country-based immigration bans, except in the case of an outbreak of disease or infection or if Congress officially declares war with another country. In 2017, the United States stopped allowing refugees from Syria to seek asylum here and immigrants from various countries were no longer allowed into the US, which affected almost 40,000 people in the first few months of the ban.

Someone cannot help where they are born, and it is blatantly unjust to bar anyone entry because of their country of origin. If someone needs to immigrate or seek asylum, they should be given a fair hearing for their case—regardless of their country of origin.

Second, for DACA recipients and for parents already in this country with a green card or citizenship, their families who apply for citizenship will be protected with a student visa or a three-year renewable work permit for those old enough in addition to protection from deportation. For parents and families, they deserve to be together to best be able to succeed in America, and as a human right, they deserve to be together.

Finally, a claim of particularity is when one country acknowledges that they are responsible for another country’s current misfortune. It is a major cause of a country’s present situation that creates inadequate livability and allows immigrants from that country to reside there until the country is reasonably livable again. For El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, the United States intervention directly caused both the social and economic situations today that make those countries very dangerous and very unstable to live in. Therefore, the only solution is for the United States to offer immigrants from those countries that are not a threat to be allowed to reside here until the day that their country should be safe and economically stable again. We have the resources and we need to help them—especially considering that we are a major reason their country is unlivable.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal fast tracks the green card process for the immediate families of already approved immigrants and DACA recipients and bans any country based discrimination for immigrants and refugees, except in the case of a disease outbreak. Additionally, it allows for refugees with a claim of particularity from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala to be granted entry and a fast-tracked green card process as long as they are not deemed a threat.

Results to be Expected:

The results to be expected is that families will be united, the human rights violations caused by the currently unjust immigration system will be stopped, refugees will be safer, families will be reunited, and America will finally pay for the destruction it caused as a result of imperialism.
Proposal #408  
**Author:** Adam Soltani, **Delegation:** District of Columbia

**Title:**

Women's Health In Prison (WHIP)

**Major Areas to be Affected:**

United States Federal Prisons

**Justification:**

Health resources and standards in Federal prisons is not adequate whatsoever for its female inmates. The Center for Disease Control found that 27% of incoming incarcerated women had chlamydia and 8% had gonorrhea compared to rates of 0.46% and 0.13% respectively in the general population. In addition, in 2008, 2 percent of women in federal prisons were known to be infected with HIV. These women need resources to help combat the health issues they have, but prisons often fall short of meeting these needs. For example, 6–10% of incarcerated women are pregnant. In a survey of correctional health officials, 68% indicated that women in their prisons were allowed to have an elective abortion, but only 54% helped arrange appointments. On top of this, prisons have proven to actually make the health of the women worse than when they came, as 5.1% of female inmates reported sexual victimization. Of these women, 3.7% experienced sexual victimization by another inmate and 2% reported sexual victimization by a staff member. Looking at the mental health of these women, it is proven that disorders and other issues are common. Rates of mental health problems among women inmates was approximately 61% in federal prisons. This is because there are no federal mandates that require correctional health facilities to obtain accreditation, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons does not have official widespread standards regarding health in federal prisons.

**Proposal for Action:**

This proposal will have the Federal Bureau of Prisons create widespread mandatory health standards for all federal prisons. These standards will include the following:

- Upon entrance to the prison, the inmates will be asked about their current medical problems.
- Health personnel will obtain a medical history of the inmates.
- A mental health assessment and a physical examination will be given to all incoming inmates.
- Pregnancy counseling, perinatal care, and abortion services will be widely accessible to patients that want to use it.
- Increased security measures as needed, such as guards, along with more opportunities to speak out about a sexual assault or abuse.
- Health education programs on contraception and pregnancy.
- Education programs on tobacco, alcohol, and substance abuse prevention.
- Parenting counseling services.
- Comprehensive HIV and STI treatment and contraceptive services.
- Medication management, suicide prevention, and crisis intervention programs.

**Results to be Expected:**

The mandatory health standards will be implemented in all United States Federal Prisons, through the Federal Bureau of Prisons, which will give its inmates the opportunity to address their health issues in an effective manner, along with preventing further health risks.
Proposal #454
Author: Kiera Lesky, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
To Reclassify Immigration Courts

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Department of Justice, Immigrants, Immigration Judges

Justification:
The current American Immigration Courts are rife with partisanship and violations of rights. The manner in which immigration courts are handled is subject to change with each new administration based on how said administration views immigration. This is clearly seen through the current administration’s new provisions and quotas enacted in 2017. These quotas require 700 cases to be closed per judge per year. Each of these cases is also subject to a verdict review. Based on the Department’s review of the judges’ speed and verdicts, the judge could be reprimanded or even fired. It is also now a requirement for each judge to decide the validity of an asylum claim by an immigrant seeking asylum the very day they hear the case. The Department of Justice has complete control over this court system and could change any factor at will. Furthermore, if filing for an appeal, the immigrant’s appeal must reach the Board of Immigration Appeals within 30 days (including weekends and holidays), but, after, the appeal must then be filed to a normal Circuit Court of Appeals. Additionally, the current system infringes on civil rights and due process. Although 85% of immigrants that are tried in immigration courts do not speak English, it is not a requirement for a translator to be present at trial. Additionally, only 40% of immigrants acquire legal counsel, and that number drops to 14% if they’re detained. All of these problems stem from the courts’ tie to the DOJ and not a nonpartisan entity like an independent Article 1 Court.

Proposal for Action:
Under this proposal, the United States’ Immigration Court would be established as an independent Article 1 Court and a separate entity from the DOJ. This court would be subject to the same constitutional and nonpartisan provisions as other courts under this method. The Immigration Court system will include both a trial division and an appellate division. The appellate division would be headed by an 18 member team of judges appointed by the president and approved by the Senate who will be awarded life terms. All succeeding appointments of lower appellate and trial judges will thus be appointed by the aforementioned team. Lower appellate and trial judges will be awarded a 15-year term subject to removal only by impeachment due to gross misconduct. All immigrants will be allowed to apply for translators and defense attorneys. Their case will thus be reviewed, and they will either be granted that provision or denied it.

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of this proposal, it would be ensured that constitutional rights are being upheld within immigration courts, there will be a connected and widespread system of trial and appellate courts, and partisanship will no longer impede basic justice in immigration courts.
Proposal #484

Author: Maille Bowerman, Delegation: New York

Title:
To change the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) to the Court of Immigration Review

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Department of Justice, The Judicial Branch, federal immigration judges, the federal budget, immigrants

Justification:
Despite what its name connotes and the fact that Title 8 § 1532 of U.S. code originally held that immigration courts were under the jurisdiction of the Chief Justice, immigration courts are not a part of the judicial branch. Immigration courts, or the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR), are actually part of the executive branch as a component of the Department of Justice headed by the Attorney General (AG), a presidential appointee. Since 1869, the senate-confirmed AG has always subscribed to the same partisan beliefs as the president, and the influence of party agendas on the AG and most on notably immigration courts is undeniable. For example, the number of people deported by immigration judges rose from 90,000 in 2016 during a liberal administration to 141,000 in 2018 during a conservative administration. From 2008 to 2012 under the first term of the Obama administration, the denial rate for asylum seekers who went through immigration courts decreased from 57% to 40%; the denial rate for asylum seekers in the Trump administration has risen from 56% to 62% in just two years. This dramatic influence results from the powers granted to the AG by the Immigration and Nationality Act and its amendments. These powers include referring cases to his or herself, selecting judges for the Board of Immigration Appeals, selecting the cases that board will hear, determining/dismissing frivolous cases, as well as imposing sanctions on attorneys and immigrants for frivolous conduct.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions demonstrated the possible threat to justice presented by placing these powers in the hand of one person by handpicking decisions, overturning precedent cases and decisions made by immigration judges (IJ’s), removing powers of IJs to delay proceedings in order to ensure the presence of an immigrant, and referring asylum cases to himself. His actions have influenced many of the current immigration judges, and made immigration an issue of the Trump administration rather an issue of justice, as it should be. These problems are not new, though; the Bush administration’s immigration judges were hired based on applicants’ partisan preferences, and under Obama judges were directed to reshuffle their dockets to prioritize the cases of unaccompanied minors. More subtly, however, the mere influence and presence of the AG and the executive branch have shaped decisions. Judges who fail to comply with party politics may face demotion, revocation of duties, or being "moved around". Judge A. Ashley Tabaddor, the president of the National Association of Immigration Judges, has said that the current administration is working to “basically turn us into law enforcement officers in a robe” by re-assigning cases when unhappy with a judge’s decision and continuously violating the independence of the judge’s decision-making authority.

Additionally, immigration courts have become exceedingly backlogged in the past decade. The number of pending cases has almost doubled in the past 4 years, with 855,807 current pending cases and only 400 judges to hear them. These cases have an average wait time of over two years, meaning immigrants waiting for a hearing risk losing evidence, witnesses, or experience the death/illness of qualifying relatives and thus are not allowed to stay in the country.

Each IJ has upwards of 4,000 pending cases— double the amount of a federal district court judge—forcing judges rush cases and push for faster trials. The majority of hearings last roughly 15 minutes, with some reported trials have lasted under two minutes, and once heard only 13% of immigrants will be granted asylum. Judges often use “affirmed without opinion” decisions where they do not provide any reasons for a deportation due to time constraints. Complaints about violations of due process have risen from 28% in 2014 to 70% in 2018.

Proposal for Action:
The EOIR, which is comprised of Immigration Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, will be moved from the Department of Justice and the AG’s jurisdiction to the judicial branch. The new Court of Immigration Review, an Article I court, will have the same trial procedure and appeals process as in the current system.

Federal judges will be appointed by Article III appeals court judges (more commonly known as federal judges), not by the AG. The Court of Immigration Review will receive a $30,000,000 increase to their annual budget, with $20,000,000 of that going to the creation and payment of 150 new federal immigration judges at the average salary of IJs, $133,000. The remaining $10,000,000 will go to incidentals which result from changing branches. Funding for this increase would come from taxpayers.

Results to be Expected:

The immigration court system would no longer be governed by party politics, and there would be a more consistent implementation of justice that would not change with an election. The number of pending immigration cases would drastically decrease, wait times would plummet, and a fair chance to enter this country would be presented to all immigrants.
Title:

A Proposal to Add Gender-Based Persecution as a Legitimate Ground to Claim Asylum in The United States

Major Areas to be Affected:

All Asylee applicants, U.S. Embassies abroad, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

Justification:

Interpretation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 fails to provide equality for women seeking asylum into the United States. In the current status quo, asylum and refugee status can only be accessed by victims of persecution falling under race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. This means that victims of gender-based persecution have no legitimate grounds to claim asylum regardless of the severity of their persecution.

Coercive Population Control, Women’s Rights Activist, Domestic Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage/Polygamy, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transsexual (LGBT) persecution, Honor Killing, Trafficking/Prostitution, Rape/Sexual Violence, Repressive Social Mores, and Sexual Slavery are all considered to be gender-based persecution. Although gender-based persecution happens to both men and women, women are more likely to experience this type of persecution. The United States has an obligation to protect and provide equality for this illegitimized class experiencing legitimate persecution especially because the International Community won’t.

Proposal for Action:

The United States federal government will increase protection for refugee and asylum filers by increasing its one of five grounds for the basis of persecution to become a basis of one or more of six grounds. The new grounds of persecution shall be: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, membership in a particular social group, and gender-based claims.

Gender-based claims shall include, but not be limited to, Coercive Population Control, Women’s Rights Activist, Domestic Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage/Polygamy, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transsexual (LGBT) persecution, Honor Killing, Trafficking/Prostitution, Rape/Sexual Violence, Repressive Social Mores, and Sexual Slavery. No additional funding is required to complete this action.

Results to be Expected:

As a result of this action, countless victims of gender-based persecution will have legal grounds to escape their situations. Applicants already in the system will have their gender-based persecution applications accepted. Immigration judges no longer have to turn down applicants in dangerous gender-based persecution situations as a result of the lack of legal grounds. The United States will save lives.
Proposal #560
Author: Eli Schulz, Delegation: Arkansas

Title:
United States Immigration Reform

Major Areas to be Affected:
Visa Holders; Immigrants entering the U.S (both legal and illegal)

Justification:
The current naturalization process is an extremely broken system. In recent years, the backlog of applicants seeking citizenship has skyrocketed. The vast majority of applicants are not even considered for citizenship even though they would make great additions to the United States. Also, the selectiveness of the process can result in applicants waiting years for a response. Making citizenship more attainable will greatly improve the economy, and allow for a more diverse America.

Obtaining a visa, especially a working visa, can be a very confusing experience. There is no good way to keep track of the visa holders which results in more illegal immigration. According to the U.S Department of Homeland Security, two out of three illegal immigrants are a result of a visa overstay. A more advanced way of keeping track of these visas could result in dramatically lower illegal immigrants. However, some of the visa overstays are not intentional. Visa holders receive little to no advanced notice when their visa is about to expire. This can result in dire consequences for the visa holder. Creating a better visa program can solve all of these problems.

Proposal for Action:
Modernized Naturalization Process: Only requiring that applicants are at least 18 years old, and cannot have been convicted of a crime in their previous country; Remove the requirement that applicants must be able to read, write, and speak basic English;
Proper infrastructure to support higher levels of immigration: Immigration Assistance Programs (Education, Translation Assistance, etc.)
Allowing a 6-month tax break for new citizens living under the poverty levels given by the U.S. Department of Human Services.
Creation of an advanced Visa program which better tracks the Visa Holders as well as makes it easier for Visa holders to know the status of their visa.

Results to be Expected:
Increased levels of legal immigration; Decreased levels of illegal immigration; Decrease in instances of Visa Overstays.
To ban the shackling of incarcerated pregnant women during childbirth

Major Areas to be Affected:

Women in prisons and jails, the American people, prisons and jails in general

Justification:

Pregnant women in prison are shackled to hospital beds during childbirth in many states in the country, with the justification being that these women are considered public threats because they are incarcerated. However, this practice has many dangerous potential consequences. This leads to bleeding from the ankles, restriction on the body’s movement, and limitations on what position a woman can be in while she births a child. It can be unsafe for the woman, and subsequently endanger the child as it can lead to difficulties with the birth.

Dangers that women face if shackled during childbirth include an increased risk of falling down, which can harm both the women and their babies. Carolyn Sufrin, a medical anthropologist and OB-GYN at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, works with incarcerated pregnant women. She says, “If a pregnant woman falls, she could have a dangerous condition where the placenta separates and she could hemorrhage. Shackles can increase her risk of falling and also prevent her from being able to break a fall.” Currently, there is very little data on incarcerated pregnant women. In a study of 22 state and federal prisons which hold 57% of the country’s incarcerated women, researchers found that 1,396 already-pregnant women had been admitted to these prisons. Those are 1,396 women who are potentially subjected to an unfair and unjustified procedure, along with the approximately 2,000 women who give birth in U.S. prisons annually. The American Civil Liberties Union has also deemed shackling pregnant women as “dangerous and inhumane”, along with other organizations such as the American Medical Association, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Psychological Association. This treatment violates the 8th Amendment, as it is cruel and unusual to shackle a woman in labor.

Currently, only 22 states have enacted legislation against shackling women during childbirth, and this must change. While the women are being punished for crimes, the children remain innocent, and shackling of women while in labor is inhumane and makes incarcerated women feel like animals. Their birth should not be affected in this manner.

Proposal for Action:

Enacting legislation banning the shackling of pregnant women during childbirth in all 50 states, with the Federal Bureau of Prisons enforcing this legislation through removing all shackles once the woman is in labor, and keeping them off until a doctor deems it safe to put them back on.

Results to be Expected:

The abolishment of shackling pregnant women in federal and state prisons will provide an increase in the safety of children born to women in prison, along with a decrease in unnecessary risks incarcerated women in labor may face.
Proposal #017
Author: Tristin Skinner, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
A proposal to create a fund for Native American Cultural projects

Major Areas to be Affected:
Native American Tribes, Native Language restoration projects

Justification:
The history of the relationship between the United States and the Native Americans has been filled with death, oppression, and destruction. Through the theft of lands, destruction of sacred spots, and boarding schools where Native children were forced to change their names, speak English, and cut their hair, the United States brought about the destruction of the Native’s old way of life and forced them into a new one. A shining example of this is the decline of Native American languages. At one time there were more than 300 languages spoken in what is now the United States. This number is now around 175 languages and is expected to become 20 languages by 2050 if no restoration efforts are made. With the loss of language comes a loss of culture and history that can be prevented.

Proposal for Action:
A fund will be created for the purpose of funding Native American Cultural Projects
The fund will have 25 million added to it a year
The fund will be managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and money will be awarded to tribes based on population size and need
The money will be used to fund community centers, cultural events, language classes, and any other cultural projects

Results to be Expected:
Native American tribes will better be able to fund cultural programs. There will be an increase in the number of speakers of Native American languages.
Title:

A Proposal to Close Loopholes that Prevent Accountability in Rape Cases Involving Police Officers

Major Areas to be Affected:

Department of Justice, law enforcement officers

Justification:

Anna Chambers could not consent in September 2017 when she was arrested and handcuffed for marijuana possession. NYPD Officers Richard Hall and Edward Martin raped her in the back of an unmarked van. The rapekit was conclusive and incriminated both men, the case should have been clear-cut. The charges were dropped due to a legal loophole allowing police officers to have consensual sex with detainees.

The power imbalance between the police officer and the detainee is undeniable, and many cases have arose in recent years of individuals being exploited sexually while in police custody. As of February, 2018, police officers can legally have sex with individuals they detain in 35 states.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal will prohibit federal, state, and municipal law enforcement officers from having sex with individuals in their custody. Officers in violation of this policy will be subject to the same punishment as Department of Corrections employees who have sex with inmates in prisons or jails.

Results to be Expected:

If this proposal is enacted, individuals detained by the police will no longer have to fear being sexually exploited, only for the encounter to be branded as consensual after the fact. In addition, individuals who experience this exploitation will be able to press charges against these officers.
Title:
Mandatory Human Trafficking Prevention and Education for All Airport Personnel

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Human trafficking is one of the world’s fastest growing illicit industries. On the international scale, human trafficking is an extremely prevalent and severe issue. Although it is difficult to quantify, the U.S. State Department estimates that approximately 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually. International travel is a substantial industry, as according to the Department of Transportation, 116,277,241 passengers travelled internationally in 2017, averaging out to about 319,000 international flights per day. With their ease of access and convenience, airlines have become major methods of transport for victims of human trafficking. For example, in the United States, California contains three of the FBI’s thirteen highest underage sex trafficking regions in the nation: Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego. All three of these locations also contain major international airports. Moreover, the National Human Trafficking Hotline receives more calls from Texas than any other state in the United States, with 15% of these calls coming from the Dallas-Fort Worth region. It is no coincidence that there is also a major international airport in this region as well. Airline personnel are trained on the identification of potential trafficking or abuse, but the same is not true for airport personnel. Airline personnel are the employees who are a part of the flight and primarily on the plane. Airport personnel, on the other hand, are the employees found on the ground at the airport. By being able to stop perpetrators on the ground, the chance of success for traffickers is greatly decreased.

Proposal for Action:
Airports, especially international airports, will provide thorough training on the warning signs of human trafficking and how to properly handle any human trafficking situation. Some general examples of warning signs include appearing malnourished, showing symptoms of physical or emotional abuse such as injury or avoiding contact and interaction with authorities, and a lack of possessions. These and the other signs have been identified by various organizations, such as the Polaris Project, and by the Department of Homeland Security, as indicators of human trafficking. This training and education will be mandatory for all employees of the airport, as it is everyone’s responsibility to ensure the utmost safety of the venue. Employees will take increased safety precautions and will receive formal education and training with regards to human trafficking and its prevention. Airport personnel may include those employed in services such as food or shopping, who will also be required to receive training on the visible signs of human trafficking and who to redirect their concerns to.

Results to be Expected:
The number of people who are trafficked across international borders will significantly decrease. Traffickers will be identified and stopped before they can successfully transport their victims. Victims of human trafficking will be placed into safety. Airport personnel will become the foundation for airline safety and prevention of human trafficking. The overall safety of airports will be increased.
Proposal #052  
Author: Rushee Soni, Delegation: Florida  

Title:  
Sex Health Clinics in School Districts Act  

Major Areas to be Affected:  
High Schools, Federal Department of Education, Registered Nurses, Parents, Adolescents  

Justification:  
In an international study conducted in 2014, among 21 industrialized countries, the United States had both the highest pregnancy and birth rate among 15 to 19-year olds, i.e., 57 pregnancies, and 34 births per 1,000 females. According to the CDC, approximately 40% of high schoolers are sexually active, and 16% of high schoolers do not use any form of a contraceptive. As such, adolescents aged 15-24 account for nearly half of the 20 million new cases of STDs each year. In 2014, the pregnancy rate and birth rate in the United States was. In 2017, a total of 194,377 babies were born to women aged 15–19 years.  

Moreover, teen parents are less likely to complete their education, to be employed, to have high occupational attainment, to earn high wages and are more likely to be in poverty and receive welfare assistance. The researchers also found that girls ranging from 15 to 19 experienced postpartum depression (PPD), depression suffered by a mother following childbirth, at a rate that was twice as high as women aged 25 and older and higher rates of suicidal ideation than their peers who aren't mothers. A significant symptom of PPD is more severe depression later on in the mother’s life. One in five of the women who have postpartum depression have thoughts of harming themselves, and suicide is the second leading cause of death in postpartum women.  

Furthermore, a study done by the CDC in 2017 showed racial inequality in teenage birth rates and disparities between state demographics with state-specific teen birth rates ranging from 8.1 in Massachusetts to 32.8 in Arkansas. Given racial, interstate, and intrastate disparities, an initiative within high schools to reduce the country’s overall teen pregnancy rates and increase parity is necessary: if such sex clinics are created at high schools, these clinics can promote sexual education in a country where openly talking about sex is considered taboo. Sex clinics could be an agent within high schools to help bolster the reduction as they provide the necessary resources for the students who want to commit to the responsibility of sex.  

Proposal for Action:  
The goal of this proposal is to provide all public high schools to have a sexual health clinic within their high school to promote protected sex and sexual education. The clinic would be an advocate for abstinence as it is the only way to prevent teen pregnancy; however if high schoolers want to commit to the responsibility, then the clinic would provide the necessary resources. These clinics would have items that the school district decides are essential for students within their district to have. Nevertheless, the minimum would be two clinics per district, and for every 1500 students, an additional clinic would be required. Each clinic will at a minimum have the following on hand: the most common forms of non-surgical contraceptives, STD testing for the most common STDs, pregnancy tests, and mifepristone. Registered nurses staffed by the district would staff these clinics. School districts will be determining the number of clinics beyond the minimum, placement of clinics, number of nurses, the hours of the nurses, and whether these clinics will be connected with a more established clinic with more resources. All of these will be dependent on the need of students. There will not be any on-site abortions nor surgical contraceptives at the clinic. They will be taken to a hospital if need be through school provided transportation.  

States would be recommended to raise their property tax 1% for a limited period to help fund the new program. If there were any excess funds, it would be up to the states on how to spend them.  

Results to be Expected:  
Implementation of this program would cause more students to be aware of what is safe sex and have the resources necessary to commit to that paradigm. Therefore, the teen pregnancy rate in the U.S. would decrease at a faster rate. Moreover, with more open access to pregnancy tests and mifepristone, the U.S. teenage birth rate would decrease as teenagers would be more aware of their
options. Consequently, STD rates within adolescents would decrease as they will begin to practice safe sex from an earlier age as some contraceptives decrease the chance of STDs. The initiative would have a broad reach to affect the students positively since the minimum number of clinics is contingent on the number of students in the district to allow equal access to the resources and therefore, reduce the disparity among race and class.
Proposal #057
Author: Emma Barska, Delegation: Florida

Title:
A proposal to make the performing of any procedure classified as female genital mutilation (FGM) on a woman under the age of 18 a criminal offense in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Women under the age of 18, United States Department of Health and Human Services, United States Department of Justice, medical professionals (surgeons, doctors, nurses, medical administrative staff, etc.)

Justification:
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), female genital mutilation (FGM) is a set of operations that involve the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. In the United States, these procedures are supported by some African, Asian, and Middle Eastern migrant communities because of cultural, religious, or aesthetic reasons. FGM is a manifestation of deeply entrenched gender inequality and it is often practiced even though it is known to inflict harm upon girls. There are numerous adverse medical consequences associated with the procedures, including direct complications from the operation, increased risk of death for mother and baby in subsequent pregnancies, and post-traumatic stress disorder. In 2016, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report estimating that 513,000 girls and women in the United States were either victims of FGM or at risk of FGM.

In 1996, Congress passed the Female Genital Mutilation Act, which made performing FGM on a minor a felony offense in the US. However, in 2018, the act was found to be unconstitutional by US federal district Judge Bernard A. Friedman, who stated that the federal government did not have the authority to enact legislation outside of the “Commerce Clause.” The Federal ban on FGM has since been declared void, as the Justice Department did not appeal the ruling. Individual states are free to ban it, and as of the beginning of 2019, 28 states have made specific laws that prohibit FGM. However, there are still 22 states remaining with no specific laws directly addressing this practice.

Proposal for Action:
It is proposed that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DOHHS) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) will collaborate to re-address the issue of FGM in the U.S. by instituting a federal ban on the practice that is deemed constitutional by the courts. The Female Genital Mutilation Act of 1996 will be used as a basis for a policy mandated and enforced by the DOHHS. Performing procedures that constitute female genital mutilation on a minor will be a criminal offense. The repercussions of such actions may include a fine and/or up to ten years in prison depending upon the number of operations performed. Women over the age of 18 who wish to undergo the procedure may follow standard surgical operation protocol and sign the necessary consent forms required prior to any operation involving the use of anesthetics.

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of this proposal, young girls who are at risk of female genital mutilation procedures will receive adequate protection on a national scale, due to an increased penalty for practicing the operation. The policy, in conjunction with pre-existing regulations, will allow women who are at risk or are victims of FGM to receive the help they so desperately need.
Proposal #171
Author: Jacob Smock, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
A Proposal to Decriminalize Prostitution

Major Areas to be Affected:
Prostitutes and those affiliated, Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Justification:
Human Trafficking is extremely prevalent within the confines of the United States. Children, women, and men are being sold for sex without their consent and for profit by others. We must prevent others from taking advantage of US citizens by allowing for an alternate path for potential buyers for sex thus removing the threat of exploiting them with regards to their own personal bodies and allowing individuals to make choices that only affect themselves.

During a time period in which prostitution was legalized in Rhode Island, the number of rapes fell by 31%. The rate of female gonorrhea dropped by 39%. Many other countries have legalized prostitution and have found similar positive results. In 2003, New Zealand decriminalized prostitution. New Zealand has reported statistics similar to that of Rhode Island, as well as their number of prostitutes remaining consistently close to that prior to decriminalization.

Prostitution is something our society has always frowned upon, and (with the exception of a few counties in Nevada) declared unlawful. We can continue to frown upon prostitution, but our government’s duty is not to affirm the morals of a fraction of our society, but toward the Public Health of our society. We cannot eradicate prostitution by criminalizing it, we have tried tirelessly in vain.

Proposal for Action:
The purpose of this Proposal is to decriminalize prostitution (while not endorsing or morally sanctioning prostitution or its use) and to create a framework that—

safeguards the human rights of sex workers and protects them from exploitation:

promotes the welfare and occupational health and safety of sex workers:

is conducive to public health:

prohibits the use in prostitution of persons under 18 years of age.

Results to be Expected:
The decriminalization of prostitution will have a decrease the amount of lives taken by prostitution, decrease the our numbers of rape, widely reduce sexually transmitted diseases, and limit violence by increasing sex worker’s willingness to cooperate with police and reducing opportunities for police corruption.

Overall, decriminalized prostitution will lead to a safer and cleaner society.
Proposal #242

Author: Krina Shah, Delegation: Model UN

Title: Mandating Federal Rape Kit Reform

Major Areas to be Affected:

Individuals affected by sexual assault, state and local governments, and law enforcement.

Justification:

A rape kit is defined as “DNA evidence from a crime like sexual assault”. Rape kits can be composed of a plethora of items, such as evidence from the crime scene, or any physical evidence from the individual. Any evidence composed in a rape kit can lead to the prosecution of the rapist, identification of serial rapists, and aid in other rape cases. As of January 2018, testing rape kits have resulted in the identification of 1,313 suspected serial rapists. Testing backlogged rape kits have much more potential than simply identifying 1 culprit. They have the ability to identify serial rapists who are often linked to other violent crimes, seeing as DNA evidence taken from one case can be cross-referenced to other cases.

There are hundreds of thousands of rape kits that have gone untested to this date. This epidemic has grown worse due to lack of law enforcement engagement and lack of education about the topic. We have seen a growth in the testing of these rape kits, however rape kits continue to not be prioritized. There is still a lack of comprehensive rape kit reform in many states, despite the fact that rape victims have to undergo an extensive and intrusive process to create a rape kit.

Proposal for Action:

The proposal for action will follow 6 main points. States will have to audit/conduct inventory of rape kits, test all backlogged rape kits, test all newly created rape kits, create a proper procedure in which individuals are notified of their cases and kits, create a tracking system to monitor the status of rape kits, and allocate or obtain funding to help implement the aforementioned proposals. Any state that fails to comply with the 6 guidelines will receive diminished funding for law enforcement.

Results to be Expected:

The backlog of rape kits will exponentially decrease, rapists will be identified with more haste and accuracy, and victims will be able to receive fair treatment with their cases.
Proposal #283

Author: Mikayla Pastrano, Delegation: Texas

Title:

A proposal to enforce human trafficking education in schools, universities, and graduate schools; and raise online awareness through major social media platforms.

Major Areas to be Affected:

U.S Department of Homeland Security, U.S Department of Education, students, educational staff and administration, social media companies (YouTube, Google, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook), Healthcare Providers (Health and Human Services, Physicians and Nurses)

Justification:

40.3 million reported citizens nationally and internationally are victims of human trafficking. Education over human and sex trafficking in the public education sector does not cover the details and preventative measures to assist in avoiding the epidemic of trafficking. The rise of human trafficking stemming from online connections is at an all-time high. Social media campaigns endorsed by influencers are proven to help educate and ignite the public’s interest on a topic. Human trafficking is an illegal multi-billion dollar annual business and is defined as “the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area; typically for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation”.

Innocence is being stripped daily due to lack of education and awareness. The age of human trafficking spans anywhere from 1 to 25 years of age, 14 years of age being the most common. These children and young adults can be trafficking in and out of the country by manipulation and lies of their trafficker. 59% of trafficked victims are women, 14% are men, 17% are adolescent females, and 10% are adolescent males. Trafficking not only has a negative physical effect, but a negative mental effect. This causes depression and anxiety rates to rise quickly, several victims turn to substance abuse, and an average of 23% of trafficked victims have attempted suicide.

Proposal for Action:

Beginning in 5th grade, students will begin an in-depth study of human trafficking through a series of seminars and studies on prevention and spreading awareness. The seminars will be held on the school campus. This will continue through college and/or graduate school. For those who are not attending college or graduate school, their education level will not be affected. Healthcare providers will be required to give updated information on human trafficking annually. Each year, the educational program will be updated depending on new information on human trafficking provided by the Department of Homeland Security.

Through the rise of social media, several celebrities and influencers promote products online. These products draw in attraction after an endorsement is made by a well-known individual. Major influencers will be requested to promote education and spread awareness after reaching a certain number of followers on social media platforms. This will cover areas of the online community, working towards online human trafficking education and safe online communication. Content creators will post videos and pictures to spread awareness about the subject of human trafficking. This will allow millions of people to view the content, and share it online.

Results to be Expected:

Through the power of education and awareness in the public sector, trafficking both nationally and internationally will see declining rates. Through cyber awareness, young audiences will be specifically targeted through social media. A single post can help save a life, and the word will be spread throughout national and international borders. The common theme among victims of human trafficking is that they did not know the situation and were not educated on warning signs and how to take preventative measures. The new level of added education will be engrained within students, and allow them to seek help if they are in a dangerous situation.
Proposal #297
Author: Megan Roberts, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
Put a national limit on how many years an adult can accuse someone of a sexual assault after it happened

Major Areas to be Affected:
All US adult citizens, work places, social gatherings, Human Resources, and Assault cases

Justification:
Getting women and men to speak up sooner when a traumatic sexual assault happens, therefore improving the chances to convict and stop said assaulter. The Me Too movement has sparked a national wave of men and women speaking out about being sexually assaulted. While speaking out about these situations it is important we must look at the legal implications. Many of the stories that have emerged from over 30 years ago such as the case of Brett Kavanaugh being accused of a sexual assault that happened approximately 30 years ago in High School when he was running for Supreme Court. The process of a fair trial for both the victim and the accused can not occur for either side 30 years later. Because of Rape Culture people don’t feel safe coming forward for the fear of getting ostracized. By saying “Boys will be boys” is normalizing rape and sexual assault. This proposal gives a way for people to come forward with sexual assault sooner and feel safer.

Proposal for Action:
Victims of sexual assault must report the incident within 30 days. As of the date reported the victim will have a four year period to accuse said person of sexual assault.

Results to be Expected:
By passing this proposal it will encourage more people that have been assaulted to come forward sooner. This will allow victims to feel safer after a sexual assault happens so it is easier to convict and stop the said assaulter from further assaults. This proposal will help convict assaulters because if it is reported within 30 days then it is easier to prove that this traumatic event really did happen. Because of this proposal, cases like Brett Kavanaugh won’t happen again and we can stop assaulters sooner. Over all this proposal will reduce the repeated amount of assaults and have stronger evidence against the case.
Title:

To Establish Mental and Physical Aid for Sex Trafficking Victims

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Department of Health and Human Services, United States Department of Justice, and victims of sex-trafficking

Justification:

The human-trafficking industry has plagued every state in America, not limiting itself to a particular race, gender, or socioeconomic class. There are an estimated 1.5 million victims of human trafficking in the United States. Of those victims, 300,000 Americans under the age of 18 are lured into the commercial sex trade each year. These victims have shown to have health complications, such as STDs, PTSD, depression, sleep or eating disorders, as well as many other mental or physical conditions. It is time to provide adequate rehabilitation to those who have been victims of modern-day slavery.

Proposal for Action:

The United States Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, will create a program that provides mental and physical health care to victims of sex trafficking. The program will include the installation of rehabilitation centers in each state, with additional centers being added in areas with higher rates of sex trafficking. The centers will provide victims with access to health care professionals to combat any mental illness and/or physical damage. These centers will also work alongside the National Sexual Trafficking Hotline in order to locate, rescue, and rehabilitate victims.

Results to be Expected:

The implementation of this government program will decrease the number of suicides, mental illnesses, and physical illnesses of victims who have been removed from trafficking. Additionally, it can be expected to see the private-sector aid in the assistance as well.
Proposal #321

Title:
End the Backlog of Untested Rape Kits With Federal Aid

Major Areas to be Affected:
Police Departments, Hospital, Rape Crisis Centers, Criminal Justice Departments, Crime Laboratories, Crime Victim Fund

Justification:
When a person has been sexually assaulted, they have the option to undergo an invasive examination of their entire body to search for and obtain DNA left behind by the perpetrator. The DNA collected is then preserved in a sexual assault evidence kit which is commonly referred to as a rape kit. The DNA in these rape kits help identify unknown assailants, affirm survivors stories, and acquit the wrongfully convicted. Currently it is estimated that there are over four hundred thousand untested rape kits in the United States. These untested rape kits typically have either been booked into evidence but not been submitted for DNA analysis or have been submitted for DNA analysis in a crime lab but not actually been tested yet.

Proposal for Action:
End the backlog of untested rape kits in the United States by:
I. Creating a federal database designed specifically to track the evidence gathered by rape kits. This evidence includes, but is not limited to, the DNA of the victim, DNA of the attacker, date of assault, time of assault, and place of assault.

II. Providing federal aid in the testing of untested sexual assault kits. The government will assist in testing sexual assault kits by first assigning federal workers to states that had the highest number of backlogged sexual assault kits at the conclusion of the previous year. The federal workers will help test the kits and also provide any extra equipment needed to test the kits.

Additional funding required for this proposal will be obtained from the Crime Victim Fund.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal will result not only in a decline in rape kit backlogs nationwide, but it will also break down barriers that currently prevent sexual assault victims from obtaining crucial evidence that will give them the opportunity to pursue justice against their attackers.
Proposal #330
Author: Hannah Hale, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
Grant Native American Tribal Courts Jurisdiction over Non-Native Americans in Sexual Assault Cases

Major Areas to be Affected:
Native Americans, Federal Courts, State Courts, United States Justice Department

Justification:
Currently Native American women experience unique challenges that intensify the epidemic of violence against them. More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence, and more than 1 in 2 have experienced sexual assault. In these sexual violence cases the vast majority, 96%, of the assailants are non-Natives. Between 2015 and 2019, U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 67% of Indian country matters referred to them involving sexual abuse. Majority of these assaults are not even investigated by officials. The United States current system is a discriminatory, injustice system for Native communities. By giving tribal courts jurisdiction over the individuals in these cases, Native American women will get the justice they deserve.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will establish legislation granting Native American tribal courts jurisdiction over non-Native Americans in sexual assault cases that occur on Native American Reservations.

Results to be Expected:
By allowing tribal courts jurisdiction over their sexual assault cases it will allow theses cases will be heard and dealt with appropriately.
Proposal #386  
Author: Sarah Gruensfelder, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
To Institute a New Policy Banning Female Genital Mutilation Internationally

Major Areas to be Affected:
The 19 US states and numerous nations which allow females under the age of 18 to be genitally mutilated

Justification:
Female genital mutilation is a procedure performed on women that change their genitals for non-medical reasons and actively lowers their quality of life. Women who face this procedure are at risk of infection, chronic pain, physiological trauma, issues in childbirth, and even death. Over 200 million women and girls in the world have been genitally mutilated and it is estimated that 3 million will be mutilated annually. Although it is often justified by religious reasons, there are no religious documents that condone female genital mutilation. It has been condemned the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, and the United Nations Population Fund. Allowing this procedure to continue across the world furthers the deep-rooted issues and discrimination women face by taking away their sexuality.

Proposal for Action:
Female genital mutilation will be banned in the United States. Additionally, the US would propose a UN resolution banning female genital mutilation for females under 18 years of age and/or females without consent. The UN has already issued multiple statements denouncing female genital mutilation and plans to eliminate it in addition to the multiple treaties in existence. The proposal for action is the following:
Banning states from supporting or allowing genital mutilation procedures to be carried out on females
Criminalization of doctors or medical professionals that carry out any of the types of female genital mutilation including:
Type I: partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or its prepuce.
Type II: the clitoris and labia minora are partially or totally removed, with or without excision of the labia majora.
Type III: narrowing the vaginal orifice with the creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning the labia minora and/or labia majora, with or without removal of the clitoris. A small opening is left for menstrual blood to escape.
Type IV: all other procedures to the genitalia of women for non-medical purposes, such as pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterization.
Imposing sanctions on countries not in agreement of the resolution

Results to be Expected:
A decrease or extinction of the practice of female genital mutilation internationally, which will, in turn, increase women's global health and decrease the dehumanization against them.
Proposal #406
Author: Spencer Heitman, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
Combat Silence–Underage Drinking Exemptions for Sexual Assault Victims

Major Areas to be Affected:
Victims and Perpetrators of Sexual Assault, People Under 21, College/University Campuses

Justification:
The United States faced 342,782 rapes in 2018 alone, equating to one every ninety-two seconds. For broader sexual assault, the statistics are even more harrowing, with 25% of females and 17% of males becoming victims at some point in their life. The numbers increase still for college-aged females, who are three times more vulnerable than any other age and gender demographic. Despite this increased prevalence of sexual violence, 90% of sexual assaults on college campuses go unreported.

When the Bureau of Justice Statistics surveyed victims who chose not to report their sexual assault, one of the most frequent reasons cited was “fear of being accused of playing a role in the crime.” With approximately 25% of sexual assaults involving alcohol consumption by the perpetrator, victim, or both, the fear of victim-blaming among young people is directly tied to alcohol.

Proposal for Action:
Persons under the legal drinking age who report sexual assault will be exempt from misdemeanor charges for possession/consumption of alcohol at the time of the attack. That is, a person under 21 who is sexually assaulted while intoxicated will not be charged for having or consuming alcohol. While these changes will be enacted on the state level, the federal government will withhold transportation dollars from states that have not passed the appropriate legislation by January 1, 2021.

In the extremely rare case of false reports, individuals proven beyond any reasonable doubt to have lied about suffering sexual assault will be faced with their initial underage drinking charge(s) and will be eligible for further punishment—such as perjury or defamation charges—as deemed appropriate by the judicial system.

Results to be Expected:
The passage of this proposal will grant underage victims of sexual assault increased confidence when coming forward about their trauma, assuring them that they will not be penalized for their victimhood. With this change, sexual assault statistics will increase in reliability, which will allow for sex criminals to be penalized more frequently and appropriately for their actions.
Title:

To Install Safe Harbor Laws Across the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:

Department of Family Services, Department of Homeland Security, the American Court System, and the general American public

Justification:

Across the United States, there are currently only 16 states and districts that have passed Safe Harbor laws for sex-trafficking victims. These laws prevent victims of sex-trafficking from being prosecuted for prostitution if they are a proven victim of sex-trafficking. Creating a standard for every state to follow would prevent victims from suffering consequences to a crime they were forced or coerced into. In 2016 alone, there were approximately 40,000 prosecutions for prostitution, and many of those arrested were forced into vulgar and aggressive acts without consent, and with the passage of this proposal, their suffering will hopefully diminish and come to an end.

Proposal for Action:

The United States government will require that every state in the nation has Safe Harbor laws that protect sex-trafficking victims from prosecution under prostitution charges. This proposal will be enforced by each state's Department of Family Services and their Office of the Attorney General. The proposal will be enforced on the national level by the Department of Homeland Security. This proposal will not require any funding, and it will go into action in the beginning of the 2021 year. All other laws and/or passages of Congress that conflict with this bill will be considered null and void.

Results to be Expected:

With the passage of this proposal, there will be a significant decrease in the number of those prosecuted for prostitution. This will help manage the overpopulation crisis in the United States prisons as well as help save those affected by the sex trafficking crisis in the United States as a whole.
Proposal #437
Author: Wyatt Patterson, Delegation: Delaware

Title:
An Act to Prohibit Forced Arbitration of Sexual Harassment Claims

Major Areas to be Affected:
Individuals whose contracts contain forced arbitration clauses in relation to sexual harassment.

Justification:
Forced arbitration allows sexual harassment to fester in the workplace by keeping victims from discussing their cases publicly or taking them to court. Instead, the victim is forced to sit down with their harasser in a private meeting with a mediator chosen by the company to settle the matter. The proceedings are subject to strict confidentiality, making the process and the results secret, thus preventing public accountability for repeat harassers or the employers who enable them. The victim is not given a choice other than accepting the outcome of the forced arbitration, which often will not reflect true justice due to the inherent bias in the mediator, who desires to prevent the victim from exposing the company or their harasser. This violates the victim’s Seventh Amendment right to an open jury process.

Proposal for Action:
Any section of an employee’s contract that requires forced arbitration in relation to sexual harassment claims will be considered void. No future contracts will be permitted to include forced arbitration clauses in relation to sexual harassment claims.

Results to be Expected:
An individual who has experienced sexual harassment in the workplace will be able to bring a legal dispute against the company and will be ensured a fair and just trial. Both parties will have a chance to be heard as equals, rather than in a setting where the mediator of the dispute is biased against the victim.
Proposal #442
Author: Ashauna Weston, Delegation: District of Columbia

Title:
To limit the cases of human trafficking in america.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The FBI and the Department of Justice

Justification:
In 1910 a law called the Mann Act was passed, which is a federal statute that prohibits interstate or foreign transportation of individual with the intention of engaging such individual in sexually activity or prostitution. According to humanrightfirst.org, an estimated 24.9 million victims are trapped in modern day slavery, of these 16 million which is 64% were exploited for labor. 4.8 million which is 19% were sexually exploited in state-imposed forced labor. According to upi.com human trafficking rose 35.7% from 2017 to 2018. Rape is the most under reported crime. According to nsrc.org 20-25 % of college women and 15% of college men are victims of forced sexual activity during their time in college. To compare sentences marijuana is charged more than sex trafficking. POSSESSING marijuana or selling marijuana you can get 5-15 years in jail. In Maryland, if you are caught sex trafficking you can get no more than ten years.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will put stricter laws on human trafficking. Any individual who commits the offense of human trafficking will be sentenced from 10 years to 15 years. This proposal will amend the Mann Act to update it to present times. The following lines will be deleted: "If convicted of a Mann Act violation, one could serve up to five years in prison and be given hefty fines." The following lines will be inserted: "If convicted of a Mann Act violation, one could serve 15 years in prison and be given hefty fines."

Results to be Expected:
By increasing the human trafficking sentence by 5 years it will decrease the cases of human trafficking. This will significantly reduce the amount of sex traffickers in america.
Proposal #452
Author: Anjali Pellegrin, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
To Protect Victims and Survivors of Forcible Rape and Sexual Assault

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Criminal Justice System, State Courts, Federal Courts, Family Court System, Victims of Sexual Assault and Abuse

Justification:
Within the United States, there are currently seven states in which convicted rapists and sexual predators have the full ability to claim their parental rights over children conceived during the commission of their assault. Not only is this against the best interest of the child, but it also subjects the sexual assault victim to further trauma. Sexual assault survivors commonly report that their attackers use this privilege as leverage against their victims, threatening to file for their parental rights should their victims press criminal charges against them. Though 43 states and the D.C. territory have passed laws regarding the parental rights of rapists, the majority of these laws only address parental adoption rights rather than custody rights, meaning that they do little to protect women should they choose to keep their child. Additionally, these states also have varying requirements for termination of the rights, such as age, degree of sexual assault, and the necessity of a conviction.

The problem is clear: there is no standard for this type of law. Location alone determines if a victim may be forced to endure a long, arduous struggle for custody of her child, or if a convicted rapist may be given the power to extort their victims. The victims of these crimes need to be protected.

Proposal for Action:
Upon the finding of a conviction of forcible rape, said convicted individual shall be barred from asserting their parental rights to any child conceived by that crime. These rights include adoption, custody, and visitation rights.

Additional grounds for termination include a clear and convincing amount of evidence presented before a civil family court, in which a family court judge finds:
The child was conceived by the individual in question
The child was conceived during the course of non-consensual sexual relations

In the case of any plea deals, the court is mandated to advise the defendant that they will forfeit their parental rights to any child conceived during the sexual relations in question if they plead ‘guilty’ to any degree of rape or sexual assault. The defendant must be made aware of this before his plea.

In the case of marital rape, this proposal does not apply retroactively to pre-existing children. Termination of those rights would have to go through standard procedures outlined in the proposal.

Results to be Expected:
The proposal is a proactive measure to protect individuals from their sexual predators and abusers. Immediate termination takes the power out of the hands of the convicted, and puts it in the hands of the victims. By recognizing a standard, equal protection will be given to all victims of these crimes.
Title:

To end the defamation of the victim in a sexual assault case based on said victim's clothing.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Court systems, sexual assault cases in discovery.

Justification:

In the United States, one in three women and one in six men experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime, yet sexual assault is one of the most under-reported crimes, with three out of every four assaults going unreported leading to 99% of sexual assault perpetrators walking free. And after being reported, only 1.3% of cases actually get referred to a prosecutor and 0.7% lead to a felony conviction. These statistics show the lack of action being taken by our criminal justice system with sexual assault cases. Because sexual assault perpetrators have to be proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt many attorneys attempt to prove doubt through victim blaming. Attorneys will mention what clothes the victim wore to try to show implied consent through revealing clothing. This proposal makes it illegal to enter clothing into evidence for anything but forensic evidence in an effort to stop victim blaming and bring more assailters to justice.

Proposal for Action:

Lawyers and judges cannot use the articles of clothing the plaintiff was wearing in order to defame/blame the victim, in order to sway a verdict.

The type of clothing will not be a legitimate form of defense or accusation. The type of clothing being worn by the victim of sexual assault will not be a basis for the ruling.

Unless clothing contains pertinent DNA information, tears/wearing that is typical of assault or other traumatic injuries, it may not be used. Any evidence that fits this description shall be dismissed by the judge; if one party feels as though evidence has been improperly allowed or dismissed, they may contest this through current means.

Results to be Expected:

Less partial case rulings, more legitimate evidence being presented, perpetrators of sexual assault being brought to justice, and an end to the practice of victim-blaming in the United States.
Proposal #563
Author: Jack Hertzberg, Delegation: Arkansas

Title:
To create enterprise zones in Native American reservations that implement tax concessions to spur economic and commercial growth and create jobs for tribal members.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Indian Reservations, US Government, Corporations, Navajo Nation

Justification:
The official poverty rate is 28.4% - double the national average. Furthermore, it is much worse in western reservations that contain most of the overall reservation population (the Navajo Nation has 350,000 of the 700,000 people living on reservations and their poverty rate is 43%). Extreme poverty is defined as an income of less than 3,000 dollars per year, and 15% of the Navajo Nation fits in this category. Also, unemployment rates are collectively 14% but are commonly around 25% in the West and can exceed even 75% in Californian reservations. These areas need economic revitalization. Many natives are not encouraged to work because there are few jobs on the reservations and they don't want to move off native land because of the advantages there of federally funded housing. In addition, non-Indian companies have no motive to build and create jobs on reservations because of their mostly remote locations. However, tax breaks for commercialism in these regions would foster economic growth including jobs and reduced poverty. It would also allow Native Americans to stay in there funded housing communities with their cultural freedom if they wish.

Proposal for Action:
I. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will handle the classification of the 326 reservations in the United States as enterprise zones. Though tribal councils do have the rights to their own laws, Congress can make decisions for them if it benefits them (so legal disputes with any tribes that objects will not be valid).

II. Once deemed tax free zones, The Bureau of Indian Affairs will encourage tribal governments of reservations to reach out to companies for placement of their facilities on reservation land. This should assist the influx of corporations taking advantage of the economic benefits.

III. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will manage the commercialism on the reservations to ensure that nature and cultural sites are protected. It will also manage the bids for construction to ensure that the reservations are not overly industrialized.

IV. The tribal governments in the reservations will encourage their citizens to find jobs through advertisement in the community centers. They will also be encouraged to market their reservations for prospective businesses and work with those corporations to support the community.

Results to be Expected:
The Native American Reservation Enterprise Act (NAREA) will generate economic growth in the areas of the United States that need it most. It will create jobs for Native Americans in a comfortable cultural setting where they don't have to sacrifice their benefits for a career. It will ultimately reduce poverty by giving tribal members incentives to achieve and opportunities to have something they can call their own.
Title:
To sanction the deployment of government hackers to deanonymize users of child pornography and abuse-sharing sites on the dark web

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Government Agents, and visitors of illegal sites on the dark web.

Justification:
To most internet users, the dark web is an enigma. It’s often portrayed as a den of mysterious and illicit activity, and while this stereotype holds some truth, there are some beneficial uses to hidden online services in the realm of political activism, as well as the more obvious drawbacks; the viewing and distribution of images of child abuse and pornography accounts for the majority of traffic to hidden Dark Web sites. Central to the Dark Web’s very existence is anonymising technology, specifically through the use of Tor, an open-source software program. There is nothing inherently criminal about using Tor for anonymity, however there is no clear way for the government to distinguish criminals from innocent users if they are all anonymous.

Current U.S. laws are vaguely applicable to the Dark Web, but government agencies have not solidified policies on how to regulate it, as the Dark Web is impossible to regulate in isolation; any regulations would have to be applicable to the internet as whole, even to Surface Web users.

By creating a new “white-hat” hacker program under the Federal Bureau of Investigation and giving government agents the legal authority to place deanonymizing tools on the illicit sites, the government can use existing technology to identify and bring charges against users of sites that share content of child abuse and pornography. While there are many challenges with enforcing regulations on the dark web, to not address the teeming industry of online child exploitation with the tools already at the government’s disposal would allow these illicit sites to run unabated.

Proposal for Action:
The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall create a new program in which it gives state-sponsored hackers the legal authority to place deanonymizing tools, such as Ultrasound cross-device tracking, on the computers of users accessing an illicit child pornography or child abuse site.

Results to be Expected:
Allowing the FBI to deanonymize users of child pornography and abuse sites allows for an effective means of enforcing the current laws regulating darknet activity without infringing upon the privacy of the innocent or vigilante Tor user. Ultrasound cross-device tracking can be reliably used to track and deanonymize Tor users but is not currently in the government’s jurisdiction to place on internet users. Child abuse and pornography sites account for the largest portion of Dark Web traffic, with a study conducted by researchers at the University of Portsmouth concluding that more than 80% of Tor traffic requests to hidden sites were directed towards known child abuse and pornography sites. Allowing government agents to deanonymize known users of these sites through existing technology will not only unmask the criminals that hide in the dark net’s anonymous sanctuary, but also disincentivize future users of these heinous sites.
Title:
Carbon Tax Initiative With Support Towards The Education System

Major Areas to be Affected:
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Education
State Education Agencies

Justification:
In the United States alone, approximately 6,870 million tons of carbon dioxide is emitted each year. Greenland and Antarctica were losing a combined total of 417 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016. Going hand in hand with this, there is the fact that Antarctica’s ice mass loss has tripled. This is a direct result of the fact that carbon dioxide emissions from major corporations are raising the surface temperature of the Earth, which has increased by 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th century with a majority of the change occurring in the last 35 years. The top 700 meters of the ocean have increased by almost half a degree in the last 50 years. Lastly, sea levels have risen 8 inches in the past century, which is almost double the rate from previous centuries.

The education system in the United States is slowly crumbling under the weight of full classrooms with little support from state funding. With 14% of schools being overpopulated and 34 states recently deciding to decrease their funding per student, schools can use any extra funds possible. According to the National Education Association, smaller class sizes are more beneficial to a student's education. With additional funding, this is more achievable and students will have better opportunities available.

Proposal for Action:
*Establish a cap for how much carbon dioxide can be emitted by a single corporation over the course of a year.
*Set a carbon tax of $50 per ton of CO\textsubscript{2} emitted.
*States that choose to enforce this will be given a set amount of funds to go towards education.
*Carbon credits that are not used by a company are not allowed to be bought, sold, or traded in any way to other companies.

The carbon cap for each company will be roughly in proportion to the amount of carbon that the corporation has emitted in previous years.

Results to be Expected:
When enacted, this proposal will allow for a cleaner environment and overall better living situations for inhabitants of Earth. With less carbon dioxide being emitted into the environment, the atmosphere will slowly be able to restore a healthy amount of CO\textsubscript{2}. When major corporations have to pay for ruining the environment, the money raised will be able to filter straight back into the education system, children will be able to be more comfortable and have a better learning experience when they receive extra funding. While this is not an absolute end to climate change, by reducing corporation’s carbon footprint, the world will be allowed some room to heal. The children of today's society will have a brighter future with better education and a cleaner world to live in when this carbon cap and tax is offered for states.
Title:
A Proposal to Ensure Equality of Taxation

Major Areas to be Affected:
Internal Revenue Service, Wealthiest 0.1% of Americans, the U.S. Treasury Department

Justification:
Since its foundations, the United States has been plagued with a growing epidemic of wealth inequality. To make matters worse, this wealth gap is largest it has ever been. Put simply, the richest 130,000 families in America now hold nearly as much wealth as the bottom 117 million families combined.

Politicians often look to adjusting the income tax code in order to solve this inequity, but that is not enough. Federal tax revenue comes from two places: earned income tax (which at the most can be taxed at a rate of 39.6%) and taxes from investments (which at the most can be taxed at a rate of 20% depending on income). The heavy taxation of income greatly benefits the super wealthy who make a majority of the money in capital gains (investment returns) and stash all of their cash in assets that are not taxable. Consider two people: an heir with $500 million in yachts, jewelry, and fine art, and a teacher with no savings in the bank.

If both the heir and the teacher bring home $50,000 in labor income next year, they would pay the same amount in federal taxes, despite their vastly different circumstances. Increasing income taxes won’t address this problem.

It is for this reason that we must look to tax accumulated wealth in addition to income and capital gains. Because of issues like tax evasion, legal circumventing of the tax code, and overall inequality in the system, in proportion to their wealth, the families in the bottom 99% are projected to pay almost twice as much as those in the top 0.1%. The tax code right now must look to ensure that everyone is paying their proportionally fair share of taxes.

Proposal for Action:

1. The following tax brackets are to be instituted:
   A. The first 50 million dollars of the net worth of any given taxpayer will not be affected by this tax.
   B. All taxpayers with a total net worth that exceeds 50 million dollars will be taxed on all wealth other than their first 50 million dollars at a rate of 2% annually.
   C. If net worth Exceeds 1 billion dollars, all wealth over 1 billion dollars will be taxed at a rate of 3%.
   D. All assets held globally by US citizens will be included in the net worth measurement. This includes residences, closely held businesses, assets held in trust, retirement assets, assets held by minor children, personal property with a value of $50,000 or more, and cash held in quantities greater than $50,000.

2. For the rare taxpayer with extremely high net worth but liquidity constraints that make it difficult to pay this additional tax, there will be an option to defer payment of the tax for up to five years, with an interest rate of a 5% annually. If taxpayers have very extreme circumstances that make the payment the tax impossible, they will be able to file with the IRS to be judged on a case by case basis.

3. The IRS already has rules to assess the value of many assets for estate tax purposes. These same rules would be used as a baseline for the payment of the wealth tax. The IRS would also be given .1% of all of the revenue generated from the tax to fund the appraising of wealth and also to help them develop techniques to more efficiently do so.

4. A 40% exit tax will be paid to transfer any wealth out of the country or the renouncing of their citizenship for those subject to the tax.

Results to be Expected:

The tax is will only affect the wealthiest 0.1% of all Americans, which is only the richest 75,000 households. Over the next ten years, Economists estimate the tax will generate over 2.75 trillion dollars in revenue for the Federal Government. The tax is believed to be able to reduce the wealth gap by 15% over the next ten years, all while increasing the US GDP by 1% each year that the tax is in effect.
Proposal #033
Author: Emma Barrosa, Delegation: California

Title:
The IRS must create a free, online tax filing system for all citizens, with the additional option of Ready Return.

Major Areas to be Affected:
IRS, Tax Filing Companies, Accountants, American taxpayers

Justification:
When filing taxes, Americans typically use TurboTax, H&R Block, or accountants for 60 to 600 dollars to easily input their taxes and avoid the confusion of raw IRS taxes. Currently, the Free File Alliance works with the IRS to allow for Americans that make less than 66,000 dollars a year (70% of Americans) to receive free tax-filing software (but only 3% actually use it), with the rest of Americans forced to fend for themselves in the height of tax season. This much-needed service would make the lives of all taxpayers easier and taxes more efficient. Hypothetically, citizens that once griped over tax season and attempted to avoid it, now have no excuse with a free, online resource to input their taxes easily. Filing taxes must not come with an extra tax for one that makes over 66,000 dollars. The American people deserve an organized, accessible system untainted from corporation's greedy ulterior motives. If the government does not reform our tax filing system, Americans' relationship with the government will falter and the dreaded tax day will continue in its infamously.

Proposal for Action:
Update the IRS’s preexisting filing system offered to Americans (with a salary of 66,000 dollars or less) and open the filing system to every American.

Within the online site, Americans can request Ready Return (a tax return filled out with a citizen’s income).

Ready Return will send the taxpayer their filled-out tax return in the mail in which the taxpayer signs and mails it back, if all of the information is correct.

Once the system is implemented, the IRS will launch a tax awareness campaign to educate taxpayers on their new options for tax filing through IRS user videos, paper instructions via mail, etc.

Results to be Expected:
Tax revenue will increase due to the decrease in tax miscalculations and incorrect tax form filing. Accountants and private tax filing companies as well as accountants (TurboTax and H&R Block) will lose business; however, they may reorganize their services from tax filing to tax guidance. After the American government invests in a new tax filing system, taxpayer turnout will increase and the government will slowly regain their approximated 400 billion dollars they lose every year from unpaid taxes.
Title:

A proposal to place an excise tax on the sale of beverages with more than 1.7 grams of sugar per fluid ounce.

Major Areas to be Affected:

beverage producers, food service providers, United States consumers, overweight/obese demographic

Justification:

Although it is categorized as a preventable disease, the rate of obesity in the United States is staggering, with 39.8% of adults and 18.5% of youth being affected by this epidemic (CDC NCHS), the issue is in dire need of attention. Over the last 15 years, the obesity rate in our country has increased by nearly 10%, as the trend of fast food consumption continues to grow. Although there is no agreement on the definition of fast food, such products are synonymous to hyperpalatable foods, which are highly processed to be psychologically addictive due to rich concentrations of artificial additives. The intense aforementioned increase has been the cause of several obesity-related health concerns, including heart disease, stroke, type two diabetes, and other illnesses that are some of the leading causes for premature death, which cost the US an estimated $147 billion to $210 billion each year.

Of the most detrimental dietary consumer products, sugar-sweetened beverages are of the most overlooked. While highly processed meats and refined carbohydrates are responsible for many excessive increases in caloric consumption, sugar-sweetened beverages are incredibly dangerous to the human diet due to their lack of fiber, which allows the rapid delivery of sugar into the body. These beverages are equally as responsible for the previously mentioned health concerns, in addition to “kidney diseases, non-alcoholic liver disease, tooth decay and cavities, and gout” (CDC). Additionally, a journal published March 18th of this year analyzed a “large, long-term study of 37,716 men and 80,647 women in the U.S.” which was conducted to determine the effects of these sugar-sweetened beverages. It found that “the more sugary beverages people drink, the greater their risk of premature death — particularly from cardiovascular disease, and to a lesser extent from cancer.”

Furthermore, this “sugar-sweetened” title extends beyond the market of carbonated beverages, and can be applied to equally as many fruit juices and energy drinks, all of which are engineered to be flavorful and palettably appealing. Thus, it is evident these sugar-sweetened products, which are equally as addictive and harmful as depreciated products such as cigarettes or alcohol, be treated as such, and also be placed under an excise (sin) tax.

Proposal for Action:

The United States federal government is to place a 25 cent excise tax on the sale of every gallon of any commercial beverage containing more than 1.7 grams of sugar per fluid ounce. Not only would this disincentivize the production of drinks with excessive amounts of added sugar, but it would also increase the sale price of these beverages, further disencouraging the consumption of such unhealthy drinks.

Results to be Expected:

The disruption of the spreading obesity epidemic through the disencentivisement of the production of, and disencouragement of the consumption of, unhealthy and unnecessary sugar-sweetened beverages. The drive toward better dietary alternatives for all consumers, especially the low income demographic that experiences a consistent reliance on such groceries.
Proposal #045
Author: Shanaya Jaitly, Delegation: Florida
Title:
A proposal to reduce the effects of climate change with a tiered rate tax system.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The environment and all US citizens.

Justification:
Climate change has been a growing problem, not only in the United States, but all over the world. The health impacts of burning fossil fuels has cost the U.S. economy at least $240 billion a year over the past ten years. This does not include the economic losses resulting from the inclimate weather heightened by climate change. Scientists at NASA predict that if global climate change continues on as it has, there will be increased heat waves, less glaciers, and higher sea levels. These may seem like trivial problems, but they will have a greater impact than most will realize.

Heat waves are not just an annoyance for Americans. In countries like India, Haiti, and Africa, they can take lives. These developing countries do not have the resources to protect their citizens from the harsh weather that occurs due to global climate change. The increased heat causes droughts in areas that do not have sufficient water as is, removing a vital resource for life. According to a study done by the United Nations in 2013, over 780 million people do not have adequate access to water and thousands of children die every day from dehydration. These numbers are steadily increasing due to climate change. This problem has reached epidemic proportions and must be stopped.

Glaciers are also vastly important to animals and humans alike. They are the home to many endangered species, such as snow leopards, and other arctic animals including reindeer, bears, and many types of birds. As their habitats are melting, these species risk extinction. Glaciers also are one of our most important freshwater sources. In fact, 68.7% of all freshwater on Earth is found in glaciers. As these glaciers melt, the freshwater mixes with the surrounding saltwater and is no longer viable for consumption. This depletes one of our most important resources as water is essential for the human race’s growing population. The Arctic Ocean is expected to become ice-free throughout the summer before mid-century.

Global seal levels are rising 0.13 inches a year, yet another result of global warming. They are expected to rise 10-32 inches or more by the end of this century. This is due to the higher temperatures that are melting ice caps and glaciers. When sea levels rise, it encroaches upon our land. Land is scarce as is and we need as much as we can to serve Earth’s growing population. Those who live on coasts or on islands may be in danger of flooding and will eventually have to relocate. Sea levels rising can also take up fertile land that is used to grow crops for humans or to raise livestock for meat. In Florida, there is also the possible problem of it flooding a United States National Park, the Everglades. While it is a wetland, if the sea levels rise too much, it will endanger the species that live there. If we do not curb this rapidly growing problem now, it will harm millions of people and animals.

The cause for climate change, the reason why these occurrences are happening, is all due to anthropogenic effects, the effect humans have on the environment. Humans are emitting extensive amounts of greenhouse gases that cause global climate change. Greenhouse gases are emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas. One of the main uses for fossil fuels is for generating electricity. Two pounds of carbon dioxide, a problematic greenhouse gas, is produced for every kilowatt (kWh) generated. The average United States home uses over 15,000 kWh annually and there are over 125.8 million households in the United States, a number that increases every day.

Proposal for Action:
Implement a tiered rate system with high taxes to encourage citizens, businesses, and corporations to reduce the amount of electricity they use. A tiered rate system allows companies to charge increased prices per kWh based on increased use. The tiered rate system would be scaled separately for citizens and businesses. This policy would only apply to those countries that have annual national carbon dioxide emissions over 300 million metric tonnes. This would include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, and the United States.
Results to be Expected:

This tiered rate system will compel citizens to reduce the amount of electricity they use and, therefore, reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in order to produce that electricity. Citizens and businesses alike will not want to pay higher prices so they’ll make sure they’re on the lower spectrum of the tiered rate system by limiting the amount of kWh of electricity they use. This should reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in order to produce that electricity and slow down global climate change.
Proposal #104
Author: Colleen Brown, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
Raise the gasoline tax to pay for transportation improvements and suppress carbon pollution.

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Drivers, Transportation Companies, Shipping Services, Petroleum Companies, Fuel Retailers, Automobile Manufacturers.

Justification:
The Federal excise tax on gasoline was established as part of the Revenue Act of 1932. The tax was $0.01 per gallon when it was first established and the average cost of gasoline in the US at that time was $0.18 per gallon. The tax eventually increased to $0.184 per gallon in 1993 and has been at that level ever since. In 1993, gasoline was priced at $1.11 per gallon, so the tax amounted to over 16% of the sales price of gasoline. Today, with the price of gasoline at approximately $2.88 per gallon, the tax is less than 7% of the price of a gallon of gas.

An increase back to 16% would take the gasoline tax to over $0.47 per gallon. This would raise an additional $41 Billion annually for the Highway Trust Fund. This would go a long way towards funding the priorities for our highways put forth by the American Society of Civil Engineers in their 2017 Infrastructure Report Card. The increase of the Federal excise tax will encourage consumers to be more thoughtful when buying gas. This can result in carpooling, limiting unnecessary trips, and taking fuel efficient routes. This would help reduce carbon emissions and even lessen road damage.

Proposal for Action:
Raise the gasoline tax to $0.47 per gallon and index it to inflation, so it remains a viable source of funding for our nation’s highways for the foreseeable future. This will raise an additional $41 billion per year to fund improvements in our highway system through the Highway Trust Fund. The law must state that funds will go into the Highway Trust fund and not be diverted to any other use than highway construction and maintenance. The Highway Trust Fund will operate exactly the same in distribution of funds, the only change being the amount of funding.

Results to be Expected:
The increase of the Federal excise tax will raise an additional $41 Billion per year for the Highway Trust Fund. The increase in the overall cost of fuel should encourage consumers to be more thoughtful when buying gas. This can result in carpooling, limiting unnecessary trips, and taking fuel efficient routes. In the long term, it can also provide incentives to buy more fuel-efficient vehicles. This would help reduce carbon emissions and even lessen road damage as fewer miles are driven. Improved highways can also lessen carbon and other pollution by reducing congestion. It is also likely that these improvements will improve safety of our highways and reduce traffic fatalities. Raising this tax is a tangible action we can take to signal to our citizens that we are serious about addressing the issue of carbon and its effect on climate change. There are many actions that are necessary beyond this to reduce our country’s carbon footprint, but this proposal can serve as a catalyst for further action while simultaneously addressing the lack of funding for our highway systems.
Proposal #106
Author: Richmond Griner, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
Implement a federal penny tax on single use plastic straws for businesses and organizations selling or providing food and beverage

Major Areas to be Affected:
Businesses and organizations selling or providing food and beverage
Plastic Straw Manufacturers
EPA
Consumers

Justification:
Americans use around 500 million plastic straws each day which continuously add to the plastic waste crisis. Although they are not the largest offenders, many cities across the nation have begun to ban these plastic straws in business and organizations that sell or provide food and beverage. While the end goal is to make plastic straws obsolete, a complete ban on straws is not realistic in the short term for all of America. The hope in implementing this proposal is that plastic straws will be a gateway for a decrease in other single use plastics. Though it may not seem significant, a penny tax will provide steady revenue towards the EPA, which has recently experienced significant budget cuts; as well as continue the conversation towards saving our planet. Around eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year, and while plastic straws may only make up 0.025% of this large number, they have been a hot topic in environmental campaigns. For most able bodied people, the straw is far from a necessity and limiting use is a realistic change for Americans. The point of this proposal is to increase public awareness on the abuse of single use plastics, and the plastic straw is just the beginning.

Proposal for Action:
Implement a federal penny tax on single use plastic straws for businesses and organizations selling or providing food and beverage. All money raised by this tax will go towards the EPA budget. This proposal would take effect on January 1, 2020

Results to be Expected:
The EPA will gain more capital to use as deemed necessary, more specifically towards cleaning up plastic and research/development on plastic alternatives. The overall use of plastic straws throughout the United states decreases, and the conversation towards saving the environment continues to grow.
Title:
To create additional funding for the Interstate Highway Trust fund by adding a $0.05 tax per gallon of gas.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The transportation industry, consumers of gasoline, and the American people

Justification:
This would be a major step up in much needed funding for the trust fund. For years the Interstate Highway trust fund has been underfunded, this lack of funding has been detrimental to the roads, bridges, and other forms of infrastructure and mass transit. In the United States right now 1 in 9 bridges are considered structurally deficient by the American Society of Civil Engineers, this means that there are over 65,000 bridges in the United States are at risk of collapsing at any moment. The expected lifespan of American bridges is 50 years, and the average age of bridges in the United States is 42 years. According to the FHWA upwards of $70 billion is necessary to repair the backlog of structurally deficient bridges. Almost 65% of America’s roads are in less than good condition according to the 2017 FHWA budget. President Trump’s proposed budget for 2018 saw a cut to the Department of Transportation by 13%. The need for this boost in funding is obviously necessary to maintain America’s vast amounts of infrastructure. The very fabric that connects Americans is in jeopardy, and it must be fixed.

Proposal for Action:
A $0.05 gas tax is a very effective method at raising money for our roads. The United States in 2018 Americans used 142.86 billion gallons of gas, a tax of $0.05 on that amount of gas would be $7,143,000,000 added to the Interstate Highway trust fund. At $0.05 per gallon a consumer who owns an SUV would have to pay $1.65 more to fill up. While someone who owns a sedan will be paying $1.10 extra. The average one way commute in the United States is 26 minutes, so it will not be huge dent to the consumers wallet. This isn’t just concrete that needs to be fixed, it’s the very basis of what makes the United States physically united. It’s a tall task, but it’s in the best interest of our nation that we tackle this challenge, it’s vital to the well being of the American people.

Results to be Expected:
Much improved funding for the Interstate Highway trust fund
A nation wide push to fix structurally deficient pieces of American infrastructure
Title:

All United States places of worship will be taxed after five years of operation.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

The first amendment states that: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

In the Constitution, separation of church and state is a principle stating that the government must maintain an attitude of neutrality toward religion, but currently the government is taking an unneutral stance by allowing places of worship to be tax-exempt. Hospitals and homeless shelters are justified in receiving tax exemptions because the services they provide would fall to the government if they ceased to exist. However, if places of worship ceased to exist, it would not be the government’s responsibility to provide religious services. Therefore, making places of worship tax-exempt is unjustifiable.

Places of worship will remain tax-exempt for the first five years of operation to allow them time to build up their congregation through retreats, structural improvements, etc. After five years most places of worship are either able to stay in operation because they have enough people attending, or close because they do not have enough people attending. Therefore, after five years of operation the place of worship should be able to afford taxes. If not, they will close down because they would not be able to afford other expenses either. Normally, tax-exempt groups are required to disclose where their money comes from, but according to The New York Times, “churches are required to disclose essentially nothing about who or what supplies them with their funds.” This allows politically-motivated people to operate discreetly in places of worship, often allowing them to disseminate political propaganda disguised as a religious message.

We live in an era of mega-churches and places of worship. Places of worship with congregations totaling tens of thousands of people are making millions of dollars with little supervision. Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church in Houston is the biggest in the country with 45,000 weekly attendees and annual untaxed revenue reaching $76 million. Why should American taxpayers allow this much revenue to go untaxed, especially knowing that the government would not be required to provide religious services if places of worship ceased to exist? Churches/places of worship should be taxed like the businesses they have become.

Proposal for Action:

All United States places of worship will be federally taxed on property and revenue after being in operation for five years. Places of worship will be tax-exempt for the first five years of operation to allow their congregation to grow. After five years they will no longer be considered tax-exempt. Places of worship within the United States will be federally taxed on revenue. Places of worship within the United States will be state or locally taxed on property depending on the state.

Places of worship will have to disclose where their money comes from in their first five years of operation, and thereafter, like any other tax-exempt group or business.

Results to be Expected:

Places of worship within the United States will be federally taxed on revenue.
Places of worship within the United States will be state or locally taxed on property depending on the state.
Tax revenue in the United States will increase.
To make statistical adjustments to inflation-based increases in Social Security benefits payments

Major Areas to be Affected:

Current and future retirees, the federal government.

Justification:

Social Security serves as one of the most basic elements of the social safety net in America, with almost every single worker in the country contributing to it with the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll tax while working and receiving benefits when they retire. However, the program faces looming insolvency, given that the combined trust fund out of which Social Security payments for the elderly and disabled are paid is slowly running out of money and is projected to be depleted by 2034, according to the Social Security Administration. Thereafter, the revenues of the system will only be able to cover about 75% of the expected costs.

One of the primary reasons for this problem is the influx of Baby Boomers who are retiring, meaning that more money is needed to pay the benefits for these current and future retirees. This could mean that workers who are currently young and middle-aged may not be able to receive benefits in the future, despite paying taxes right now with the expectation of future payments in return.

There are a number of advantages to using the chained CPI as opposed to the CPI-W. While they both measure inflation in consumer prices, the CPI-W faces substitution bias, which means that it doesn’t adequately account for people changing which goods they buy if the price of a similar good changes. The CPI-W also faces small-sample bias because it is calculated using only a “small sample” of products in the economy. The chained CPI faces these two issues to a much lesser extent. In addition, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the chained CPI produces an inflation rate that is about 0.25% less than the CPI-W. As such, using this metric would be more fiscally sound by constraining future growth in the level of benefits that are paid from the Social Security system.

Proposal for Action:

Currently, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is used to determine the cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for Social Security benefits. The Chained CPI will replace the CPI-W as the statistical metric used to determine the increase in Social Security benefits. (Currently, Social Security benefits are increased slightly every year to account for inflation, in a process called the COLA.)

Results to be Expected:

Diminished marginal increases in Social Security benefits payments, increased Social Security solvency.
Proposal #294

Author: Gabriella Delgado, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
Offering tax incentives to energy efficient companies

Major Areas to be Affected:
Energy efficient companies as well as the IRS

Justification:
As a nation we owe it to ourselves to save our environment and incentivising these energy efficient companies would better ourselves and our futures. This would create jobs because more companies would be created. These companies will be passed on through our children and our children's children. The country has been wrecked on trying to take action for our climate change problem, The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th century. A change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere, this shows that climate change is a problem we face today and implementing this would be an easy advancement. Energy star certified Light Bulbs: Use about 70-90% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. Last at least 15 times longer and saves about $55 in electricity costs over its lifetime. As companies shift to energy star certified products the demand for these will go up creating more demand for employes in this product industry.

Proposal for Action:
In order for companies to be considered energy efficient they need to be energy star certified. The EPA has set regulations of what to them is considered an energy efficient product, Product categories must contribute significant energy savings nationwide.
-Certified products must deliver the features and performance demanded by consumers, in addition to increased energy efficiency.
-If the certified product costs more than a conventional, less-efficient counterpart, purchasers will recover their investment in increased energy efficiency through utility bill savings, within a reasonable period of time.
-Energy efficiency can be achieved through broadly available, non-proprietary technologies offered by more than one manufacturer.
-Product energy consumption and performance can be measured and verified with testing.
-Labeling would effectively differentiate products and be visible for purchasers.
An energy efficient company would have a tax credit of 1,000 dollars for every 10,000 dollars they make annually off of energy star certified products. These tax credits would be offered to any energy efficient company and these tax credits would be turned in with the companies taxes.

Results to be Expected:
To adopt this proposal would mean countless companies taking necessary measures to better our environment. As a result of this America would have many companies jump onto the trend and become energy efficient. This proposal would start a chain link to better our environmental future, we would see people take extra steps to become energy efficient.
Eliminating the Sun Tax

Major Areas to be Affected:
Energy Industry, Private Energy Users, Energy Utilities

Justification:
The citizens of the United States should not be punished for trying to lower their carbon footprint. In certain places in the United States, power utilities have complete control over reimbursement rates for the amount of power produced by private solar panels and sent back to the grid. Certain states even impose flat-rate fees on solar panel users. When people are given economic incentives (tax breaks, rebates, lower energy fees), they use solar panels and cut down on their carbon emissions. In the State of Hawaii, where residents are given money for every Kilowatt Hour (kWh) of energy produced by private solar panels, one out of every nine houses use solar panels. Therefore, The United States should eliminate restrictive fees and implement a fair reimbursement system for energy.

Proposal for Action:
A national commission shall be created that will set the reimbursement rates based on the amount of energy produced by each utility and the amount of potential energy produced by each customer. Energy utilities shall be prohibited for placing flat-rate fees on customers from installing solar panels.

Results to be Expected:
Larger use of solar panels, higher reimbursement rates for customers.
Proposal #328
Author: Sofie Behr, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
Abolish Sin Taxes in The United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
State governments; purchasers of products that currently carry sin taxes

Justification:
Sin taxes were first introduced in 1791 with the intention to deter citizens from purchasing and using nicotine, tobacco, and alcohol products. However, sin taxes have not been able to achieve this goal have instead had adverse effects on the users of these products. Research has shown that previous rises in cigarette tax have made only 2.3% of smokers quit. Sin taxes are the most regressive indirect taxes, as they tend to target products that are disproportionately consumed by impoverished demographics. Sin taxes boost government revenue by unfairly taking advantage of those suffering from addiction.

Proposal for Action:
The federal government will hereby abolish federal sin taxes and phase out state sin taxes. States will decrease their sin tax amount by 25% of the current tax rate each year for the four years following the implementation of this proposal.

Results to be Expected:
State governments will cease their current practice of utilizing sin taxes to prey upon impoverished individuals who are struggling with addiction.
Proposal #371

Author: Blake Dixon, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
A proposal to strengthen the security of the national energy grid by implementing tax incentives towards power companies to promote the installment of 1080 HEMP and Data Line powerline filters among voltage transformers and high transmission lines among substations and power plants.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of Energy, United States Energy Association, all power-controlled/based facilities, all citizens of the United States utilizing power, all power plants in the United States, power companies of the United States

Justification:
The director of the National Security Agency, Adm. Michael Rogers, in testimony before Congress in 2014, stated that China and some other countries had the absolute capability to shut down the U.S. power grid. According to the Council on Foreign Relations “Rapid digitization combined with low levels of investment in cybersecurity and a weak regulatory regime suggest that the U.S. power system is as vulnerable, if not more vulnerable, to a cyberattack as systems in other parts of the world”. To go along with the vulnerability of cyberattacks, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers, they rated the security and condition of the power grid overall with a letter grade of D+. With the majority of the national grid having not been updated since the 1950s, it remains easily endangered by the countless threats from foreign and criminal hackers. The threat of EMP attacks also remain against the energy grid as well. These attacks would completely shut down every electronic structure in the region it expands to, like phones, hospitals, planes, cars, etc. In 2008, the statutory Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack delivered over 100 recommendations to Congress to protect the national electric grid and other life-sustaining critical infrastructures. This organization was established in 2001 by the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act due to the recognition of this threat.

Proposal for Action:
Proposal for Action: Implement federal incentives immediately in order to attain funds necessary for the installment 1080 HEMP and Data Line powerline filters among high transmission lines and voltage transformers among power plants. These federal incentives will inform the people of the vulnerability of the power grid and encourage them to invest in the effort to secure our power system. Once acclimated the funds, the filters will be placed first among the interconnecting power plants and substations nearest to the three major electrical grids: The Eastern Grid, The Western Grid, and The ERCOT (Texas) Grid. That way the 3 centers of the main power source of the energy grid is protected first. The powerline filter models will be manufactured with the partnership of Holland Shielding Systems B.V. company in South Holland, Netherlands.

Results to be Expected:
If acclimated the funds and the filters placed, the U.S. national power and energy grid will have an extreme upgrade in cybersecurity and EMP protection, meaning our grid will have the ability to withstand E3, E2, E1 magnetic pulses that come out of EMP related disasters and resist sophisticated cyber attacks from terrorist organizations or other foreign operations threatening the power system.
Title:
A proposal to establish an income compensation program for motivated workers.

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Economy, U.S. Department of Labor, Wealth

Justification:
What is the most important part of every society? The Economy. And thinking about certain ideals our country was founded on: Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness it’s important to look at the economy today. According to a 2017 study by Careerbuilder, 8 out of 10 Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. Meaning most Americans don’t have the economic freedoms necessary to live up to those values. They are struggling every week, every day to make ends meet that they can’t use the freedom to pursue other avenues of life.

Living paycheck to paycheck prevents you from saving money, making future investments, having social mobility, and even living a stressed reduced life. A major root of this problem is rising wealth inequality in America.

Before the solution is addressed the problem must be explained in detail. The peak levels of inequality, as explained by Thomas Piketty, peaked both in 1928 and 2007. Both right before large scale economic collapses. That’s because it takes away financial power from the middle class. Economies are stimulated by moving capital. Especially when the middle class is spending comfortably. As the Department of Labor says, “the middle class is the economy”. That’s because they are the most numerous and in a capitalistic system the dictators of supply and demand. However, in recent American tradition wealth sits. It becomes immobile and consolidated at the top of the economic ladder. In 2017, the U.S. made total 17 trillion dollars in income of which the top 8 percent made a total of 30% of all the income. While the top 3 percent made 28% of the total income. It just gets more and more consolidated at the top until the point where in 2017 the top 400 workers made the same amount as the bottom 50%. That means 400 people made the same amount as 168 million people. The final nail in the iniquitous coffin is wealth. Wealth is made up of someone’s total income, investments, real estate, and proprietary worth. It consolidates even worse than income. The top 0.05% have control over 75% of America’s total wealth according to Robert Reich.

Proposal for Action:
A Basic Income Compensation to 50-55k. As an example if someone is making 34k a year the government will compensate them with 16k additionally. With other programs that are similar inflation rises, but this will be prevented by not creating more capital and just moving money from the top to the middle. This will be done with a 4-7% tax on money that is in the top 5% bank accounts and a 8% tax on hedge fund money that has been immobile for more than 2 years. This will motivate the rich to put their money back into the system while funding this program. From the hedge fund tax alone the program will fund this program at least 2 billion dollars.

A person will have to apply and not everyone under 50k will be given the compensation. The application asks questions that consist of working at least 30 hours a week, sought a promotion in your job in the last 6 months, looked for higher paying jobs in the last 6 months, etc.

Results to be Expected:
The overall net impact of this program will be economic reform and social motivation. Immobile cash will be moved to the middle class. Raising their spending power, their moving money, and stimulating the economy. While also motivating people to seek out social movement on their own so they can qualify for the program itself. Both of these will help the 57 million homes and 165 million people living under 50k. It will help those Americans living paycheck to paycheck and finally let them live a life where they can plan for the future instead of struggling through the present.
Proposal #399

Author: Ansel Herrera-Garcia, Delegation: Missouri

Title: Increase the teacher salary

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Teaching is a profession that shapes the education of students yet the expectations exceed pay. They earn less than 60 percent of the salaries of similarly educated professionals. The salary gap is clear and is reflected by the teachers’ financial circumstances. Fresh off from college, teachers have real-life expenses such as utility bills, groceries, rent, and loans but their pay is not enough for everything. This is unjust and shows America’s ignorance of education. It must be solved through a proposal for increasing teacher salaries.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal addresses the issue by increasing federal spending with the goal of funding an average salary increase of $13,500 for public school teachers. The funding will derive from the inheritance tax, which is paid by a person who is inherited money or property or levy on the estate of a person who has died. In the first year, the federal government will be providing ten percent of the funding to states to close the salary gap between teachers and other college-educated graduates. States would receive incentives to contribute, and in subsequent years, the federal government would provide three dollars for every one dollar from the state.

Results to be Expected:
Investing in it is critical because students will become the future leaders of this great Nation. They have every right to receive the best and fairest education. Closing the gap between other similarly educated professionals is just as important because it is recognizing the educators who strive to improve the Nation. It is a disrespect to teachers because they are creating long-lasting impacts on students that are becoming the next professionals. They acquire things such as academic skills, self-esteem, and motivation from educators. It is critical that this gap is closed so it can become a more competitive profession and provide the best candidates to educate America’s students.
Title:

To Amend Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code to Allow For Charitable Contributions Made Before The Filing Deadline For the Prior Year’s Tax Return to Be Deducted on that Return.

Major Areas to be Affected:

501(c)(3) Organizations, Individual Taxpayers, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Justification:

Currently, a taxpayer must wait approximately a year to receive a tax benefit from making a contribution. For example, if a taxpayer makes a contribution on March 15th of year one, he/she would not report that until his/her income tax return of April 15th of year two. Thus, he/she does not receive an immediate tax benefit. In Quebec, Canada, the government allows the citizens to receive their tax benefits as they make the contribution. For example, if a citizen made a donation on February 13th, that donation can be deducted on the return filed April 15th of the same year. After this amendment, Quebecois taxpayers donated more than any other province, and there was a 9% increase in all donations. The closer the individual is to make his/her tax return, the more he/she is conscious of the benefits of deductions for charitable organizations. When done in Quebec, the amount of tax filers claiming deductions rose approximately 3-4%. The psychological aspect comes down to impatience and a want to immediately reap the benefits of something, so the difference between seeing something on your tax return in four months versus sixteen months has a clear impact on taxpayers. In Section 170(a)(2) this has been enacted for large corporations already.

Proposal for Action:

Amend Section 170(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code to read as follows: “There shall be allowed as a deduction any charitable contribution (as defined in subsection (c)) payment of which is made within the taxable year; however, a charitable contribution made prior to the taxpayer’s filing deadline for an income tax return may be deducted on that return. A charitable contribution shall be allowable as a deduction only if verified under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.”

Results to be Expected:

With the knowledge that donations would be filed more quickly, individuals would be more conscious of the immediate positive effects of charitable giving for tax deductions. It would be expected that there is an increase in charitable donations and donors because of the tax incentive similar to the Quebecois study. It would also be expected that any revenue loss would be offset by the benefits of charitable giving. People will have higher deductions leading to lower taxes, but charities will have more money to invest in their positive effects. Ultimately, it would be expected that charitable organizations would see a significant increase in donations in the months of January through April.
Proposal #482

Author: Karen Thornton, Delegation: New York

Title:
To eliminate the tax cap on OASDI income taxes, and increase Social Security benefits to people whose taxes will be increased

Major Areas to be Affected:
Beneficiaries of the Social Security Benefits, American workers who make more than the current taxable maximum, employers of those who make more than the current taxable maximum, the American people

Justification:
The Social Security System relies on a sufficient ratio of workers to beneficiaries in order to continue paying benefits in full. From 1975-2008 this ratio remained between 3.2 and 3.4 workers per beneficiary, however it has decreased to about 2.8 workers per beneficiary. Due to this decrease, the Social Security program’s expenses will exceed its income in the year 2020. For now federal reserves will keep the program viable, but it is estimated that by the year 2034 the reserves will be depleted and the OASI benefits - those affecting retirees and families of deceased workers - will only be payable up to 80%. It is crucial that this be avoided. The Social Security program provided benefits to 68.3 million Americans in March of 2019, these people rely on their benefits to stay afloat. Beneficiaries of the Social Security program are either retired workers, disabled workers, or the families of deceased workers. Roughly 50% of beneficiaries make half of their monthly income from Social Security benefits, and roughly 33% rely on it for 90% of their monthly income. In 2017, 22 million people were lifted from poverty by Social Security benefits, 1.1 million of which were children. Without these crucial benefits the poverty rate of elderly persons would be 39.2%, rather than the current 9.2%. Additionally our current beneficiaries have been paying into the system for their entire careers, with the promise of being taken care of when they retire or fall into hard times, it is the government’s responsibility to fulfill this promise.

In order to save this program and push back the date of depletion to 2067, the Social Security administration must take immediate action. The best course to follow is removing the taxation cap that currently exists. This cap prevents taxing above a certain level of yearly income for Social Security, it is changed yearly with the average income, currently it is set at $132,900. Additionally benefits should be adjusted so that those who are affected by this change receive fair benefits to account for it. The current system calculates average indexed monthly earnings based on the amount that was taxed, so it excludes any money that exceeds the taxation cap for that year. Beginning in the year the cap is removed all income should be considered when making these calculations and deciding benefits thereafter. These adjustments would push the date of depletion back to 2067 and allow for full payments for 33 extra years, in addition it would ensure fair taxation and benefits to all members of society.

Proposal for Action:
I propose that the Social Security Administration remove the Social Security taxation cap, currently set at $132,900. Additionally that the benefits of those who experience a tax increase are adjusted based on the current system. This would require that calculations for average indexed monthly earnings be based on the individual’s entire earnings for years after the cap is lifted.

Results to be Expected:
This would result benefits being paid in full until the year 2067, giving ample time to adjust the system to account for future population changes. This would allow the United States government to continue providing our retired, disabled, and deceased workers and their families with the benefits that they so greatly rely on.
Proposal #499
Author: Genevieve Greene, Delegation: New York

Title:
To increase the federal tax credit for teachers.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Teachers nationwide, school district budgets, Department of Education, Internal Revenue Service

Justification:
A 2013 MetLife survey found that 99.5% of public-school teachers paid some classroom expense out-of-pocket. That same survey found that on average those teachers spent $945 during the 2012-2013 school year in out-of-pocket classroom expenses. The NEA (National Education Association) reported that almost 50% of teachers quit the profession within their first five years partially due to financial difficulty. 40% of teachers work over 60 hours a week and do not get paid for extra hours beyond the 8 hour school day. There is currently some federal tax relief for teachers. Teachers can claim an Educator Expense Deduction when they file their taxes. However, this credit only allows teachers to be reimbursed up to $250 no matter how much out-of-pocket money was used for classroom expenses. This will help provide relief in underfunded schools.

Proposal for Action:
Increase the maximum credit amount of the Educator Expense Deduction from the current amount of $250 to $500.

Results to be Expected:
Teachers, instructors, counselors, principals, and aids who work at K-12 facilities will be less financially stressed and will be able to provide a better environment in their classroom. Teachers will be more prepared and equipped to teach their class. Teachers also will have better functioning classrooms.
Title:
To introduce a tax incentive that will decrease the prevalence of food deserts in communities in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, impoverished people, communities without access to fresh foods, commercial food sale companies, grocery stores.

Justification:
According to the USDA, a food desert is defined as “parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods”. This problem disproportionately affects impoverished people, with a study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service finding that 20% of individuals in a food desert are below the federal poverty line for family size. These individuals are often forced to sacrifice food quality for attainability. The majority of items sold at supermarkets are less expensive than the same items at smaller stores, but when programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) only provide families with an average of $29 worth of food per week, it is almost impossible to purchase food with nutritional value at quantities to feed a family. Though former First Lady Michelle Obama started the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which aims to “bring grocery stores and other healthy food retailers to underserved urban and rural communities”, this initiative cannot be fulfilled if these areas of the country have nothing to offer businesses to build there.

Proposal for Action:
To create an incentive for supermarkets and other whole food retail stores to bring their business to areas classified as food deserts, this proposal would implement tax-increment financing (TIF) on a national level. A TIF is defined by Greyhill Advisors, a company which helps to select sites as TIF districts— as allowing “future taxes generated by new development to pay for the project’s infrastructure costs”. Then, “taxes generated by a new project are used to support the project”. While states usually determine the criteria for a TIF district, this proposal would require that a national TIF district definition be created. This tax strategy will allow for assistance to be provided to states struggling to manage the food desert crisis by having states use the national criterion to create a TIF district. This will give incentive for grocery stores to build in this area, and the profits will go towards fixing infrastructure and other local issues in these areas.

Results to be Expected:
The food desert crisis will lessen as states take advantage of the incentive to compel businesses to build in their newly defined TIF districts. Access to fresh, whole foods will increase for impoverished areas around the United States, and cities will be able to use TIF revenue from these businesses to improve their infrastructure, environment, and other local issues.
Proposal #580

Author: Matthew Baggett, Delegation: Hawaii

Title:
Social Security

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Social Security Administration, all US citizens

Justification:
At the current pace, social security will run out of funds by year 2034. Since the average age of death is 78.8 years in America then right now everyone under the age of 64 will not have enough money to sustain them and anyone under the age of 46 will not see any funds.

Proposal for Action:
Put more money into social security by raising the social security earning cap to $400,000. Anyone earning an income over $400,000 would be subject to the 12.4% tax.

Results to be Expected:
Increase in social security fund. Current and future retirees would be able to sustain themselves longer.
Title:
A proposal to institute day-fines in the United States of America

Major Areas to be Affected:
Law enforcement, United States Department of the Treasury, the average United States citizen

Justification:
A day-fine is a method of fine payment in which the fine amount is based on the offender's daily personal income. Systems using day-fines are used in Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Macao. Because technically high-income persons and low-income persons should both serve the same jail-time for the same crime, they should also feel the same economic effects of a fine. The popularization of day-fines can serve as a replacement to incarceration time, so the concept will help to decrease the overpopulation of American jails and prisons. Arguably most prevalently, the implantation of day-fines will decrease the amount of civil violations, such as speeding and illegal parking, among high-income individuals. With the system in place now, the wealthy often choose to park illegally because the fine is simply "pocket change". If the fine is greatly increased due to income proportion, they are less likely to commit such offenses.

Proposal for Action:
Day-fines be instituted in the United States, making fines proportionate to a person’s income. The estimate amount of spending money per day will be deducted from the offender’s monthly mean income, then half of said spending money will be taken as the fine. A fine amount is created by the number of days they will be deprived of the spending money in the fine amount.

Results to be Expected:
A more equitable justice system will be established. Fined offenses will decrease among wealthier classes due to greater fees.
Proposal #135
Author: John Mack, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
Reforming the Federal Government’s lobbyist laws to prohibit former members of Congress from becoming lobbyists, as well as amending loopholes to prevent Shadow Lobbying.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
When considering the issue regarding government corruption in the United States government, one must look at the numerous causes. Solving the ever growing epidemic surrounding Washington is not a one step solution, and one of the most potent causes is allowing former members of the House of Representatives and Senators to become lobbyists. In the 1970s, roughly 5% of former Representatives became lobbyists after their time in office. Between 1998 and 2004, 43% of the nearly 200 departing Representatives became Lobbyists; among departing Senators, the number reached 50%. In 2014, the Center for Responsive Politics reported that 51% of Representatives that had left Congress that year became lobbyists.

While working as a lobbyist, one can serve in various capacities from writing legislation to fundraising for candidates. In 2014, the New York Times reported that 70 to 85 lines of the ominous tax bill, which prevented the American people from bailing out big banks that engage in risky derivatives trading, was written by a group of Citigroup’s lobbyists. Effectively, Citigroup wrote lines in a piece of legislation pertaining to its own company. By continuing to allow former Representatives and Senators to lobby, it subjects a similar situation to arise regarding pensions and health care benefits.

Additionally, loopholes in current legislation regarding lobbyist are present. Shadow Lobbying refers to someone who performs advocacy to influence public policy, like meeting legislators or their staff, without registering as a lobbyist. It is a big problem in regards to transparency in Washington. Shadow lobbying is also sometimes known as the “Daschle Loophole,” named after Tom Daschle, a former senator from South Dakota. Daschle worked as a “policy adviser” at various lobbying shops after leaving the Senate, but never registered as a lobbyist.

Proposal for Action:
The above issues shall be addressed through a series of legislation to be enacted by Congress.
1. Legislation shall be enacted by Congress to prohibit former members of the House of Representatives and Senators from becoming lobbyists. This should specifically be done by amending the House and Senate Ethics Manuals.
2. Legislation shall be enacted to amend all law pertaining to lobbying to rectify the loophole of shadow lobbying.

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of this proposal, the Federal Government can expect an increase in transparency, as well as a dwindling number of career politicians.
To improve the state of American law enforcement through the implementation of more transparency and greater education for police officers.

Major Areas to be Affected:

- Law enforcement training requirements, police officers, U.S. state and local law enforcement agencies, state and local governments,
- Department of Justice

Justification:

The people of the United States expect that the law enforcement who serve them be well educated. Surprisingly, however, it has been revealed in numerous findings that the minimum amount of education needed to become a police officer is surprisingly low nationwide. In states such as California, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Louisiana, and others, the minimum training requirements are all under 1,000 hours. To put this into perspective, the state of North Carolina requires a minimum 620 total hours of completed police training for its officers, however barbers in the same state can only get licensed after 1,528 hours of training. This disparity in required training hours for law enforcement is a significant problem, as undereducated law enforcement are more likely to act inappropriately in tense situations or use extreme force in situations that do not warrant it.

Furthermore, many states’ law enforcement training does not require any sort of education on de-escalation. De-escalation training for police officers is training that specifically teaches officers to de-escalate an intense situation before acting aggressively or violently. A report from the state of Georgia found that despite an officer having more than 600 hours of training to respond to different situations like active shooters and marijuana inventions, he had no legitimate training on the topic of de-escalation as it relates to law enforcement. As police brutality and unnecessary police shootings become more visible through media, the relationship between police officers and the police they aim to serve has only worsened. A poll from 2015 reveals that only about 52% of the United States’s population have a great deal of confidence with the police. This percentage is the lowest it has been in over twenty-two years, but perhaps it can be raised once again if significant changes are made to the amount and content of law enforcement training.

Lastly, the issue of transparency with the police has been a pressing matter for decades. Becoming more transparent with both the Department of Justice and the public is crucial in improving the state of law enforcement in the U.S. Seeing as they are responsible for enforcing the law, it would seem hypocritical for police officers to cover up their own mistakes and misconduct. Surprisingly enough, police misconduct records are confidential in 23 states and have limited availability in 15 other states. In total, 38 out of 50 states do not have their police misconduct records fully open to the public. An example of the extreme limitations found in the states, California has even caught heat for being the only state in the nation that bans prosecutors from reviewing police personnel files. Needless to say, being secretive about police officers who have been legally recognized as doing wrong is counterproductive. If the country wishes to not only better educate police officers but improve the relations between law enforcement and the public, it is imperative that certain steps be taken to ensure improvement in the field of law enforcement.

Proposal for Action:

The U.S. government will pass a federal mandate to all 50 states regarding state and local law enforcement. This federal mandate will focus on two main areas, education of police and transparency in law enforcement, and will implore each state to do the following:

- Increase the statewide minimum number of hours for police training to 1200 hours minimum. Also, set the required amount of de-escalation training to 40 hours minimum. States are permitted to require more hours than those presented here.

- Have state/local law enforcement agencies keep track of—and report to the Department of Justice quarterly (four times a year)—any police shootings or deaths in custody that occurred as well as the circumstances under which these deaths happened. This data should be not just reported to the Department of Justice but also be made public via a national public database.
Make police misconduct records accessible to the public.

The Department of Justice, which already oversees the actions of state and local law enforcement, will supervise and approve the states' compliance with this proposal. Any penalties for not following the orders of this mandate will also be appropriately handled by the Department of Justice.

**Results to be Expected:**

Spending an increased amount of time educating police officers on the expectations of their position will result in more responsible law enforcement who are less likely to carry out their duties in an inappropriate or unnecessarily violent manner. Improved police training will most certainly produce police officers that are more qualified to be in positions of authority. An increased in the transparency between law enforcement and the public will allow the police force to be more honest as a collective. In summary, better education and transparency will lead to more effective and less violent police officers.
Title:

A Proposal to Abolish the Practice of Civil Asset Forfeiture

Major Areas to be Affected:

State and Local Police Departments

Justification:

Civil asset forfeiture is a practice that is used by police to strip individuals of their property without even attaining a warrant. Its initial intent was to divert resources used by large scale organized crime in the 1980’s in hopes that it would deter their illicit activities. It is currently being abused by police officers across the nation, used to prey on individuals and families, taking their belongings to never be seen again.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal would simply overturn the amendment to the 1970 Comprehensive Drug Abuse and Prevention Act, called the Asset Forfeiture Fund, that allowed the practice of civil asset forfeiture.

Results to be Expected:

This proposal would end the practice of civil asset forfeiture across America. Bringing back individuals rights to property, protection from unwarranted searches, and protection from unwarranted seizures.
Title:

To limit the power of the government to enact eminent domain in order to seize private land for public or private use.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The American people, government city planning committees, private land-owners, government contracted construction companies

Justification:

The United States government has overstepped its boundaries in regards to is excessive and unjust usage of eminent domain to seize the private property of citizens who have little choice but to comply. The United States Government is consistently displacing its citizens in order to gain land for public projects that many citizens of an area may not even want built. Recent data indicates that it can take up to seven months to appeal an eminent domain case, and the majority of those cases do not make it past a preliminary inquiry. The fact of the matter is, the United States was created as a government for the people, and this idea has shifted to the point where it can no longer be said that the government has its citizens as its first priority. Instead, it is construction projects for new governmental buildings or other projects that are being put first, and this is unacceptable. Roughly eighty percent of United States citizens support some form of eminent domain reform, yet nothing has been done. This is not even taking into consideration that eminent domain is discriminatory against US citizens, often targeting the poor and elderly, simply because they do not have the financial means to defend themselves against the government that was supposed to protect them.

Proposal for Action:

When concerning cases of eminent domain, the ultimate decision of whether or not eminent domain should be enacted would be decided by a jury of the public. When the government would like to acquire land from an individual, they will initially need to make one or multiple offers on the land for the private owner to decide upon. If the party decides to sell, the government will acquire the land, if the party does not wish to sell, the case will be taken to court, where each party will need to argue their position as to whether or not it is in the greater interest of the public to seize the private land. If it is decided upon that the land is of greater use to the public, ownership will be transferred to the government while the owner will receive a settlement for his/her land at current market value.

Results to be Expected:

There should be a sharp decrease in the number of properties seized by eminent domain, as well as a decrease in the amount of public building projects based on these properties. The process of seizing land for eminent domain will also increase significantly, meaning that public construction projects could take significantly longer than they currently do. The public will also have a way to defend themselves and their land from seizure by the government.
Title:
Providing Small Businesses with Resources and Opportunities

Major Areas to be Affected:
The small business community, the midwestern and western regions of the United States, the US Chamber of Commerce, the private sector employed by small businesses, the US Government, the international community, unions, major banking institutions

Justification:
While large corporations are examples of the United State’s flourishing capitalistic market, small businesses hold the title as the most substantive constituents of the economy. A small business, depending on which economic sector it operates in, can range from 250 to 1,200 employees. While this number seems small, there were nearly 30.2 million small businesses registered in 2018. The composition of the economy is continuously changing as the United States recovers from the 2008 financial crisis, shifting towards a growing small business economy. Private-sector employment increased 1.8% from 2017 to 2018, 0.8% greater than the previous year, this, coupled with the fact that United States small businesses employ nearly 47.5% of the private workforce showcases that small businesses are gradually gaining ground as the chief “backbone” of the US economy. Small businesses not only employ a large percentage of the US population; they also provide their employees with taxable income that the government utilizes. The three most significant contributors to government revenues are income taxes, corporate income taxes, and payroll taxes, all of which fall under a small business’ per view. It is evident that small businesses play a significant role in the overall economic growth of the United States both from an entrepreneurial and consumer standpoint. It is also apparent that a direct relationship exists between the aggregate growth between all small businesses and overall US economic growth.

Historically, there has always been a correlation between the status of small businesses and the status of society within the United States. For example, during the 1930s and the Progressive era, there was a massive movement to end large businesses, which led to the passage of the Sherman Act. The Sherman Act did not perform its intended effect and broke up labor unions that ultimately hindered small businesses. The subsequent Great Depression also contributed to the hindrance of small business, and it was not until Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal that small business began to grow. The quarrels of large enterprises have often been convoluted with that of small businesses, making it hard for the government to provide benefits to both without harming the other. This symbiotic relationship can only be supported by an active governmental effort to expand small businesses, given specific solutions are provided to particular problems.

Alongside a multitude of factors, the success of a startup business depends on its long-term viability to provide a solution to a problem within an existing market. As stated by CBInsights, forty-two percent of startups noted that a lack of market demand caused them to fail, while twenty-nine percent of startups indicated that they lacked proper financing. While these two issues may seem unrelated, they are directly linked to the lack of access to financial capital startups have when developing a product or business plan. Identifying a market, one of the critical initial steps in entrepreneurship, requires a significant amount of research and development, which can only be conducted given the company has enough money to spend. The second issue, a drought of financial backing from either the business owner or a reputable financial institution such as a bank, is more closely linked to a lack of access to business expertise. In the current economic climate, given current economic projections, rising interest rates, the fluctuating value of the dollar, and the yields of long-term bonds, the only viable source of capital are angel investors or individuals who have enough liquidity to support businesses. However, the average startup company does not have access to such resources and lacks the business connections to connect ideas to money.

Proposal for Action:
Commission a US government-backed forum that will connect startup ideas and newly registered businesses to angel investors, streamlining the process of growing small businesses.
Stipulates the necessary data to inform angel investors and businesses to make committed financing decisions, such as:
Government estimated business evaluation

*Estimated return on investment*

*Investor experience*

*Product or Service Life Cycle*

*Business Concept*

Provides a legal course of action of potential business endeavours supported by the US Justice Department and other interest groups involved

Provided government backed financing options created by the US Department of Commerce that works in conjunction to small businesses and angel investors needs

Utilizes both public (government contracts) and private contracts

The forum and its creation falls under the jurisdiction of the President and the House of Representatives

Funding for the forum is broken down into two parts: appropriations from the US government and contributions from interested parties.

**Results to be Expected:**

There is a disproportionate amount of resources being allocated to large businesses when compared to the influence large businesses have over how the US reinvests within its economy. A forum allows for average citizens, as well as major banking institutions, to reevaluate how they generate money for their customers. Not only will this forum institute a procedural change in how people short-term and long-term invest, it will also create a cyclical economic growth factor. As small businesses grow and generate income, there a higher likelihood that the incomes of employees, in aggregate, will grow. This, in turn, will supplant the cost of the creation of the forum. The woes of starting a business, mitigated by the forum, will fall upon the business culture that is created from an increased interaction between experienced and open minded individuals. And so, this forum, in the long-term, will reinvigorate the American entrepreneurial spirit.
Mandating Law Enforcement and First Responder Training for Interacting with People with Disabilities

Major Areas to be Affected:
State Law Enforcement Agencies, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Local First Responder Authorities

Justification:
The Department of Justice recently released a number of statistics proving both that 50-80% of an officer’s encounters are with people with disabilities and that one-third of the individuals killed by officers face disabilities both psychologically and physically. Therefore it is unacceptable that there is no federal mandate that requires law enforcement and first responders to get training of any sort in how to interact with people with disabilities.

There have been countless cases, often glossed over by the media, telling the same narrative over and over again; a police officer stops someone with a disability who looks “suspicious”, “intoxicated”, “appears to be on something”, and when they are questioned and often do not cooperate due to their lack of understanding of what is occurring, they are brutally beaten, incarcerated, or wrongfully charged with crimes they are unable to dispute. This issue can be easily resolved with an increase in understanding by police and first responders on how to communicate with people who have disabilities, and how to efficiently, yet safely do their jobs in a situation like the one detailed above.

This issue has two main facets; the effects on those with cognitive disabilities and those with physical ones. When it comes to cognitive disabilities, those with Autism, ADHD, learning disabilities, Down Syndrome, schizophrenia, intellectual disabilities, and dementia, often have difficulties understanding police and first responders, and can behave in a way in response to the fear that is misconstrued by an officer as being aggressive or violent. One example of this is seen in the case of Ethan Saylor, a twenty-six-year-old man from Maryland who went to a movie theater with his aide. After the movie ended, his aide left to get the car, and Saylor went back into the theater to watch the movie again. When the manager asked him to leave because he did not have a ticket, Ethan refused, as the police were called. They dragged him from his seat, ignoring the calls from his aid who warned them that this would only startle Ethan and cause him to become violent, and begged to let her handle the situation. In the final moments of the struggle between the police officers and Ethan, he cried out for his mother as his larynx was fractured, ultimately suffocating and killing him. Had the police officers involved been trained as to how to communicate and handle the situation knowing that Ethan had a cognitive disability, another unnecessary and premature death would not have taken place.

As for physical disabilities, the issue of police not being trained or equipped to communicate with people who are deaf or blind, have cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis, often struggle with communication as well, and without training of the police and first responders, a person’s condition can often worsen unintentionally due to their actions. One example of this is seen through the case of Magdiel Sanchez, a thirty-five-year-old man who was confronted by police on the porch of his home in Oklahoma. Police believed he was carrying a weapon - it emerged that it was a section of piping - and shouted instructions at him to drop it, but he did not. The confrontation ended with him being shot dead on his front lawn in front of several of his neighbors. Tragically, Magdiel never heard the police commands - because he was deaf. During the stand-off, neighbors shouted to the officers to tell them this, but they shot him anyway. Magdiel had been emulating the behavior of one of his neighbors who often carried around a piece of wood to protect himself from stray dogs, but in the eyes of the police, he was an aggressive criminal with a weapon, and it was upheld by them that they had just acted in self-defense once he was shot. Situations like these could have easily been prevented with some training to identify that Magdiel was deaf, and another life would not have been lost unnecessarily.

Many local police forces and first responder authorities across the nation have adopted training such as this proposal sets forth, but this issue is one that plagues the entire country. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination based on disability and requires that public entities offer accommodations and modifications to people with disabilities if they require such. In the context of police and first responder treatment, this manifests itself as a change in how an officer communicates with someone with a disability, or
an alteration in the procedure to accommodate them. Currently, the Department of Justice has upheld, that in situations including interrogating witnesses, booking and holding suspects, enforcing laws, operating 911 centers, and notably, arrests, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act is upheld. However, the precedent set by the Supreme Court is not as clear cut; while there is overlap in the position of the DOJ and Supreme Court for much of ADA’s application into law enforcement, when it comes to arrests, the Supreme Court has often ruled that ADA does not apply in situations of arrests and that public safety is more important than the rights of an individual to have accommodations and modifications during an arrest.

There is no exception or excuse to treat people with disabilities as inherent criminals, or as people without any rights. Action needs to be taken immediately to prevent innocent and vulnerable lives from being lost. Just because an individual has a disability, doesn't give police or first responders the right to be aggressive or give them any less respect that another innocent civilian would be given in the same situation.

Proposal for Action:

I. Develop a standardized training program required to be implemented across all state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as within local first responder authorities.

II. The training will encompass information about how to interact with people with specific disabilities, whether they are physical or cognitive, and insight into what not to do in order to maintain a safe environment for both the officer/first responder and the individual.

Results to be Expected:

After the training programs are implemented, a decrease in police brutality incidents toward people with disabilities is expected. Along with this, a decrease in the number of inmates wrongfully incarcerated as a result of their disabilities, and reduced spending on prisons on a state level will occur. Additionally, a general increase in community awareness of interacting with people with disabilities can exist.
Title:

Mandating all law enforcement personnel be able to carry and administer naloxone.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Department of Justice, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, State Law Enforcement Agencies, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Healthcare Organizations, Pharmaceutical Establishments, The American People

Justification:

Since September 2016, when the US Attorney General called the Opioid Epidemic a “public health crisis”, the issue of opioids has only become worse. With close to 70,000 overdose deaths occurring in 2017, deaths caused by opioid overdose have been increasing by approximately 10.8% per year. It is estimated that every day 115 Americans fall victim to a drug overdose. Despite the pervasiveness of opioid consumption, it is possible to combat overdose and save lives by the thousands through the usage of Naloxone.

Naloxone is a non-addictive, life saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when given in time. Examples of a few of the opioids that Naloxone can reverse the effects of include Oxycodone, Morphine, Codeine, Vicodin, and Fentanyl. From 2010 - 2016 the provision of naloxone has recorded more than 26,000 opioid reversals in the United States. However, many more lives can be saved as law enforcement officers (LEOs) are often the first emergency responders to arrive at an overdose, but are typically not equipped with naloxone. In opioid overdose situations time is of the essence. Opioids kill by depressing respiration to the point that insufficient oxygen is available to brain and other cells. Naloxone restores respiration, reversing the effects of the opioid. The quicker Naloxone is administered, the risk of death and permanent brain damage decreases dramatically.

Many law enforcement agencies have come to understand the severity of the situation and have adopted naloxone programs of their own. From 2015 -2018 the number of Naloxone programs have increased from 220 to 1,214 expanding to 24 states. North Carolina has reported 403 opioid reversals by LEO’s in February 2017 alone. LEO’s in Pennsylvania have reported 2,300 opioid reversals between 2016-2018. It is time to empower our law enforcement with the knowledge and tools needed to save lives through the usage of naloxone.

Proposal for Action:

The following proposal shall enact two points of reform:

I. Every state and local law enforcement agency must support a naloxone program in which every law enforcement officer must attend.

These Naloxone programs can be provided in collaboration with local healthcare organizations to inform officers about:

- I. A basic overview of drug abuse and addiction
- II. The knowledge needed on how to recognize the symptoms of overdose
- III. When and how to administer Naloxone
- IV. What dosage of Naloxone is necessary
- V. How to work with people coming out of an overdose
- VI. What to do once the subject is stabilized

B. At the end of the program, officers will be permitted to carry and administer naloxone.

II. Every officer will be equipped with a naloxone kit. The specific contents of the kit may vary between law enforcement agencies but will generally include:

- A. Naloxone Nasal Spray ( Every dosage shall contain 4 milligrams of Naloxone)
- B. Rescue Breathing Pocket
- C. Breathing Mask
- D. Nitrile Gloves

Results to be Expected:

After having completed the narcan program, law enforcement officials will have the necessary skills to identify an overdose and take the necessary steps to administer naloxone and stabilize the patient thereafter. This will in turn save thousands of lives and minimize any
lasting brain damage that may result from delayed naloxone usage on overdosed patients. Similar to North Carolina’s naloxone program
in which 1,100 lives were saved from 2016 - 2018 by law enforcement officials administering the antidote, this proposal will change our
nation’s course on the dark and unforgiving crisis of the opioid epidemic.
Title:
Stronger Regulations on Fair Trade Coffee

Major Areas to be Affected:
Fair Trade Coffee growers, distributors, and producers will all be affected. American consumers and industries which sell or distribute will be affected as well.

Justification:
The Fair Trade system was designed to give producers above-market pay for meeting certain environmental and labor requirements. Many of these producers still live in poverty because these Fair Trade organizations have not shown significant increases in compensation for growers or producers, and have also had seemingly little to no affect on their employees. Fair Trade coffee is inherently more expensive, but this money has not been going directly to the growers as intended because large portions of money are going to the distributors for things like marketing and equipment. It has been estimated that only around $0.03 per pound goes back to growers. Growers are also usually required to pay certification fees, and a study by the University of California found that growers typically pay around $0.30 per pound. These fees usually deter low-income growers from seeking certification in the first place, meaning the organizations are not benefiting those who most need it. The conditions these growers and producers live in have not improved and they usually turn to producing additional product, straining their time, resources, and employees. Fair Trade coffee is also often variable in quality, negatively affecting American consumers.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will create a more detailed and modern set of regulations to outline what can be considered Fair Trade. Products sold in the United States will only be allowed to be labeled and advertised as Fair Trade if it meets all of these regulations, which will include a higher percentage of profits being required to go directly to producers, as opposed to distributors, as well as more consideration of the improvement in conditions for these growers. Distributors will have to pay for certification with Fair Trade organizations, as growers will no longer be required to pay these premiums. Distributors found lowering the percentage of profits given to growers in order to cover certification costs will no longer be allowed to sell their coffee as Fair Trade in the United States. Fair Trade organizations that are proven to not have a significant improvement in their producers’ qualities of life after a certain amount of time will lose their ability to advertise as Fair Trade. Fair Trade coffee must be advertised by the grade of the bean, a system which is used to identify the quality of coffee.

Results to be Expected:
While the price of Fair Trade coffee will probably see an initial increase, as growers and producers become more established due to increased income the price will likely see a steady decline. Producers will likely see an improvement in living conditions and Americans buying Fair Trade coffee will see less variability in the quality of products, as they will be labeled based on the grade of the beans. Because growers will no longer have to pay certification costs they will see an increase in profits. The decrease in fees paid by growers will encourage more low-income growers to begin producing their coffee as fair trade and cause an increase in their income as well.
Proposal #302
Author: Andres Chavez, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
Regulation of police body camera recordings during ongoing trials

Major Areas to be Affected:
General Public, Police stations using body cameras, Department of Justice.

Justification:
Body Cameras on police officers have been very beneficial in enforcing the law today by increasing community cooperation and transparency. In the U.S., police officers who wear body cameras have made 23% more citations, 9.8% less stop-and-frisks, and 6.7% less arrests (Courtesy of Journal of Experimental Criminology). Despite this, body camera footage shown to the public displays tension between the police and the general public. The public use the video to tarnish or threaten the longevity or work conducted by officers, who follow their duties and take necessary action depending on the scenario. With police officers’ careers at stake because of misinterpreted film leading to negative public opinion, we see less officers remain in the police force and less police stations choosing to use body cameras.

Police Officers need protection from the general public, who have influenced the decision of the jobs of officers, after video is seen from a perspective that is unaware of the situation or action the officer needed to take. Any action taken by the police that is recorded on body cameras should not be decided by the public. The lack of understanding by civilians often leads to bias or pre-judgement. The video should be evaluated by judges of justice courts and the Captain of that precinct and should not be shown to the public, until evaluated by a jury and a verdict is made.

Proposal for Action:
All video recorded by police body cameras will be kept in a private database until after the jury reaches its final verdict. When the case is settled the footage will be released to the public as is standard right now. Footage may be viewed in court if approved by the judge.

Results to be Expected:
By keeping recordings of police body cameras away from the public until the trial’s final verdict, video evidence kept will help preserve the rights of a police officer by receiving an unbiased evaluation. The public having access to the video before the trial has concluded, may sway the public’s opinion, thus affecting the jury’s final decision. This proposal preserves the rights of an officers’ fair trial. If implemented, body cameras can still be seen by the public, following the verdict of the trial, without giving a bias influence to jurors, or captains of the precinct.
Proposal #349
Author: Joanna Lee, Delegation: Tennessee

Title:
A proposal to eliminate corporate personhood

Major Areas to be Affected:
Private corporations, political candidates, consumer population

Justification:
Due to the United States of America’s capitalist economy, large corporations have been able to evade charges and gain large amounts of power, subsequently leading to the control of the economy by corporations and neglect of the minds of the people. A large reason as to why companies have been able to work this way for so long is because of corporate personhood. This constitutes the application of human rights to corporations, such as the 1st, 4th, 5th, and 14th amendment. In erasing corporate personhood, businesses would have obligations to the public rather themselves, morally wrong department members and shareholders would be exposed instead of hidden behind the company name, and the imbalance of power favoring corporations would no longer exist. Corporations are not inherently human and that is inarguable fact.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will call an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to end corporate personhood and rid corporations of the application of constitutional rights similar to those of humans. The entities that this amendment will affect include limited liability companies, for-profit corporations, and other private entities that are organized for economic gain.

Results to be Expected:
If the said amendment were to be passed, corporations would not be able to make any contributions to a political candidate participating in any race. This proposal would guarantee that the rights under the Constitution are only applicable to human beings which would allow no loopholes to any institution. This would guarantee the increase of integrity of corporations as there would be more exposure to the public and the government.
Proposal #362 Committee: V
Author: Richelle Olsen, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
To remove fiscal incentives from the influencing of legislation.

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Constitution, state and federal governments, lobbyist organizations.

Justification:
There is nothing inherently wrong with lobbyism. In fact, the right to “petition the government” under the Free Speech clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution ensures that lobbyism is something all Americans have a right to take part in. The issue lies in the extent to which individual citizens can exercise this right, because it is no longer equal. The voices of the American people are not being heard due to the presence of wealth muddying the waters of what democracy really means. Today, the majority of decisions made by Congress are not based on the views of the average citizens, but instead the wealthy minority pulls the strings. Though citizens give representatives their votes, big corporations give representatives their money.

For example, statistics show that seventy-five percent of Americans are in support of stricter gun laws and that number is only growing. Still, very little has changed. Not so coincidentally, the National Rifle Association spent over five million dollars lobbying for gun rights in the year 2018. That money was used to support candidates whose ideals already align with those of the NRA, as well as sway current politicians to vote against bills that include gun control. Gun legislation is just one of many instances of the toxicity of finances in lobbying. This calls for change.

Proposal for Action:
In order to solve the issue caused from involving finances in lobbying, the United States Constitution should be amended. The new amendment will emphasize the already constitutionally provided right to petition the government but declare any financial involvement in lobbying unconstitutional, thus overturning the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.

Results to be Expected:
Removing the financial aspect of lobbying will strengthen this country’s democracy by ensuring that legislation is reflective of the general public’s views. The right to petition the government will be accessible to every American, rather than simply a wealthy minority. Also, this new amendment will provide for Congresspeople who are involved in politics because they care about their constituents, rather than the finances they receive from corporations.
Proposal #374  
**Author:** Chance Hall, **Delegation:** Texas

**Title:**
Reviewing Investigations on Police Use of Force.

**Major Areas to be Affected:**
- Police Staff
- Internal Affairs Investigations
- Community Relations

**Justification:**
According to Mapping Police Violence, there were 1,147 instances of a police officer killing a civilian in 2017, the number increasing to 1,165 in 2018. The average number of cases concerning police brutality and violence has been on the rise. This combined with a lack of public knowledge, insight, and voice in internal review boards may have a detrimental affect on the relationship between police officers and the communities they serve, especially considering the fact that USA Today claims that less than 10% of officers are investigated for criminal behaviors, and Vox claims that 33% of officers get convicted of an overuse of force, with 36% of that percent actually receiving jail time (About 12% total). This proposal seeks to correct that by allowing civilians to know and be a part of how police misconduct is dealt with.

**Proposal for Action:**
That there be panels made to review the actions of officers that receive complaints in their local areas. This would work in conjunction with any body camera or dashboard camera policy. The panel would be able to formally bring charges to an officer if their actions deem it necessary. The panel must have an about equal number of police officers, social workers, civilians, and counselors, all from the area, in order to have a fair, equal, and understanding discussion.

**Results to be Expected:**
A less biased set of results when it comes to the use of police force in the field, along with a greater sense of community and more cooperation with law enforcements.
Proposal #404
Author: Sophia Mehnert, Delegation: Kansas

Title:
Reform the multi-level marketing commission structure and incentivize inventory compensation within multi-level marketing businesses.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal Trade Commission (FTC), those involved in multi-level marketing companies

Justification:
Multi-Level Marketing is marketing strategy for the sale of products or services where the revenue of the company is derived from a non-salaried workforce selling the company's products/services, while the earnings of the participants are derived from a pyramid-shaped or binary compensation commission system. The purpose of this proposal is to prevent predatory multi-level marketing companies from exploiting the labor of vulnerable populations. Multi-level marketing involves practices very similar to those of pyramid schemes (in structure and in implementation). A pyramid scheme is an illegal form of investment in which each paying participant recruits further participants, with returns being given to early participants using money contributed by later ones. The defining difference between multi-level marketing companies and pyramid schemes is the addition of a product for sale in a multi-level marketing company. However, the addition of a product does not minimize the harm to participants within the company. Instead, the addition of a product allows multi-level marketing companies to find loopholes in order to justify the pyramid-shaped commission system in which many companies make a larger profit from the investment in sellers of product rather than the actual sale of product. Exploitative companies sell products to the salespeople to sell and refuse compensation for the abundant amount of unsold inventory. When inventory is unsold, salespeople must resort to recruiting other salespeople into the business in order to receive commissions. Many multi-level marketing business “opportunities” are advertised as ways to have many small businesses within a larger company. However, the loss rate for sellers that are part of multi-level marketing companies is 99%. Grossly misrepresented statistics and information on direct sales as a whole entice an increasing number of people into multi-level marketing companies. A reform of practices that result in such grave losses is critical to protect vulnerable citizens from being exploited and financially devastated- and the prosperity of the nation’s workforce as a whole.

Proposal for Action:
Companies that utilize a direct marketing model will receive cash grants if the practice of compensation of unsold inventory to the seller (50% or more) is implemented.
Companies utilizing a multi-level marketing model must not use commissions as incentives for business participants for the sole purpose of recruiting new members.

Results to be Expected:
Multi-level marketing companies must renounce unethical business practices. Companies that use a multi-level marketing model will cater more the seller upon affirmation of the proposal- reversing the increasingly monopolized nature of multi-level marketing companies. This not only will reinforce the legitimacy of multi-level marketing businesses but will also transform direct sales into a more feasible and sustainable business model.
Proposal #410  Committee: V
Author: Sterling Chancy, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
To abolish the practice of Privately Funded Lobbying of Congress and Establish a Federal Agency to Educate and Ensure the Fidelity of Congresspeople

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
It has been made clear that the sole role of Congresspeople is to represent the citizens within their constituency. The practice of Privately Funded Lobbying, however, seeks to give companies representation through the funding of campaigns and personal promotion of ideas. It has been shown that millions of dollars are spent on this practice each year, with companies like Amazon spending $3,980,000 and Koch Industries spending $4,620,000 in just the first 2 quarters of 2019.
The United States needs to take immediate action in order to end this practice to ensure the equal representation of all citizens in accordance with the Equal Protection Clause of Section 1 of the 14th amendment.

Proposal for Action:
Enact a federal ban on the practice of Privately Funded Lobbying of Congress and Establish a Federal Agency to Educate and Ensure the Fidelity of Congresspeople funded through an initial appropriation of $100 Million, with a continuing appropriation of $80 Million. This agency will consist of investigators, ensuring the honesty of Congresspeople in their representation, as well as educators and those well versed in fields that policy affects, that Congresspeople can access in order to gain familiarity on topics they will vote. And dishonesty found among Congresspeople will be pursued by the Department of Justice.

Results to be Expected:
A better representation of the public's ideals in Congress, as every citizen, rich or poor, will have equal access and influence upon their representatives in government.
Proposal #415
Author: Darby Greenwell, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
To Regulate Non-Disclosure Agreements Within the Workplace

Major Areas to be Affected:
American Court System, Employees, Legal Justice System, American Workforce

Justification:
In the current justice system, perpetrators of crimes can pay their way to innocence with confidential settlements referred to as “hush money.” This allows people to buy other’s silence and obstruct their right to freely express themselves. Legally, Non-Disclosure Agreements allow for this practice to continue to plague the American Justice System. Over one-third of the U.S. workforce is bound by Non-Disclosure Agreements—NDAs. These agreements can vary from cases such as confidential business secrets to the extremes of sexual assault and corruption.

NDAs are signed in confidential meetings that prohibit a victim from coming forward. Signing an NDA is usually the result of the victim being afraid of losing their job, wanting the situation to be over, or other financially reasonings. The Minnesota Association of Professional Employees reported that 60.4 million Americans were affected by workplace bullying, and of those who tried to stop it, 65% lost their original job. Signing an NDA is sometimes the only option for an individual to maintain stability in their current situation. Due to the secretive nature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement, few statistics are available, along with the lack of justice served for an offender’s crimes.

While confidentiality is necessary sometimes, the legally binding document, paired with large sums of money paid, calls into question the authenticity of the justice system. With NDAs being legal, certain offenses can go unequally enforced due to the financial diversity within America. Currently, 48.06% of all Americans make less than $30,000 annually, leaving all those not in the top 1% unable to make hefty payments to cover up unwanted information. These legally binding documents make it impossible for there to be true equality within the justice system. By starting with regulating the use of NDAs in the workplace, where they are most common, the use and practice of them will be called into question.

Proposal for Action:
The use and understanding of Non-Disclosure Agreements within a business for cases involving employee disputes will be carried out and understood as follows:
• Examples of employee disputes are, but not limited to: sexual assault, abuse in the workplace, inequality among employees, discrepancies within payroll, etc.
• Non-Disclosure Agreements will not be permitted in cases of employee disputes, as stated above, but confidential settlements may presume.
• Confidential settlements will be regulated as such:
  — Confidential settlements will still be available, but the final settlement must be accessible to the public.
  — Both parties involved will no longer be legally bound to remain silent if a settlement is reached.
  — If, in the final settlement, confidentiality is required for specific reasons, a redacted version of the agreement, or no agreement, will be released.
  — A party may remain anonymous on the released statement, if it is necessary for one’s safety, or if all parties involved agree to such.
  — If a settlement is not reached, the issue will go to court.
  — All payments made within a settlement must be explicitly stated in the released statement.
  — Case-to-case differentiations will be determined by the party’s attorneys or the acting judge.

Results to be Expected:
While this only tackles one aspect of legal silencing in the country, this will hopefully spur conversation regarding the legitimacy of the justice system. Injustices within the workplace will be discouraged against and lucidity will be restored among employees and consumers. The new transparency within a business and the justice system will cause greater equality in enforcement of crimes, and
proper justice done onto perpetrators. With the new knowledge awarded to the public, consumers will have a better understanding of
the companies they are supporting. Within the workplace, perpetrators will have to face their mistakes and deal with the individual
company’s consequences. The workplace will, overall, become a more transparent environment.
Title:

To create a Mars Expeditionary initiative with the mission to conduct research upon the Martian terrain by studying climate change for the protection of the inhabitants of Earth.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

The current condition of the Earth and its environment as a whole has become alarmingly more unstable as a result of the vastly unsustainable practices used by many supranational corporations. A multitude of studies conducted by NASA, international government environmental agencies, and numerous NGOs show that the actions of humans are destroying the natural world in which we all live in. This work has often been discredited with the citation of natural climate cycles on Earth which take millions of years to develop and to be discovered. These cycles are also well documented and understood on Mars due to the substantial amount of research on the planet. The current condition of the Earth and its environment as a whole has become alarmingly more unstable as a result of the vastly unsustainable practices used by many supranational corporations. A multitude of studies conducted by NASA, international government environmental agencies, and numerous NGOs show that the actions of humans are destroying the natural world in which we all live in. This work has often been discredited with the citation of natural climate cycles on Earth which take millions of years to develop and to be discovered. These cycles are also well documented and understood on Mars due to the substantial amount of research on the planet. Additionally, the formation of an expeditionary force to establish research facilities on the planet serves to benefit all of humanity as the work can be conducted without interference from confounding variables only present on Earth. The lack of human interference on the Martian surface serves as an essential foundation for life-saving research for current humans and the future of our species.

Proposal for Action:

Appropriate $20 billion every year for NASA and the USAF with the sole purpose of being used jointly by these agencies in order to fund research and development for the establishment of facilities on Mars. Any funds that are not withdrawn by said agencies will be available to them, in addition to the next fiscal year’s allocation, for one (1) fiscal year after they were originally eligible to be given. They are to be used for the creation of the Mars Expeditionary Force (MEF). The MEF will be a specialized collection of talent focused on establishing bases for research on Mars. These bases must also be habitable by human beings for an indefinite period of time that either meets or exceeds twice the window of time it takes for adequate supplies or means of evacuation to reach their location. The times needed for safe habitation of the crew can be determined by the joint work of NASA and the USAF. The construction and supervision of activities at all times will be carried out by NASA and the USAF. These agencies will have executive authority over all operations related to the functions of the project as a whole and shall only answer to the authority of the federal government in the form of Congressional oversight, namely the Senate Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness.

Results to be Expected:

Effectively utilizing the unique environment provided by Mars for climate research would result in vital data that could be used to alleviate Earth’s increasing climate crisis. Isolated testing will produce results that are free from the biases present here on Earth and will lead us to a clear path in fighting the effects of and reversing climate change. The MEF will have the sole purpose of effectively establishing operational facilities on the Martian surface that are capable of conducting any and all atmospheric, soil, water, or other climate research that has an equivalent on Earth. The research is to be used to determine what human actions on Earth significantly affect the climate and any changes that can be observed. The environment of Mars makes it an excellent site for setting up controlled laboratory environments that can be manipulated in ways that will allow us to observe conditions like those on Earth and Mars. Using the highly controlled spaces, the researchers can study the effects of human activities such as, but not limited to, the use of fossil fuels and agricultural emissions on both an Earth-like atmosphere as well as the Martian atmosphere. Comparison between these two will prove invaluable as it is impossible to totally isolate many variables present here on Earth even within a controlled environment.
Proposal #420
Author: Simon Turner, Delegation: Kentucky

Title:
To expand and reform fair use and to reform US copyright law.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
At the US’s inception, copyright lasted for 14 years, and could be extended, once, by another 14. Now, works can stay out of the public domain for anywhere from 95 to 120 years. This greatly extended copyright has impeded the ability of the US population and creative industries to produce works. All too often, passionate works are eliminated, or their production is ended by larger companies holding the rights to the IP upon which these works are based.

This goes against the purpose of copyright as laid out in the constitution; “The Congress shall have Power... ...to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.” A balance needs to be struck that will protect the original works of content creators in the US, but expands fair use to allow people to create inspired works.

Proposal for Action:
On January 1st, 2020, the length of copyright will be decreased to 25 years after publication with a chance to renew for another 25 once, or 60 years after creation (for unpublished works). All currently existing works of art will be subject to these deadlines instead of their current copyright protection.

The definition of fair use will be split depending on the content used. The use of the characters, settings, objects, or ideas present in a work or body of works to create an original work will be protected under fair use for any purpose. Fair use will also include any transformative use of the original work, including, but not limited to, commentary, search engines, criticism, parody, news reporting, research, and scholarship.

Any work licensed under fair use must be labeled as being made under these “Expanded Fair Use” laws (as opposed to wholly original or licensed works) including in marketing materials, with the exception of unpublished works. Any work already covered by current, standard fair use will not need a label.

These new rules will not affect patents, and trademarks will only be affected if the trademark is for the name of a work or IP. Logos, other names, etc. that are protected by trademark law will not be affected.

Results to be Expected:
People who would not otherwise create works will feel more free to create inspired works. More works will be created, often by small creative teams or individuals, causing major entertainment companies to lose some of their market shares, increasing competition in the industry. Those individuals already creating works for public consumption that are claimed, justly or unjustly, by copyright holders will also have steadier revenue, as their works will not be claimed as often.

Larger companies will also have access to a larger set of IPs to work with, but they will likely stick with IPs they own as the "Expanded Fair Use" labels will make such works somewhat less profitable than licensed or original works. They may use expanded fair use works when they believe the market is dissatisfied with the official handling of the IP.
Title:
To Reduce the Influence of Corporations on Public Policy

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States Congress and other Government Officials, Corporations, Campaign Funding, Lobbyists, and Lobbying programs

Justification:
With corporations reportedly spending $2.6 billion a year on lobbying efforts, which is 34 times the amount spent by all labor unions and public interest groups, Corporate America’s influence on public policy is immense. This position, achieved through lobbyists, helps corporations pass laws and create legislation that benefits these big businesses at the cost of the public good. New legislation needs to be introduced to change these corrupt deals and bargains to give the government back to the American People.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will reduce the amount of money and influence large corporations have over Congressional and other governmental activities. This reduction will be enacted through the following changes in legislation:
- Corporate Lobbyists will be banned from bundling fundraising contributions, one of the leading ways that large companies avoid the $2,700 per candidate limit, to reduce the total funding that companies can contribute to election campaigns.
- Ban Members of Congress from accepting funding from special interest groups that fall under the jurisdiction of their Committee to avoid special interest groups from influencing public policy through targeted contributions.
- Prevent government officials from entering into Lobbying jobs directly out of office to incentivize experienced Congressmen and Congresswomen to stay in their current positions as well as to reduce the number of experienced Members of Congress from becoming Lobbyists. This will also incentivize Members of Congress to focus on the public’s opinion on policy rather than that of large corporations in order to negotiate jobs and contracts.
- Make Lobbyist Disclosure more transparent to help increase the public’s understanding of Lobbying efforts and how much they contribute to certain areas of government as well as specific candidates.

Any violation of this legislation would result, if broken by a Corporation, by a hefty fine and a ban from political contributions. If broken by a Member of Congress or any other government official the person in question would be subject to a large fine and, depending on the extent of involvement, may be removed from Congress, or other governmental position, via impeachment.

This legislation should be implemented at the end of the 2020 congressional elections (November 3, 2020)

Results to be Expected:
By reducing the amount by which Corporate Lobbying Firms can contribute to government officials the amount of influence that these corporations will have on public policy should decrease significantly. This will shift new legislation to focus on the opinion of the public giving the government back to the people and taking it away from corrupt corporations.
Title:
To offer tax break incentives to companies that relocate their businesses to the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The American people, the economy.

Justification:
The US is seen as a land of hope, a place where dreams come true, and a grounds for growth and prosperity. We need corporations and small businesses alike to remain in the United States and provide incentives for them to return to the US if they have moved to a foreign nation. To prove loyalty to the United States, said company has to do business for five years on US soil until they receive the tax break. If the company later decides to move out of the country, their tax break will be forfeited. The tax break will be five percent.

Proposal for Action:
Once the company has operated for at least five years in the United States they will reap the benefit of the tax break.

Results to be Expected:
The results upon implementation will provide more business and job opportunities all over the country. These tax breaks will also allow for companies to make more money, resulting in options to increase pay of company workers. If these workers receive pay raises, they will spend more money, ultimately resulting in a healthier economy.
Title:

To incentivize transparent and modern practices in the garment industry.

Major Areas to be Affected:

IRS, business owners, garment workers, consumers of American garment goods.

Justification:

Most American clothes aren't made in America, and instead are made in countries like China or Bangladesh. It's listed on the clothing item's tag. What is not listed are the working conditions of the individuals who make the clothing, or the extensive resources required to make one cotton shirt. In 2013, 1,134 individuals lost their lives while making clothing. 2,500 individuals were injured. The Rana Plaza Garment Factory Collapse in Bangladesh is still recognized as one of the most devastating events in fashion history. The building was not up to sufficient building codes and the whole factory collapsed, killing thousands. When factory owners' exploit workers in order to make clothing as cheap as possible, so they can sell it to distributors at low costs while still making a profit, building safety is compromised in order to make the cut. The Rana Plaza Collapse was a catastrophe, however the unfortunate reality is that the issues of substandard working conditions, unsustainable environmental practices, and dangerous factories persist to this day and these issues must be addressed.

T-shirts are made from polyester or cotton, but one key ingredient that's not listed is water. According to the World Wildlife Fund, it takes 5,283 gallons of water to make a pair of jeans and a t-shirt. At these rates, the demand for water will exceed the supply by at least 40% by 2030.

All of this is information that consumers should be aware of, that they have to be aware of. The US government currently has no standards for transparency or ethical practices in the garment industry, and that simply has to change. Many international companies, including apparel giant H&M, have already listed supplier information for every item in their online catalogues, a practice of transparency we should aim to emulate. This proposal seeks to foster a culture of transparency by creating a government agency to outline transparency standards and create tax breaks to incentivize compliance. As a result of these changes, consumers will no longer have to sacrifice their planet and the lives of clothing workers around the world.

Proposal for Action:

Establish the Garment Industry Regulatory Agency (GIRA) as a subcommittee of the Federal Trade Commission, to outline the required standards of transparency and ethics in order to receive the GIRA tax break.

- Certain standards will be adopted over time and may be subject to change. Companies may be required to do the following requirements. Such requirements may include but may not be limited too:
  - Including a public page on any company website summarizing all information needed to qualify for the GIRA tax break, such as:
  - Listing various suppliers and factories, international or domestic
  - Companies that are found in compliance with GIRA standards will be granted a 15% tax break.

Results to be Expected:

An increase in sustainable and modern practices in the garment industry, more ethical and humane conditions for workers, and a change in how consumers consume clothing.
Proposal #035
Author: Emily Kopp, Delegation: California

Title:
A Proposal to Ensure the Freedom of the South China Sea

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Foreign Affairs, countries surrounding the South China Sea, international maritime trade

Justification:
According to international law, the area 200 nautical miles off a country's coast is considered that country's Exclusive Economic Zone. However, due to the density of nations surrounding the South China Sea, the United Nations has distributed territory among the South China Sea's surrounding nations with designated international waters located in the center of the sea. However, China has developed the Nine-Dash Line in which they have claimed nearly all of the South China Sea for themselves. China has begun the militarization of the Sea by building naval bases and settlements on various naturally formed and man-made islands. An estimated $3.4 trillion worth of trade passes through the South China Sea, accounting for at least 20 percent of all world trade. It is in the United States's political and economic interest that the South China Sea remain free.

Proposal for Action:

Results to be Expected:
The United States will reaffirm our commitment to the freedom of international trade. The United States will demonstrate a non-aggressive approach to solving the territorial dispute.
Proposal #036

Author: Thomas Schramm, Delegation: California

Title:
A proposal to prevent the discrimination of any business or university located within the State of Israel by penalizing private entities supportive of the BDS movement.

Major Areas to be Affected:
All private businesses within the United States, all government contractors, the State of Israel.

Justification:
There has been a rise in the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction movement against the State of Israel which not only threatens our economic relationship with the state but also goes against the Export Administration Act of 1979. This act prevents any private entity from attempting to dictate the foreign policy of the United States. To be clear, this proposal wouldn’t limit the boycott ability of an individual however it would prevent private entities and government contractors from discriminating against businesses located within the State of Israel. These businesses are in no way affiliated with the State of Israel, the only reason they are victims of the boycott is the fact that they have a headquarters within the State of Israel. The boycott of the State of Israel is not a form of free speech as it is an attempt to boycott a foreign nation. The movement itself has also been widely regarded as a anti-Semitic, creating a double standard for the state of Israel and pushing for the State’s destruction. The movement supports the idea of collective punishment, suggesting that the Businesses and universities of the United States should boycott any economic or intellectual output from the State of Israel. Ironically, the movement itself is not even supported by the leader of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank, Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas told reporters in South Africa “we do not ask anyone to Boycott Israel itself…we have mutual relations with Israel, we have mutual recognition of Israel.”. The movement is condemned by both sides of this longstanding conflict, and the US should not allow this unethical and anti-Semitic movement to continue.

Proposal for Action:

Require all government contractors as well as all private businesses that have dealings with the US government to sign a clause that would prohibit them from boycotting Israeli businesses
Place a monetary punishment on private entities that are boycotting Israeli businesses

Results to be Expected:

This proposal will not only protect Israeli businesses from discrimination in the United States as well as strengthen the relationship we hold with businesses located within the State of Israel. This proposal would institute a law similar to that of anti-discrimination laws against the LGBTQ+ community, but rather preventing the discrimination of Israeli businesses.
Proposal #050
Author: Ajay Sarma, Delegation: Florida

Title:
To renegotiate and rework our relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to promote peace in the Middle/Near East and minimize our involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts.

Major Areas to be Affected:
the United States Department of Defense, the United States Department of State, OPEC, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Israel, the Republic of Yemen, Ansar Allah, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, Middle/Near Eastern minority ethnoreligious groups (Jews, Baha’i, etc.), the United Nations, the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the petroleum industry, the renewable energy industry.

Justification:
Our nation’s relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its rulers, the House of al-Saud, have proven to be sources of consternation for legislators on Capitol Hill and those they represent, in addition to coming under international scrutiny and criticism. The primary issue that many see with this relationship is the United States’ unflinching support for the militaristic ambitions of Saudi Arabia in an already volatile and politically fragile region. Since 2015, the United States has routinely provided intelligence, logistical, and material (arms, missiles, etc.) to a Saudi-led coalition that organized airstrikes and other militaristic opposition to Shi’a Ansar Allah rebels backed by Iran. In pursuing this campaign, Saudi Arabia, its allies in the West, and in the Gulf Cooperation Council, have contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians. As of November 2018, humanitarian organizations estimated that almost 85,000 children had died of malnutrition and the UN warned that the destruction put 14 million Yemenis at risk of famine. In spite of all of this, the United States and Saudi Arabia signed an arms deal worth $350 billion across 10 years.

Press freedoms in Saudi Arabia have also been cause for concern, along with the other basic human rights that Saudis—especially non-Muslims and Saudi women—have been withheld from them. The killing of Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi embassy in Turkey is a continued source of concern and the general lack of rights for women in Saudi Arabia shows no sign of amelioration. Our relationship with Saudi Arabia and their influence on our politics have made negotiation with Iran difficult since 1979, when Iran had its Shi’a Islamic Revolution, and it has inhibited solutions to the Israel-Palestine issue.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal contains several steps that should be taken simultaneously. The first step deals with preventing retaliation in the form of fuel prices. American foreign policy in the Middle East cannot truly be independent until the United States moves towards energy independence. By passing resolutions waiving the sovereign immunity given to OPEC nations under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, and trying the OPEC cartel in a federal court under the Sherman Antitrust Act for price-fixing, we can prevent price-fixing against the United States and its allies in retaliation for policies that OPEC member states disagree with, as seen during the Arab-Israeli War.

The second step involves passing a joint resolution of disapproval against the United States Department of State in order to prevent any ongoing arms sales to Saudi Arabia and attempting to overturn the veto, should the measure pass while an administration favoring arms deals is in power. Alternatively, the legality of arms sales under the 1976 Arms Export Control Act could be challenged, if it is determined that Saudi Arabia is not using arms for legitimate self-defense.

A third path exists, which is simply “filibustering” the arms deal by encouraging members of Congress to continue their review of the arms deal, though this is an unofficial courtesy and the Department of State could continue selling arms without Congressional approval. The third part of this proposal is a multi-faceted diplomatic approach that manages our evolving relationship with Saudi Arabia while attempting to open a dialogue with Iran without compromising American interests in the region. In order to address the current conflict in Yemen, the United States should work to pass resolutions in the United Nations calling for the Saudi Arabian coalition (including the United States, France, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and the Gulf Cooperation Council) to cease airstrikes in Yemen. It should call on Iran to cease providing arms and missiles to Ansar Allah as well. It should call on all foreign combatants involved to declare a multilateral ceasefire in unison and encourage the recognized government of the Republic of Yemen and Ansar Allah to hold a peace treaty convention in a neutral location, monitored and attended by foreign entities, but not influenced by.

Any blockades, embargoes, or sanctions should be subject to exemptions for humanitarian aid and the United States should push for
any resolutions pertaining to Yemen to make this clarification. The United States should also work to promote an open dialogue with Iran, by reopening discussions on a nuclear deal and encourage compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency and commitments made under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The United States Department of State, in conjunction with the United Nations, should seek to open talks between Israel, the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and Hamas with the goal of encouraging Israel to loosen the embargo of the Gaza Strip and cede political control over Area C regions of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority, as well as ensuring the rights of Palestinians, as either citizens of a Palestinian state or residents/citizens of Israel. Ultimately, the United States should work towards a legitimate 2-state solution without a gradient of Israeli power throughout the West Bank and political rights for Palestinians and recognition of Israel by other Middle Eastern countries. The United States Department of State should establish a program focused on human rights in the Middle East. This should come in the form of recognition of ethnoreligious minorities, jointly recognizing the State of Israel and a sovereign Palestinian state, encouraging the repeal of laws or the retraction of official statements condemning minority religions or ethnicities. There should be a focus on securing the right to female autonomy, education, and political rights in Middle Eastern countries and challenging the criminality of "crimes" such as homosexuality, blasphemy, apostasy, etc. The United States should also be focused on promoting free speech and work with its Middle Eastern allies to ensure that journalists in their nations are truly safe.

**Results to be Expected:**

Relations with Saudi Arabia stabilize and the United States regains control over its policies in the Middle East, especially as we move towards energy independence. United States involvement in the armed conflicts of the Middle East is minimized, while American cooperation with Middle Eastern governments to work towards security and stability is increased. The status of human rights in the Middle East should improve, and the relations of Israel, a critical American ally, should trend towards rapprochement with its neighboring nations.
Title:
Clutching China’s Pearls

Major Areas to be Affected:
China, Indian Ocean, Malaysia, Maldives

Justification:
Malaysia and the Maldives are on the brink of being added to China’s String of Pearls—the strategy to acquire foreign ports as stations for the Chinese navy to exert pressure over its enemies. China has been attempting to “court” these countries by promising vast infrastructure projects in these countries that would further their development; however, China’s malicious intention is to provide loans to these countries to initiate projects that would make these nations indebted to China. China has accomplished this pattern with Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Djibouti, forcing them to lease the ports created to China for an extended period of time or simply forfeit ownership of them; such ports become “pearls” on China’s string, allowing the Chinese navy to use these ports as strategic locations to exert influence on the Indian Ocean region and, by extension, threaten India and other American allies and influences. If China acquires dominance of the region, it would signal a serious impediment and security threat to any American or Indian trade or naval presence. China would disrupt any American sea lines of communication and operations, both militarily and commercially, in the area and would potentially spark a militarized conflict between two superpower countries. Now, China, attempting to influence Malaysia and the Maldives, has almost completed its string. These two countries serve as the gateway to the Indian Ocean and ports in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Djibouti that China already controls, and without them China’s acquisitions and influence would be irrelevant. Both countries are hundreds of millions of dollars in debt to China, and although they can sustain current debt, they are begging for other investments that do not contain the subjugating interest rate that China imposes. This is perhaps America’s last and most crucial opportunity to end China’s String of Pearls aggression.

Proposal for Action:
America would offer an alternative to Chinese predatory lending for Malaysia and the Maldives by implementing the following: America’s Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a governmental agency, will lend money to both native and foreign contractors to construct a port in each country. These loans would be at a significantly lower interest rate (somewhere between 1-2%) than the predatory Chinese interest rate of 4.5%. America would secure rights to dock and conduct trade at these ports, but the native governments would ultimately maintain ownership of them. Under the rare circumstances that the loans default, the American government will seize the assets of the contractors that the loans were given to, not the port of the country itself.

Results to be Expected:
These measures would further neutralize China’s presence and influence in the Indian Ocean region, which would have four main implications:
1. The expansion of US networks and ports/bases would serve as a deterrent to any possible Chinese aggression in the region
2. A more present American naval force that would guarantee the freedom of vital maritime routes used for trade, logistics, and naval forces
3. The more apparent presence of the US in the region would function as a tool of diplomacy to remind China and the countries it attempts to initiate in its String of Pearls that the United States can and will counterbalance China’s infiltration of the region
4. A marked increase of American commerce in the region, especially with the targeted countries of Malaysia and the Maldives
   4a. Such commerce would further amicable relations between America and these two nations
   4b. Jobs would be created in both countries by the construction of these ports
Proposal #080

Author: Anthony Khoory, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
Redefining America’s Role Internationally

Major Areas to be Affected:
Foreign governments, the global community, humanitarian agencies

Justification:
America is notorious for giving out the most money to foreign governments, and instead of appreciation, they are largely criticized for their efforts worldwide. Furthermore, the American government and people want to ensure their tax dollars are going to causes that truly leave a lasting, positive impact on the world. A change is long due to be made.

Proposal for Action:
All of the United States’ money in the budget set aside for foreign governments will be reallocated to humanitarian agencies. The agencies will be chosen by the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, and funds will be prioritized based on treating the worst living conditions, natural disasters, and human rights violations first. All actions done in other nations must be conducted legally according to those countries’ laws and U.S. federal law.

Results to be Expected:
This legislation will cause an extreme decrease in the corruption of foreign governments, as they will not have the U.S. funds to misuse. At the same time, however, international allies will be kept and some more will be made. The governments who lose money cannot complain because that money is being redirected to agencies and organizations directly supporting the people of their countries. Those who never received aid will appreciate the U.S. government supporting their people and therefore are very likely to form better relations with us. Additionally, the global community will appreciate the U.S.’s new and ingenious approach to solving issues like poverty worldwide, which will enhance the states’ reputation on an international scale.
Proposal #097
Author: Sarrah Ahmed, Delegation: Michigan

Title:
To officially commemorate the Armenian genocide.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The U.S government and the Armenian people

Justification:
One of the greatest crimes of this world was perpetrated against the Armenian people in 1915 wherein 1.1 million armenians perished under sultan Abdul Hamid of Turkey. An even greater crime has been the world’s utter silence regarding this genocide and blatant lack of acknowledgment of Turkey’s orchestration of the genocide. The erasure of this history takes place in America every day. Driven by alliances and national self interest, the United States has never commemorated this genocide, or even used the term genocide to speak of it despite its magnitude being on par with the holocaust. The world’s inaction to defend the Armenian people made way for the Holocaust. Survivors of the genocide and their families are stripped of their heritage. Even today, the extreme minority of Armenians are targeted by Turkey, and no action is taken to defend these resilient people. Citizens of Turkey themselves are taught in schools that Armenians ‘deserved their fate’. This is not a matter of political cunning, but rather an overdue acknowledgement of a forgotten people and a symbolic stand against fascism.

Proposal for Action:
Integrate knowledge of armenian genocide into United States
I. Official US acknowledgment of the Genocide and political orchestration of ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Turkey during the years 1915-1917.
II. Passage of resolution 247 from 1984 which called for a “National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man”

Results to be Expected:
While there is no correcting the extreme damage that has been done to the Armenian people, our commemoration, even over a hundred years after the fact, can assist in the process of healing that is long overdue.
Proposal #102  
Author: Maxim Gruner, Delegation: Michigan

Title:
Say no to NATO

Major Areas to be Affected:
The US military budget, the relationship between the United States and other countries, the state of American foreign Policy and warfare, and the opinion of other countries towards the United States.

Justification:
NATO is an unnecessary, outdated, and irrelevant terrorist organization that has repeatedly been used by imperialist corporations to crush nationalism and national sovereignty all over the world. It is irrelevant as the nation’s of continental Europe are now moving towards the creation of a Pan European army that will likely be able to rival any army that may threaten Europe on the home front including the Russian army. Furthermore NATO was originally designed to be an organization that the Nations of continental Europe would eventually takeover, thus leaving the Organization now that Europe wants to make its own army is the only logical step to take at this time. This also ties into the fact that NATO is outdated as it was originally built for the purpose of destroying the USSR and now that the USSR is gone and the Russian federation is only a shadow of what the USSR once was there is no reason for NATO to continue existing in its current form. It is also true that the existence NATO is one of the reasons that our military budget is so high and at a time when we are 22 trillion dollars in debt and have many things at home that need to be fixed anything that may help to reduce our military budget should be embraced. Lastly NATO’s history has been incredibly aggressive in nature. Most of NATO’s actions from the intervention in the Yugoslav Wars to the military invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq have all been aggressive. This organization was supposedly made for defensive purposes but it hasn’t actually defended the North Atlantic nations from anything. On the contrary it has been responsible for direct attacks on Europe in many instances, such as when it allowed for the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and when it attacked Yugoslavia militarily after its members attacked the nation economically. There are many other examples of NATO aggression but the case should be made at this point. NATO needs to go.

Proposal for Action:
My proposal is to have the US immediatly leave NATO. This should destabilize the organization and lead to it being dispanded and if not then it will lead to Europe taking over like was originally intended when the organization was formed. It doesn’t matter what happens after we leave as the organization has only been aggressive like it is now because we have stood at the helm, if nations like Turkey and France can’t count on the US to be military actions then it is less likely that they will act aggressively after the US leaves NATO. If it is dispanded it will likely be replaced with a pan European army that will be genuinely defensive in nature. Regardless though the withdrawal of the US from NATO is all that will be needed to eliminate the organization as it exists in its current form and this my proposal for action consists purely of an American exodus from the organization.

Results to be Expected:
The expected results will be less economic and military neo-imperialism as well as a substantial decrease in the American military budget that will likely be followed by more cuts in the years to come due to less entanglement with other countries. We will also likely see NATO evolve into or be replaced by a Pan European defence pact that likely won’t include Turkey because most Europeans don’t want turkey to be in the EU so it’s safe to say they wouldn’t want the Turks in their defence pact. Canada may or may not be a member of the new organization it’s up in the air and could depend on who is in charge of Canada at the time. We may also see an opportunity to better our relations with Russia at NATO will likely stop taking aggressive actions against them on our behalf. Most importantly though it will give us an opportunity to focus more on our own affairs and less on foreign affairs as we won’t be as involved in foreign affairs as we are right now if this proposal comes to fruition.
Title:

To end Saudi human rights abuses domestically and in Yemen by restricting the trade of petroleum and arms.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

An oil-rich and geopolitically important state governed by an all-powerful royal family, Saudi Arabia is also one of the most egregious human rights offenders in the world. Ordinary Saudis lack fundamental freedoms and face severe consequences if they seek to exercise basic rights: critics of the government are consistently jailed and executed without trial; women are unable to travel, marry, work, or access healthcare without male consent; and public worship of any religion other than Islam is illegal. Furthermore, the Saudi government routinely commits atrocities against its people. Torture is a favored technique of government enforcers; in 2018, reports surfaced that several prominent women’s rights advocates who had been unjustly arrested were subject to whipping, electrocution, and sexual abuse while in prison. In that same year, journalist and Saudi citizen Jamal Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post, was murdered and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on the orders of Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, according to the assessment of the CIA. Migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, of whom there are 12 million, often face forced labor; those who protest are simply deported.

The U.S.-based Freedom House classifies Saudi Arabia as “not free” and scores the country 0 out of 4 on freedom of political opinion, freedom of assembly, rights for minority social groups, access to humanitarian aid, freedom of labor organization, freedom of residence, freedom of education, and freedom in marriage.

In 2015, Saudi Arabia extended its disregard for human rights beyond its borders when the kingdom intervened militarily in the civil war in neighboring Yemen. After Houthi revolutionaries ousted the Saudi-allied Abdrabboh Mansur Hadi, Saudi Arabia launched a relentless and indiscriminate campaign of airstrikes against the rebels, resulting in what some have some have called a genocide. The United Nations reports the shocking consequences of Saudi bombings: 19 million Yemenis lack clean water, 17 million lack healthcare options, 15 million are on the brink of starvation, 1.1 million have become infected with cholera, and 85,000 children under age 5 have died from malnutrition.

Despite Saudi Arabia’s appalling human rights record, its chief global ally—the United States—and other powerful nations have taken almost no steps to engender change in the kingdom’s behavior. The primary reason that Saudi Arabia has been left unchecked by international powers is the perception that the kingdom is indispensable to the U.S. and global economies and to stability and security in the Middle East, including serving as a geopolitical counterweight to Iran. However, this perception is flawed and outdated. As the far-and-away largest Western Saudi export destination, the United States is less dependent on Saudi Arabia than the Saudi kingdom is on the U.S. In terms of regional stability, Saudi Arabia’s military adventurism is a major cause of instability in the Middle East, and holding the Saudi kingdom accountable does not in any way prevent the U.S. and its allies from working to contain and reform Iran as well.

The two major trade goods between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are petroleum and arms—and America holds leverage in both sectors.

U.S. reliance on Saudi petroleum has decreased precipitously in recent decades; currently, just 1.7% of U.S. oil originates from the Middle East kingdom. Conversely, Saudi Arabia’s economy hinges almost entirely on oil exports—they account for 87% of the kingdom’s budget revenue— and the United States receives 10% of those exports worldwide. The next closest Western nation is France at 2.5%. Saudi’s importance as an oil producer will only decrease as the world moves away from fossil fuels.

In the arms sector, Saudi Arabia contributes less to the U.S. economy than is boasted by some American politicians. Despite signing an agreement to buy $110 billion in weapons, Riyadh has thus far spent only $14.5 billion, and purchases have been slowing overall. While
revenue from these sales does stimulate the American economy, it does not do so on a large enough scale to justify continued sales, especially given that arms inherently add to the instability of the region and abet the aforementioned human rights abuses. Switzerland, in fact, buys more goods from America than Saudi Arabia; no meaningful contribution to the U.S. economy is gained from the Saudi arms trade.

As Saudi Arabia’s major Western trading partner and arms supplier, the U.S. is uniquely positioned to apply pressure on the Saudi royal family to cease its abuses. Furthermore, as the self-identified global leader for freedom and liberty, the United States has a moral obligation to do so.

Proposal for Action:

The United States will take the following measures to promote the cessation of human rights abuses by Saudi Arabia. In taking these actions, the United States will make clear the reasons they are being implemented and the conditions under which they will be reconsidered.

I. End the sale of arms and other military aid that the U.S. currently provides to Saudi Arabia.

II. Gradually but substantially curb U.S. purchases of Saudi crude petroleum, refined petroleum, and petroleum gas.

III. Impose comprehensive targeted sanctions on Saudi officials found to be actively involved in human rights abuses.

IV. The above measures are temporary with the exception of the cessation of arms sales. Targeted sanctions will be lifted and oil purchases will be restored to their current levels if Saudi Arabia demonstrates measurable progress in its treatment of its own citizens and ends its military intervention in Yemen, as outlined below:

A. Saudi Arabia must cease military involvement in Yemen, including airstrikes.

B. Saudi Arabia must play an active role in promoting the peaceful end of the political crisis in Yemen and help rebuild the country of Yemen by subsidizing medical centers, water treatment plants, food distribution, and infrastructure redevelopment and by cooperating with international humanitarian relief efforts.

C. Saudi Arabia must substantially liberalize its policies around women’s rights and the freedoms of religion, speech, and assembly.

D. Saudi Arabia must establish an independent and impartial judicial system, end all extrajudicial executions, cease the use of torture, and stop harassment and detention of political activists.

E. Saudi Arabia must end forced labor and improve protections of migrant workers.

V. If Saudi Arabia implements these necessary reforms, the United States will not only increase trade and rescind sanctions but will work to strengthen the U.S.-Saudi relationship economically and diplomatically and explore ways to enhance Saudi national security.

Results to be Expected:

With the implementation of the actions detailed above, the Saudi government will cease its human rights abuses both domestically and in Yemen. Saudi society will become freer and more open, and the Yemeni people will have the opportunity to rebuild their country with the assistance of other countries and international aid groups, free of military bombardment. The United States petroleum market will lag slightly and briefly.
Title:
To reduce the financial aid given to Israel until they cease to worsen the humanitarian crisis between them and the Palestinian people.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Israel, Palestinian people, United Nations, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development

Justification:
For decades there has been a dispute between Israel and Palestine, yet no actions have been taken to remedy this hatred for one another. Both sides have committed atrocities to each other, but the difference is one group is militant extremists that do not represent the views of the entire Palestinian population while the other is the military of a U.N. affiliated country. By joining the United Nations, Israel made the agreement to uphold the values of the U.N. charter except they push these boundaries on a daily basis. Israel cuts Gaza off from the rest of the world; this limits their food, water, and medical supplies, which results in 70% of the region relying on Humanitarian aid to survive. In 2018, a large group of Palestinian protestors approached the border between Gaza and Israel. As tensions heated up, Israeli snipers opened fire. Over 50 people died, but not all of them were militant extremists, and the majority were peaceful protestors. Israel also enacted the Regularization Law which allowed them to expropriate private Palestinian land to build Israeli settlements. From 2016-17, over 2000 new housing units were being constructed on what was Palestinian private property by Israel. The humanitarian crisis between the two groups must not continue to worsen. It is time the United States forces steps towards remediation- towards peace.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will cut the financial aid given to Israel by 20% in the first year and by another 10% each subsequent year until they prove they are taking steps towards a peaceful solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict. A joint agreement must be made between the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that Israel is truly taking steps towards peace before their funding will be restored.

Results to be Expected:
The Palestinian-Israeli humanitarian crisis will begin to resolve as a more peaceful solution is reached.
Title:

To decrease unique tariffs on select Chinese goods in adherence to WTO guidelines.

Major Areas to be Affected:

World Trade Organization (WTO) member nations (especially the United States, China, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union), workers in the manufacturing industry in the United States and WTO member nations, those involved in the economic sector globally.

Justification:

In 2018, US President Donald Trump announced the imposition of new tariffs on various goods imported from China, such as steel, aluminum, solar panels, and washing machines as well as their constituent parts. This is a unique tax, levied against a singular country, violating the WTO (World Trade Organization) guidelines for tariffs. Currently, eight nations await a decision from the WTO on its complaint for the US violation of guidelines.

As a result of this, other nations have taxed US goods. China, the EU, and NAFTA countries have levied tariffs that total over $120 billion dollars, with China’s tariffs amounting for $101 billion, Canada for $12.8 billion, Mexico $3.5 billion, and the EU $3.3 billion. In Pennsylvania alone, there are roughly $4.1 billion in exports that are at risk because of the increase in tariffs, with around 1.6 million jobs being supported by global trade. Trade wars such as this may provide a short-term uptick in American jobs, but long-term, depress economies for all nations involved.

Historically, trade wars have done just that. The 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff reduced international trade by 65% and turned a recession into the Great Depression. Today, a growing job market is at risk, as well as that of our allies. It is necessary to adhere to the WTO guidelines on tariffs to support the economies of all nations involved.

Proposal for Action:

The United States will cease all unique tariffs levied upon Chinese goods, including steel, aluminum, nuclear reactors, and solar panels. All tariffs shall be lowered to that of those levied upon other WTO member nations.

Results to be Expected:

Retaliatory tariffs levied by other nations would likely cease, providing relief to nations and US industries that rely on global trade. The United States manufacturing sector relying on the multitude of raw metals and products to create a new product would experience a period of economic growth. Those American exports threatened by new tariffs would experience no economic loss and the economy of nations involved would not be negatively impacted.
Proposal #154
Author: Patricio Ortiz, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:

Striking the Red Dragon: Undermining China's Global Threat

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

Whereas China has been strategically increasing their global position, we've been inactive. Our powerful global position has made us complacent to a growing competitor. But their economy is only stable under direct growth, so undermining and culling their globalization will prevent them from becoming an adversary.

Proposal for Action:

Goals:

1. Reinvigorate our international relationships to secure more allies and influence
2. Protect the human rights of minorities and dissidents
3. Invest for long-term benefits, technologically and economically
4. Strike instability in China’s iron grip of central Asia

Actions Needed:

1. Create a stimulus package for developing nations. Offer large loans for education and infrastructure at extremely low-interest rates, hovering around 0.2-0.4%, compounded biannually. As countries begin to accept, offer free military aid in exchange for land to build U.S. military bases.
2. Southeast Asia: lower the trade tariffs against southeastern Asian nations, pay back all trade deficits, and create a joint economic summit to bolster economic growth in the region to counter that of China’s. Create naval bases near South Korean waters to counteract Chinese island-building and expanding borders.
3. Africa: invest steadily in natural resource extraction but with a larger focus on human rights. Lose some money paying workers better but increase long-term stability and regain the trust of local governments. Lessen restrictions for educated worker visas and create an exchange program for students.
4. China’s greatest economic strengths lie in its disregard of intellectual property rights and powerful multinational companies in restrictive markets (Alibaba, Huawei). First, we must realize that China won’t respect patents for private businesses in the U.S., instead choosing to steal ideas. So, start playing their game by creating a $25 million cybersecurity team from the defense budget to steal any technological advancements made in China. Then, completely reduce all tariffs. They don’t work against a nation that can control the power of their currency. Instead, collaborate with European allies to restrict their companies from competing in Western markets.
5. Use the cybersecurity team to attack China’s Great Firewall and leak information of human rights abuses in their “re-education camps” (read: concentration camps) for the Uyghur minority. Then, systematically undermine their infantile financial markets by attacking the route networks that they’re run on. As transactions slow down, the New York Stock Exchange will remain the only option for global trade.
6. Counter the Belt and Road Initiative with expansionary monetary spending and our own technology initiative. Then, block trade routes in the Pacific and Western Asia by creating our own for cheaper. Cultivate relationships and use soft power international pressure to do so if necessary.

Results to be Expected:

If we execute these policies in a timely manner, we will destabilize China enough to prevent their international positioning, maintaining U.S. global supremacy.
Title:
A People Yearning to Breathe Free: Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan Refugees

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); Venezuelan refugees

Justification:
Venezuela is in the midst of a dire humanitarian crisis. Three million refugees have already fled the South American country, and that number is expected to rise to over five million by the year's end. These men, women, and children are escaping hyperinflation as high as 2.6 million percent, widespread starvation, lack of vital medicines, and the world's second highest murder rate. The Western Hemisphere has rarely seen such catastrophic conditions.

Yet while the United States has offered to support Venezuelans, it has failed to accept its many refugees. The United States has shown support by sending food and medicine shipments, by committing to resisting the country's dictator, and even by contemplating military intervention. These actions are ambitious and even admirable, but they do not go far enough. The United States has failed to offer the most direct form of aid by offering protection to the 70,000 Venezuelan refugees currently within the United States.

Of the many Venezuelans seeking protection within the United States, most face an unwelcoming immigration system. Venezuelans now file more asylum applications than any other nation, yet fifty percent are denied because of the process's demanding requirements. Furthermore, deportations are becoming more common, with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) sending refugees back into the deadly conditions they fled from in the first place. Just last year, this number soared from 182 deportations to 248. This hostile immigration system is burdening a people already afflicted by tragedy.

In these exceptional circumstances, the United States must open its arms to Venezuelan refugees currently within its borders. Offering Temporary Protected Status (TPS) will allow all Venezuelan citizens who are already within the United States to remain without fear of deportation. This will add Venezuela to the list of ten other nations with Temporary Protected Status. It will serve as a temporary yet potentially life-saving solution for our brothers and sisters from Venezuela, a people that the United States has in every other way committed to protect.

Proposal for Action:
For a period of six months, the United States will add Venezuela to the list of ten other countries whose citizens qualify for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Eligible citizens may apply to receive TPS. Venezuelans with this status:
Will not be removable from the United States, May obtain an employment authorization document (EAD) May be granted travel authorization

After the six-month period, the Department of State will decide whether to renew TPS.

Results to be Expected:
Venezuelan refugees within the United States will receive Temporary Protected Status, which will give them protection from the life-threatening conditions within their country.
Title:

Threatening an Oil Embargo for Curbing Terrorism and Incentivizing Domestic Clean Energy

Major Areas to be Affected:

U.S. Department of State and Energy, Intelligence Agencies, Federal Reserve

Justification:

Instability in the Middle East region has been the primary foreign policy concern of the United States for the past several decades. Not only do conflicts in the region, such as the Yemeni and Syrian Civil Wars, cause some of the greatest human rights violations of modern times, but events such as 9/11 remind all Americans of the massive homeland security implications of these conflicts bleeding into domestic borders. While the situation in the Middle East is very complicated, a lot of the conflict can be understood in the context of an ongoing cold war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. In attempts to gain dominance in the region, both countries have funded opposing factions in countries such as Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Lebanon, and Syria, causing instability in many countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Both countries are also well-documented in their extensive human rights violations. Saudi Arabia and Qatar have also been notorious in letting terrorist financiers within their borders get away with their actions without consequences. America’s alliance with Saudi Arabia, combined with a fear of OPEC after the 1973 oil crisis, has allowed it to be complicit in many of Saudi Arabia’s actions.

At the same time, climate change is currently one of the greatest global threats, with very little being done to address the problem. A recent United Nations report urgently warned that the world must reach net zero global emissions by 2040-2055 in order to avoid the worst effects, a pace the world is nowhere near achieving. The United States and the world requires price pressure in order to incentivize innovation off of fossil fuels. The development of this domestic clean energy would have two positive effects: long-run economic growth spurred by the creation of new technologies and industries, and less of a need for America to appease those countries in control of our energy sources.

Proposal for Action:

I. America would threaten Saudi Arabia and Qatar with a complete embargo on importing their oil, and encourage key allies to do the same. In the preceding months, negotiations would be made with other countries, especially allies, to enter contracts which would make up most of the potentially lost oil. Focus would also be put on negotiating with peripheral OPEC nations, giving them favorable conditions incentivizing them to break with cartel behavior.

II. Current sanctions on Iranian oil would be maintained, and all waivers to foreign countries would be removed.

III. A diplomatic envoy would enter talks with Saudi Arabia and Qatar, agreeing to reduce or remove the embargo if (1) Saudi Arabia agrees to stop any interference in foreign revolutions and conflicts, including funding, (2) both countries agree to crackdown more on terror financing within their borders, (3) Saudi Arabia makes progress on reducing its human rights violations against women, gays, and the imprisoned, and (4) they provide meaningful metrics to allow foreign entities to check progress on these actions. Pressure would also be placed for the countries to leave OPEC. America would also withdraw military operations in the Yemeni Civil War.

IV. A diplomatic envoy would enter talks with Iran, agreeing to lift most sanctions, restore waivers, and reinstate the original Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in exchange for (1) Iran agreeing to stop any interference in foreign revolutions and conflicts, including any contact with the Taliban, and funding for the Houthis in Yemen, (2) human rights violations being investigating and improved, and (3) meaningful metrics to allow foreign entities to check progress on these actions.

V. In reaction to a potential supply shock caused by a rise in oil prices, the Federal Reserve would be encouraged to adopt an expansionary monetary policy.

VI. The Energy Innovation and Climate Dividend Act of 2019 would be passed, along with block grants to state governments and subsidies to companies encouraging clean energy projects.
Results to be Expected:

- The dampening of unnecessary conflict in the Middle East, allowing humanitarian workers to provide aid in select areas,
- Reduction in funding for terrorist groups,
- Promotion of human rights and democracy in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, without direct American interference,
- Lesser American involvement in foreign conflict,
- The potential breakup of the OPEC cartel, bringing back competition in the oil market and lessening the leverage of foreign nations on American foreign policy,
- Long run economic growth triggered by an increased investment in new technologies and industries, in response to the shock to resource prices,
- An acceleration of the transition to clean energy for America and its allies, significantly reducing the threat of man-made climate change.
Proposal #274

Author: Elshaddai Ali, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
Asking the federal government to increase the HIV/AIDS assistance to African countries without any restrictions based upon religion in Mozambique, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Ethiopia

Major Areas to be Affected:
The African Countries Mozambique, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Ethiopia

Justification:
The East and Southern Africa are the regions that are hardest hit by HIV. It is home to 6.2% of the world’s population but over half of the total number of people living with HIV in the world (19.4 million people). Researchers from AVERT highlight how in 2016, there were 790,000 new HIV infections, which is 43% of the global total. South Africa accounted for one third (270,000) of the region’s new infections in 2016. Another 50% occurred in eight countries: Mozambique, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Ethiopia. Just under half a million people died of AIDS-related illnesses in the region in 2016, although the number of deaths has fallen significantly from 760,000 in 2010. Despite the continuing severity of the epidemic, strides have been made towards meeting the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. In 2016, 76% of people living with HIV were aware of their status, 79% of them were on treatment (equivalent to 60% of all people living with HIV in the region), and 83% of those on treatment had achieved viral suppression (equivalent to half of all people living with HIV in the region). In recent years, a number of countries in the region such as Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Rwanda have implemented national campaigns to encourage uptake of HIV testing and counseling (HTC). In 2016, 76% of people living with HIV had knowledge about their status – an improvement from 72% in 2015. The World Health Organization explains that the access to HTC has been a major barrier to testing uptake and a number of strategies have been used to address this, as well as the PrEP availability. Provider-initiated testing remains the region’s main approach, but community-based testing is growing as it has been shown to be effective in reaching large numbers of first-time testers, diagnosing people living with HIV at earlier stages of infection, and linking those who test positive to care. Workplace and door-to-door testing, using rapid diagnostic tests, is also increasing. HIV-related stigma remains a huge barrier to testing, something that self-testing kits may help to side-step. In 2015, Kenya announced plans to introduce self-test kits. In the same year, self-testing began in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe through the four-year STAR (Self-Testing Africa Research) Project. By 2017, the STAR Project had distributed nearly 750,000 self-test kits across the three countries. Evidence from STAR suggests that, when provided as part of a community-based approach, self-testing is increasing HIV testing among men and adolescents in the region, groups that have been previously

Proposal for Action:
Increase the federal assistance of HIV/AIDS in Mozambique, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Ethiopia

Results to be Expected:
Having the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goal be reached by 2030, and having lower HIV/AIDS rates in previously listed African Countries
Title:
Renegotiation of a Stronger and More Effective Version of the Iran Nuclear Deal

Major Areas to be Affected:
P5+1 (UN Security Council made up of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), European Union, Iran, United Nations, President of the United States, the US State Department, Ayatollah of Iran, citizens of Iran, and the US Department of Defense

Justification:
In November of 1967, the US supplied Iran with its first nuclear reactor and 93 percent enriched uranium. In November 2013 the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed. On May 8th, 2018 President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) also known as the Iran Nuclear Deal. The JCPOA was an agreement between the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the European Union, and Iran. The main purpose of the JCPOA was to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power in exchange the countries in agreement removed sanctions placed on Iran and unfroze Iranian assets. Trump’s main concerns with the JCPOA included the sunset clauses, skepticism towards inspections, the expansion of the Iranian ballistic missile programs and Iran funding of militant Shia state groups. However, the JCPOA while having problems also had beneficial elements to it. The JCPOA kept Iran from becoming a nuclear power while also recovering the Iranian economy and benefiting the citizens of Iran.

Proposal for Action:
Reopen negotiation of a new Iranian nuclear deal with new and stronger objectives and a 10-year renegotiation period. By adding a 10-year renegotiation period it removes the need for any sunset clauses within the deal.

Key negotiation points for the new deal:
- Allowed 5,000 centrifuges and 300kg of 3-5% enriched uranium (used for nuclear reactors)
- Research and development involving Uranium is limited to Natanz, Iran
- Uranium enrichment is not permitted in Fordo, Iran
- Iran is not permitted to build any additional Heavy-water reactors
- Iran will have to comply with any and all IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) access requests within 24 hours as opposed to a 25 day request period and is subject to random inspections. Non-compliance will be a heard by an eight-member joint commission who will rule on the issue and may take punitive steps, including the reimposition of sanctions.
- Lifting of sanctions with an agreement that the Iranian Government or any members of the Iranian Government will not support militant Shia state groups. If evidence of the Iranian government or any members violating these policies will result in an evidentiary hearing held by an eight-member joint commission they will rule on the issue and decide on punitive steps, including the reimposition of sanctions.
- Reducing Iran’s Ballistic Missiles program and arsenal to include missiles with a maximum range up to 500km. This includes the SHAHAB1, FATEH-110, TONDAR 69, Ra’ad, Safir and SHAHAB2 which are all short range Iranian Ballistic missiles. In exchange for military protection from the US if Iran is attacked.

Results to be Expected:
A stronger and more effective version of the JCPOA that prevents Iran from being a nuclear power. Many of these key points will benefit countries around Iran that have been negatively affected by Iranian funded militant Shia state groups. The removal of sanctions will rebuild Iran’s economy and improve the Iranian citizen’s financial state.
Title:
To Provide Education for the Children of Yemen

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Houthi rebels, Yemen government, Yemen citizens, the United Nations

Justification:
In 2014, Houthi rebels attacked the Yemeni government and managed to gain control of many parts of the country, putting all citizens in grave danger of attack. Already being the poorest country in its region previous to the start of war, Yemen soon became the center of the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. The United Nations states that 75% of the country’s population requires some form of humanitarian assistance, citizens have been on the brink of a nationwide famine while suffering from the largest cholera outbreak in history. All of these disasters have stemmed from the war between the government-supported Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels, Yemen officials have been so concerned about military success that the needs of their people have been left to humanitarian organizations to resolve. Nearly 85% of Saudi air raids have been “misfires,” affecting thousands of Yemenis, their homes, jobs, and families. Without immediate action from powerful nations, these two forces could be at war for years while still endangering Yemenis. Furthermore, this war has disrupted the education of more than 2.4 million children due to damaged communities and internal displacement. Every citizen of this country is affected by this war and there needs to be immediate action to prevent further damage towards these people.

Proposal for Action:

Nearly $2.6 billion has been pledged to Yemen by numerous countries in an effort to resolve the current crisis, although allocation of these funds is vague. This proposal shall promote the development and repair of public education schools throughout Yemen, specifically in areas with high concentrations of displaced persons. Currently teachers are given incentives to teach in these areas, although new facilities and refurbished schools will be available for children to attend. The development, repair, and function of these schools is to be overseen by the United Nations, and regulated through this organization as well.

Results to be Expected:
One of the most overlooked concepts of humanitarian crises is the importance of education and its role on future generations to come. Educating these children could revolutionize communities by offering a learning experience that is so rare in these areas of turmoil. The moment these children have access to an adequate education, endless opportunities arise and upcoming generations serve as future leaders for this nation.
Proposal #303
Author: Tiffany Delgado, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
Reallocate Aid to Palestine

Major Areas to be Affected:
Palestine, Israel, and United States Federal Budget

Justification:

According to the New York Time’s Kevin Miles on December 4th of 2018, the United States has provided more than $5 billion in assistance to the West Bank and Gaza since 1993. These funds went to support the Palestinian Authority to provide law enforcement and maintain the rule of law -- including funds for "programs implemented by the Middle East Partnership Initiative as well as educational and cultural programing through the US Consulate General in Jerusalem."

Additionally, the US assistance is monitored by West Bank and Gaza Palestinian Authority in order to ensure these are spent in accordance with United States national interests. This generous program continued across Republican and Democratic administrations, with bipartisan Congressional support, until now.

The United States tends to be a mediator between Israel and Palestine, however, now that mediation is being revoked. With ending financial assistance to Palestine, the US cuts off all ability to negotiate with Palestine. NPR’s Dana Stroul reported on Jan. 31st, that “During flare-ups and crises, this connective tissue has placed the United States in a position to defuse situations when direct Israeli-Palestinian engagement was too difficult. U.S. Security Coordinator, Lt. Gen. Eric Wendt, and his predecessors have at times been the only American officials able to bridge both sides in moments of high tension.”

With President Trump declaring Jerusalem as part of Israel, tensions have flared up. Cutting off funding from Palestine only forces both countries to revert to more extremist, violent measures. By reimplementing funding we can help the constituents or Palestine with humanitarian crisis, avoid violent conflict, and allow the United States to maintain a mediator position.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will reallocate the foreign aid previously removed from the 2017 budget by the Trump administration. This is approximately 5 billion dollars annually. The money is still within the budget and has not been allocated to a different source.

Results to be Expected:

By reinstating the funding, Palestine and Israel will both reap benefits. According to the guardian’s Elizabeth Manley on April 3rd 2018, if the United States loses cooperation with the Palestinian security forces, Israeli security forces will find themselves in the far worse position of needing to directly intervene to confront security threats in Palestinian-populated areas, rather than working through the U.S. By allocating this aid, we would avoid this problem all together.

However, this funding is also crucial for Palestine. Palestinian citizens are facing humanitarian crisis. For example, NPR reported in 2018 that 97% of all water in Palestine is undrinkable due to contamination. With this funding, it can provide basic human rights to those in Palestine. Additionally, a portion of the funding goes towards cultural and educational purposes. By continuing this funding, these programs will be able to prosper.
Title:

A Proposal to Reorient American Economic Policy by Redrafting and Reopening Talks for a Bilateral Investment Treaty with China

Major Areas to be Affected:

China, U.S. President, U.S. Trade Representative, Secretary of State, State Department, U.S. Senate, American Companies, Chinese Companies

Justification:

As the world has become increasingly globalized, the American economy has followed suit. During this time, the United States and China have developed an especially prominent relationship with the goods and services trade totalling to $737.1 billion in 2018, an estimated 1 million jobs supported by both Chinese investment and the export industry. Though the volume of trade is large between the two countries, the relationship is far from equal and is fraught with both extremely large trade and investment imbalances. In terms of trade, the goods and services trade deficit with China in 2018 was at its greatest point at $378.6 billion, up from 11.6% from 2017. In terms of investment, there is also a great imbalance with China investing $39.5 billion in the United States and the United States investing almost triple that amount in China at $107.6 billion. To add to those numbers, there is often strong distrust within the relationship between the two parties as there are not clear guidelines to trade, and the United States is especially wary of China’s lack of transparency. This distrust has resulted both countries remaining cautious and has led them to restrict the trade relationship from reaching its full potential.

In order to address both the trade/investment deficit and the distrust resulting from a lack of guidelines, the United States should pursue a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with China. A bilateral investment treaty clearly establishes guidelines and conditions for private investments and businesses that operate in a foreign country. It encourages investment, protects businesses, promotes market-oriented policies in foreign countries, creates jobs, and strengthens diplomatic relations. A BIT addresses the two main concerns in the U.S./China relationship mentioned above, making it extremely valuable to maintain the United State’s economic strength. By setting the rules through an official treaty, both countries, especially China, are willing to open up a greater part of their markets to development. Specifically, a BIT would allow American companies to enter 100 previously restricted industries. Furthermore, a BIT would better protect American companies abroad in China by ensuring full ownership of their companies. A BIT also allows for more jobs to be created on both sides as businesses will no longer be restricted by protectionist economic rules. On a world scale, a BIT also allows the United States to expand soft power in the region by keeping their greatest economic competitor in check with liberal economic values. Most importantly, this BIT prevents economic tensions from escalating into a full scale trade war.

Proposal for Action:

The United States will reopen negotiations for a BIT with China through the office of the U.S. Trade Representative and appropriate Chinese channels. The United States will also put passing this BIT as a top foreign policy priority.

1. Preparation
   a. The U.S. Trade Representative’s office will
      i. review previous BIT talks with China and find where the talks went sour
      ii. review previous successful BITs and will try to emulate these
      iii. Formulate a schedule to ensure that the BIT progresses in a timely manner
           (possibly based on a past 9 month plan that has never been implemented)

2. Drafting
   a. The U.S. Trade Representative’s office will begin drafting an initial BIT based off of previous drafts and current U.S. economic wishes.
      i. Ensures the opening of 100 previously restricted industries in China
      ii. Bans forced partial Chinese ownership of American companies in the
iii. Bans forced technology transfers
iv. Sets up arbitration tribunal with the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes

3. Talks
   a. The appropriate diplomatic channels will arrange an initial meeting between the USTR and China to begin BIT talks in a neutral location.
   b. Once the talks occur, the USTR will review progress and reassess strategy according to the plan and schedule made in the preparation stage.

Results to be Expected:

This proposal seeks to mitigate the imbalanced trade and investment between China and the United States through setting up a formal agreement through a BIT. This formal agreement will strengthen both economies and ensure that American economic primacy and soft power is still stable and growing in the globalizing economy. Furthermore, American and Chinese companies will both be better protected through regulations and a delineated arbitration mechanism. Lastly, this BIT can help ensure peace and stability through preventing trade wars. Overall, this proposal acts as the first steps towards ensuring world economic peace through the diplomacy and mutual understanding generated from a U.S. China BIT.
Title:
Restore United States diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of State, Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs, American and Iranian civilians

Justification:
Sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran are working against American goals in the region. The US wants Iran to stop making nuclear weapons, cease its missile program, and end support of rebels deemed to be terrorists in neighboring countries. In an attempt to get Iran to agree with these demands, the US imposed two rounds of economic sanctions. The sanctions prevent Iran from purchasing precious metals, automobiles, planes, and, importantly, US dollars. The sanctions also restrict purchases of Iranian oil. The combination of a shortage of US dollars and a reduction in oil sales is causing real harm to everyday people in Iran. There is high inflation, with one U.S. dollar equivalent to 0.00003 Rial (as of 5/1/2019). It is now harder than ever for everyday Iranians to buy necessities, like food and medicine. An increase in unemployment and civil unrest has also occurred, with an increasing number of civilian protests. Most of America's traditional allies are not supporting US sanctions. Economic powerhouses like India and China are exempt from the oil sanctions for the first six months. In January, France, Britain, and Germany established a financial way to work around the sanctions, providing humanitarian aid and supporting commercial trade with Iran. U.S. sanctions are creating an incentive for the world to move away from using the dollar as the preeminent trading currency. The lack of U.S. involvement in Iran is enabling European nations to step in, strengthening their influence and world power status. The president of Iran called U.S. sanctions an act of "economic war". His response has been a vow to defy the sanctions, extend an olive branch to European nations, and conduct missile tests. The animosity between these two peoples is growing. A 2018 People Analytics poll found 81% of Iranians had a "very or somewhat unfavorable" view of the United States. In order to reach our true goals of a demilitarized Iran and enhanced US influence in the region, the US should restore diplomatic relations with Iran.

Proposal for Action:
Discuss our shared desire for stability in the region and our desire for denuclearization. Repeal sanctions one at a time in exchange for Iranian concessions. Use European allies to gain insight into President Rouhani's domestic agenda. Identify where the U.S. may influence outcomes that provide incentive for Rouhani to subdue his anti-U.S rhetoric and come back to the negotiating table. Formally announce that full diplomatic relations will be restored. Strengthen the preexisting Interest Section currently located within the Swiss embassy by increasing the amount of personnel. Occupy a building in Tehran, the Iranian capital city, and slowly begin increasing personnel and positive community engagement. Foster relationships between Iranians and Americans using community service projects and educational programming to promote appreciation for the other’s culture and history.

Results to be Expected:
By restoring diplomatic relations, Iran and the United States can finally build a positive working relationship. With these two powerful countries working together, the conditions of the Iranian people will improve significantly, and the United States can promote peace and democracy in the Middle East. America can stop it's reputation in the Eurasian market and political sphere from worsening. Both the Iranian and American economies will be stimulated by the now increased amount of accessible oil for American consumers.
Title:

To condemn the systematic oppression and gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, China.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

In 2018, the Chinese government declared Islam an “ideological illness” that needs to be cured. The Chinese government has in the past, characterized Islam as an extremist ideology, because of past independence movements and open support for separatist groups in the ‘90s. In 2009, Uighurs rioted against the state-incentivized migration of ethnically Han Chinese into Xinjiang and as a result, in the following years, state authorities blamed several attacks in Beijing on the Uighurs. Because Xinjiang is home to some of the nation’s largest coal and natural gas reserves, the government took actions to increase surveillance massively in Xinjiang to eliminate any possibility of separatist activities. In 2017, the government acknowledged the use of training centers to reeducate extremists. Since then, the Chinese government has placed over 1 million Uighur Muslims in reeducation camps and on a day to day basis, Uighur Muslims have to face extremely evasive high tech in their lives as the government collects data on them without their consent. Internment quotas have been set for police in Xinjiang and the result of that is people guilty of simply practicing Islam (i.e. fasting in Ramadan) are being imprisoned in the “training centers” where they are forced to renounce their faith, sing Communist Party songs, consume pork and alcohol. Refusal to comply can result in torture or even death. Many survivors of these camps have described horrible conditions including “a system of forced detention and abuse, with military style discipline, solitary confinement, beatings, and in some cases torture”. There is no guarantee of a trial for the Uighurs who have been detained in these camps. Uighur children after their parents have been seized for alleged crimes are treated as orphans, being placed in state-run orphanages in efforts to assimilate them into the Chinese culture.

To oppose this, the US will place economic sanctions on China. These sanctions will target only those involved in the human rights violations to ensure that innocent civilians in both the US and China don’t have to pay the price of these economic sanctions, all while putting pressure on the Chinese government and its officials and creating an incentive for Chinese businesses to halt their investments and other forms of input into the oppression of Uighur Muslims.

Proposal for Action:

I. The Secretary of Commerce with aid from all relevant federal departments and agencies, will begin an investigation to create a report on trade with the Chinese government and Chinese businesses that are involved by providing the Chinese government tangible or intangible assets that contribute to the human rights violations of Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang. This report will also provide a list of Chinese government officials that are responsible in leading the oppression of the Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang and a list of businesses that aid in the repression.

II. The US government, all US businesses, and nationals will halt trade with the Chinese government, Chinese government officials, and any Chinese companies that are identified as being affiliated with the systematic oppression of ethnic Turkic Muslims in China.

III. The assets of Chinese officials found to be leading the policy of gross human rights violations against Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang will be frozen.

IV. Dialogue will be opened with the Chinese government to negotiate an end to the oppression of Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang.

V. The Department of Commerce will devise and implement a plan with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture, Department of State, and other relevant departments and agencies to ensure that US farmers and other US businesses do not face a harsh impact
due to the sanctions. The Secretary of Commerce should also work to find alternate markets for the main products or crops that are exported from the US to China.

**Results to be Expected:**

Within 60 days of the passing of this proposal, the Secretary of Commerce will provide a report on his/her findings. Sanctions will be placed on certain trade with China. These economic sanctions may inspire many other democratic and Muslim nations in support of human rights to follow suit with a stance against China’s repression of ethnic Turkic minorities in Xinjiang, further strengthening US’ stance and increasing the pressure on the Chinese government. Negotiations with the Chinese government to end the oppression will be commenced. The Department of Commerce will continue to provide bi-monthly reports on their findings until the findings show that there are no human rights violations. All reports will be made available on the website of the Department of Commerce. The end of human rights violations will be implied by conditions such as the detained Turkic Muslims being released, extreme surveillance measures being decreased in Xinjiang, and will be officially determined by the Secretary of State. All findings will be made public, as reports are released on a bi-monthly basis.
Proposal #496
Author: Dominique Eric Varier, Delegation: New York

Title:
To pass a resolution for the United States Government to recognize and memorialize the genocidal acts committed by the Ottoman Government as the “Armenian Genocide”.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
Considered by many experts as the first modern genocide, the systematic subjugation and execution of the Armenians by the Ottoman government led to a death toll of 1.5 million. Even before WWI, relations between the Ottomans and their Armenian subjects were tense. In one incident, the sultan massacred an estimated 300,000 Armenians in the 1890s. Then WWI broke out, providing the Ottomans the perfect cover for further subjugation. They heavily pushed a government-led campaign of extensive Armenian dehumanization and polarization. Accused of being Russian spies, Armenian intellectuals were murdered, while others lost their property, weapons, and legal rights. Soon, the Ottoman government began mass systematic execution of the Armenians: the able men were sent to labor camps, while women and children were sent on death marches or to concentration camps to be tortured, raped, and killed. Though formal executions ended after WWI, killings continued until 1923.

Unfortunately, Turkey attempts to hide this dark truth. As the successor to the Ottoman Empire, Turkey has led a long campaign against genocidal accusations since 1923, despite the outstanding evidence of crimes against the Armenians. They’ve pushed for extensive lobbying in foreign governments and prohibit any mention of the event in Turkey.

Nevertheless, many international organizations to some degree recognize the genocide. For example, in the UN multiple reports adopted by sub-commissions and commissions refer to and/or recognize the Armenian Genocide, such as in the UN War Crimes Commission Report of 1948 and the UN Genocide Report of 1985. Furthermore, the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) and the Catholic Church both recognize the genocide. Even the European Parliament has recognized it since 1987, and encourages Turkey to reverse its position.

Many countries have also recognized the genocide: 31 countries currently have full recognition, including France, Russia, Germany, Canada, and Brazil.

In the US, the battle has slowly pushed towards recognition: currently, 49 American states have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, along with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs under resolution HR-106. Recognizing the Armenian Genocide will assert American leadership in the world, and can prompt discussions about our own history and issues with America’s past treatment of different groups.

But more importantly, it recognizes the severity of the crimes committed against an oppressed group of people: the Armenian community remains strong, with estimates of about 500,000 in America and 11 million worldwide. But like any other oppressed group, they deserve the right to have their history fully recognized.

Proposal for Action:
To pass a joint resolution to officially recognize the genocidal acts committed by the Ottoman Government on the Armenian people in 1915 as the Armenian Genocide, and to ensure that United States Government’s foreign policy and actions appropriately reflect this recognition and the sensitivity surrounding the human-rights violations, ethnic cleansing, and systematic genocidal acts committed by the Ottoman Government.

The joint resolution would also declare April 24th of every year as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The date April 24 is
Armenian Genocide Memorial Day in Armenia, and signals the date in 1915 when numerous Armenian intellectuals in Istanbul were arrested and either murdered or deported.

Results to be Expected:

For one thing, we provide full justice to the Armenian community by recognizing the full severity of past crimes and oppression against them. By recognizing their history, we gather the support of the strong growing Armenian community in both America and abroad.

By recognizing the Armenian Genocide, we essentially further assert American leadership in the world. Under the international acclamation received from most nations, we will become a leader of justice, pushing forward an agenda of human-rights and anti-genocide/oppression in the world. Furthermore, America’s recognition of the genocide asserts America’s leadership by standing up against Turkey’s aggressive hijacking and controlling of policy and justice in geopolitics. Through their use of the “gag rule” on other nations, Turkey essentially hijacks a country’s decision on recognizing the genocide; but America’s recognition of it would take a stance against Turkey’s controlling agenda.

While we can expect retaliation from Turkey, it shouldn’t be very intense. Turkey has usually retaliated to past recognitions by recalling their ambassadors, only to later return them depending on the country’s importance to Turkey. Other times, the Turkish government has just simply “waved-off” recognitions. But what’s more important to understand is that as much as we need Turkey, Turkey also needs the US, whether it’s because of NATO, weapon contracts, the Syrian Refugee Crisis, or more. Therefore, we can expect a mutually beneficial agreement between the two countries, especially if we emphasize the recognition of the genocide as under the Ottoman Government and not the Turkish Government.

Furthermore, recognition of the Armenian Genocide may prompt America to have meaningful discussions about its own past treatment of different groups, which in turn can produce effective domestic policies and legislation.
Proposal #546
Author: Christian Damiana, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
An Initiative for Global Instability and Violence/Extremism Reduction (GIVER) through Strategic Evaluation and Investment

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of State, United States Treasury, Department of Defense, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Conflict-affected regions established to be “Priority Countries” by this initiative

Justification:
According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, violence containment costs the global economy over $14.76 trillion a year. This equals about 12.4 percent of the world's GDP. Despite this large scale funding, the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes has reached the highest level ever: 68.5 million. Clearly, the status quo is doing nothing to solve, and is likely exacerbating, the issues of regional violence and instability.
The United States foreign policy and assistance efforts in violent, conflict-affected areas are dictated by outdated practices that are not targeted towards solving the unique nature of today's global instability. Over the past decade, the United States has increasingly prioritized responding to emergency situations over preventative actions targeted at the origins of the regional instability. In 2016, only 2 percent of official development assistance to unstable countries was used for conflict prevention. It is indisputable, however, that such programs are effective: they support security and stability, breaking long prevailing traditions of violence. According to research by the University of Maryland and University of Pittsburgh, exposure to violence increases support for violent extremism. By reducing violence in conflict-affected, unstable areas, terrorist activity will decrease.
The Stabilization Assistance Review, released in 2018 by the Departments of State and Defense and USAID stated that the United States has security and economic interests in investing in more thorough assessment techniques and feasible regional stabilization efforts.

Proposal for Action:
1. The Secretary of State, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Secretary of Defense, and heads of relevant federal departments and agencies will establish an interagency initiative known as the “Global Instability and Violence/Extremism Reduction (GIVER) Initiative.”
2. The GIVER initiative will be tasked with:
   a. Improving coordination and collaboration with international development organizations, international donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.
   b. Improving areas of public and private sector research and development on data collection efforts
3. The GIVER Initiative will develop a plan to be submitted to Congress within 180 calendar days that includes:
   a. Identification of the roles and responsibilities of each participating Federal department or agency
   b. Identification of resource requirements for the success of the initiative, including staffing
   c. List of 3 priority countries or regions that the initiative will most effectively assist and rationale for its selections
4. There is established a fund known as the “Stability and Prevention Fund” to be administered by the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development consisting of $200,000,000 for each of the five (5) fiscal years beginning with the first fiscal year after the establishment of the GIVER initiative.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal would better allow the United States to determine countries where investments and programming would be most effective, accurately assess potential efforts, and encourage new partnerships between public, private, and voluntary sectors to increase stability and reduce violence.
Title:
Officially Recognize the Armenian Genocide

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States State Department

Justification:
Between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Empire carried out a genocide of the Armenian people killing 1.5 million people. Yet the United States federal government has continuously neglected to recognize one of the worst atrocities in the past century while 48 US states currently recognize the Armenian Genocide as well as 28 other countries. Even though constant denial of genocide only sets a dangerous precedent that makes future genocides more likely with many of the same tactics used against the Armenians are currently being used in Darfur.

The Turkish government strongarms the US government into not recognizing the Armenian Genocide while Turkey is still supporting the Sudanese Government despite it committing acts of genocide against the Darfuri people; and Former United States administrations have called Genocide prevention as a core national security interest and core moral responsibility of the United States.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will officially recognize the Armenian Genocide of 1915, and will establish April 24th as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

Results to be Expected:
The Armenian community in the US will feel more welcomed, the United States will hopefully begin to address mass atrocities, and it is likely that our relationship with Turkey will be made more tense while relations with Armenia will improve.
Title:
To place economic and international pressure on the government of Burma over the Rohingya crisis, to promote democratic growth, and to ease the burden on the Bangladeshi government caused by the crisis

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of State, Department of Treasury, South Asia, US businesses, global politics

Justification:
Despite previous efforts of the United States, the country of Burma located in South Asia, formally known as Myanmar, is sliding further and further down the totem pole of dictatorship with increasing crackdowns on freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and the state-sponsored genocide of the Rohingya. The Rohingya are a highly persecuted Muslim group that numbered over one million, face discrimination both from their neighbors and their nation, and are not considered citizens by Myanmar’s government. Tensions between the Buddhist and Muslim communities in Myanmar’s westernmost state, Rakhine State have escalated dramatically. Over 712,700 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar into neighboring Bangladesh since August 2017 due to indiscriminate mass killings, sexual violence, and widespread arson of Rohingya villages, which all amount to crimes against humanity. Doctors Without Borders estimates that over 6,700 Rohingyas have been killed in just one month alone. As of January 2019, over 900,000 Rohingya are currently displaced in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Not only has the Burmese government refused to take steps to resolve this crisis, but they have also actively supported the ethnic cleansing and jailed those who have spoken out against the government. A September 2018 UN report on the status of Burmese reporters concluded that it had become “impossible for journalists to do their job without fear or favor.” Several key reporters such as Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been falsely imprisoned for their reporting on a military massacre of Rohingya and others such as U Ko Ni have been murdered. The United States cannot stand by idly any longer and just watch these horrific actions take place. We must take immediate action.

Proposal for Action:
A congressional resolution will be passed commanding the Department of State to publicly declare the Rohingya crisis a genocide and an active state-sponsored, ethnic cleansing, and will urge NATO allies and the EU to follow suit. The United States will also urge the Bangladeshi government to reduce bureaucratic barriers surrounding Rohingya response activities and prevent the forced movement of Rohingya refugees to Bhashan Char Island.

25 percent of the funds allocated to Burma under the “Economic Support Fund” established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 may not be distributed until the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that the Government of Burma—

1. has terminated current military cooperation with North Korea;
2. is respecting human rights and the rule of law, including the arrest and prosecution of journalists;
3. is revising, updating, or repealing colonial-era and other oppressive laws that are used in such prosecutions, including, but not limited to, the Unlawful Associations Act;
4. is taking active steps to defuse the Rohingya crisis through examining and preventing the continuation of current discriminatory practice, and is working towards a permanent future solution with Bangladesh;
5. is credibly investigating the murder of U Ko Ni, and is taking steps to protect and defend the security and safety of other activists; and

6. extradites all deemed relevant personnel responsible for the massacre to the UN for trial under the International Court of Justice located in the Hague and holds them responsible.

In addition, additional sanctions will be placed on all active military personnel including but not limited to, the 33rd and 99th Rapid Action Battalions of the Myanmar military, for spearheading the ethnic cleansing taken place against the Rohingya minority and all respective military leaders including but not limited to, the head of Myanmar’s military, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

An additional 5 million dollars will be appropriated to Bangladesh through the aforementioned, Economic Support Fund to lessen the burden placed on them due to excess refugee intake.

**Results to be Expected:**

The Burmese government will take actions to combat discrimination and stopping the active persecution of the Rohingya. The Burmese government will actively work towards establishing the rule of law and becoming more democratic. Both Bangladesh and Burma will work together to establishing a fair permanent solution for the displaced Rohingya people.
A Proposal to Release all Economic Sanctions on Venezuelan Oil Industry

Major Areas to be Affected:
Foreign relations specifically pertaining to the nationalized Venezuelan oil market and subsequently the Venezuelan government and people

Justification:
Whereas given that oil exports account for over 90% of Venezuela’s economy, the current sanctions placed on the oil industry engineered to oppress the economy to the point of President Maduro being forced from office. This action has backfired significantly already and ultimately will not achieve the goal of removing Maduro from office, because as exhibited in Hugo Chavez's 2002 presidency, heavy economic sanctions serve to provide a foil for executive powers to deflect domestic issues onto states placing such sanctions, thus allowing the corrupt leader to retain power. Additionally, these sanctions are having a direct effect on the Venezuelan proletariat, as an emerging tariff war quells the influx of basic necessities and medicine into the country.

Proposal for Action:
It is proposed that any and all economic sanctions currently placed on or directly pertaining to the Venezuelan oil market are to be lifted

Results to be Expected:
As a result, commerce within the troubled state will resume, allowing the agricultural sector for which is the indirect target of these sanctions to become once again self sufficient and profitable. This will simultaneously quell the animosity between the Venezuelan people and America, to prevent our goal of anti corruption from being clouded by the appalling effect of these oppressive sanctions. Only in these circumstances can we ensure Maduro is held accountable for the fervent tyranny and denial of the will of the people he is notorious for.
Proposal #020
Author: Owen Halpert, Delegation: California

Title:
Fighting Corruption in Scientific Research

Major Areas to be Affected:
The scientific research and results industry. This includes researchers themselves, indirectly, and scientific journals, directly. This proposal will also indirectly affect big pharmaceutical companies.

Justification:
Science is plagued with corruption that often goes overlooked by the general public. Like we sometimes see in a government setting with lobbyists, this corruption finds its roots in private funding from powerful corporations. Studies that look into the effectiveness and results of popular medicine are funded by big corporations looking to support their product with experimental data to gain ethos. The Washington Monthly found that more than 60 percent of clinical studies are funded not by the government, but by private pharmaceutical or biotech industries. The dangerous corruption this financial manipulation creates causes small, important studies to go overlooked and leaves only majorly funded commercial medicine studies to be published in the major scientific journals. The corruption can have dangerous or costly effects on patients using the medicine involved in popular studies. Newsweek found that positive and negative drug trials take the same amount of time to conduct, but negative drug trials will get published up to four years later. Companies, with billions of dollars on the line, will offer financial incentives to scientific journals to ensure the positive studies are published first, and there is a major lag on publishing studies that prove the drug is ineffective. This could result in a patient taking a certain drug for multiple years and spending their money on a regimen that may have been researched to be ineffective years prior.

Proposal for Action:
I propose a regulation on scientific journals that would require any publication of a medical study to provide their exact funding source or how their funding relates to the product being tested.

Results to be Expected:
Science will be more transparent. Readers and news outlets that look to scientific journals for medicinal news will be able to tell if “breakthroughs” are legitimate or hand-picked by funding from powerful pharmaceutical companies. Biased clinical studies will be devalued due to the knowledge of their funding sources. This could lead to an economic shift due to the powerful companies sending less money to publications, but will hopefully lead eventually to an industrial shift in which science will become less about money and economic gain and more about helping the patient.
Title:
To create federal grants for women majoring in STEM fields.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Education, Department of Federal Student Aid

Justification:
Women make up 50% percent of the college educated workforce, yet they only account for 28% of the STEM workforce. This gap becomes even greater when you break down the fields. Women only account for 26% of the mathematical and computer science field, and an even lower 15% in engineering. These are some of the most male dominated fields of work and women are not typically encouraged to pursue them. As girls get older, the begin to lose interest in the sciences because they feel that it doesn’t fit with society’s standards. These are people who could have done great things in a stem field but lost interest because they didn’t have enough women to look up to in the field. These grants will work as an incentive for women to study STEM in school and then go on to work in the field.

Proposal for Action:
The federal government shall increase the budget for STEM education from $200 million to $300 million. The Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM) and the Office of Federal Student Aid shall collaborate in order to establish a grant for women who are attending an institution of higher learning in a STEM field, based upon financial need. The committee will decide the amount of grants offered each year and how much aid is awarded based on the yearly budget. $100 million shall be allocated towards the creation of these grants.

Results to be Expected:
With the implementation of these new grants, women will be incentivized to major in a stem field. This will lessen the gender gap in STEM fields, create a more diverse and open workforce, and stimulate the economy by increasing employment.
Title:

A proposal to increase the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) budget to at least 1.5% of the Federal Budget.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The scientific community, the United States government, commercial launch providers, skilled workers, and future explorers.

Justification:

The American space program has been able to push humanity’s knowledge about the cosmos for sixty years, and yet it has not received sufficient funding for its program since Neil Armstrong’s historic step. NASA has continually been forced to choose between important scientific missions, and our knowledge has suffered for it. This past year NASA announced it would end direct American financial support for the International Space Station by 2025 due to a need to redirect funds toward future Moon missions as required by Space Policy Directive-1. With a significant increase in its budget, NASA would be able to pursue multiple different projects to advance our understanding of everything.

Proposal for Action:

When Congress is approving the federal budget for the next fiscal year at least 1.5% of the enacted budget shall be for NASA use only.

Results to be Expected:

Humanity will grow in its scientific knowledge, will expand beyond Low Earth Orbit.
Proposal #113
Author: Deddy-Dawn Gray, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
Increasing the national funding towards childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Childhood cancer research centers, children affected with cancer

Justification:
According to the American Childhood Cancer Organization, approximately 15,780 children each year from ages birth to 18 are diagnosed with cancer each year in the United States. Out of these children, around 2,000 of them will die each year. Cancer is the leading cause for death of disease past infancy. As of 2018, only $198 million of funding goes toward research for cancer in children. There are fewer than 10 drugs that have been developed and deemed safe for children that effectively treat cancer. This is caused by a lack of funding, therefore researchers are not able to get resources they need to do their work and expand the amount of drugs available to doctors to administer to their patients.

Proposal for Action:
Increase the overall funding towards cancer research from $4.9 billion to $5.1 billion to avoid lessening funding in other areas, and increase the childhood cancer research funding with the new funding. ($198 million to $392 million).

Results to be Expected:
More medical trials proved effective
More effective medical drugs developed and approved for children with cancer
To increase the survival rate in children with cancer
Proposal #115
Author: Omar Abouzahr, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
International Protocol to Decrease the Potential Effects of Space Junk

Major Areas to be Affected:
NASA, Corporations, Countries that own a satellite

Justification:
Since Sputnik 1 was launched in 1957, according to NASA, approximately 28,000 objects have been sent to space. Currently, there are only 9,000 still in orbit, 600 of which still work. Earth’s orbit is becoming more crowded. Each year, around 75 objects are sent to the Earth’s orbit. These objects can collide, creating space debris. This debris varies in size. There are millions of small pieces of debris less than 0.1 centimeters, and cannot be tracked. There are hundreds of thousands of pieces of debris over 0.5 cm, and are large enough to be tracked by radar. Objects larger than 10 centimeters can be tracked optically, and there are an estimated 11,000 objects. According to National Geographic, each piece of debris in low earth orbit travels at around 18,000 miles per hour, and can stay in orbit for years. A satellite being hit by the smallest of pieces can cause major damage. In the instance of a collision, thousands of small pieces of debris can be created. These objects can then collide with smaller objects and created even more smaller debris. The amount of space at Earth’s orbit is large. The probability of being hit by a piece of debris is very small. However, it is steadily increasing. With different orbital planes and speeds, collisions are statistically unavoidable. Satellites that are critical to national security are at risk. Satellites critical to GPS are at risk. Satellites critical to communication are at risk. It only takes one collision with a small piece of debris to destroy a satellite.

If satellites were moved to a higher orbit before being decommissioned, it would decrease the probability of a collision. This is because there is much more space as the distance from Earth’s surface increases, which would lower the probability of satellites randomly colliding. The United States needs to lead the world in this because the US has sent the most objects into space. Also, the US is already extensively tracking thousands of objects in Earth’s orbit. With other countries in different geographic locations also tracking the objects, the surveillance will be more accurate.

Proposal for Action:
International protocol requiring ‘dying’ and almost decommissioned satellites to move to a higher orbit (graveyard orbit) of at least 500 miles above the Earth’s surface
International protocol requiring transparency in the positioning of satellites in orbit
International protocol requiring communication between countries in sharing of data of objects in orbit
Formation of a new commission in the United States to lead and enforce these protocols

Results to be Expected:
The result should be a considerably lower risk of satellites colliding with any space debris. The satellites moved to the ‘graveyard’ orbit will statistically decrease the probability of a collision.
Proposal #124
Author: Dora Herndon, Delegation: Oklahoma

Title:
To ban the production and distribution of deepfakes for non-research purposes.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Lower civil courts, the Pentagon, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Lanham Act, news media, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Justification:
As humans, we believe what we see. Video evidence is just that, evidence. It is frequently used in court to sway juries. It is a staple of modern news media. But what if we could not trust our eyes? With the growth of AI and ML has come a new threat to American life: deepfakes. Created in December of 2017 by a reddit user by the name of “DeepFake,” deepfakes take video and virtually augment different facial video. This can mean putting a new face on a body, or using other video of a person to make them say or do whatever the mind can think of. The implications of this are terrifying.

Deepfakes were initially created as a means of generating explicit video of celebrities, and technology being used in this way can be extremely damaging. First, it damages the celebrities right to publicity and control of their image. These videos, when done well, look real. Each day it gets harder and harder to tell whether video is a deepfake or real. Sex-tapes have the power to be career altering and completely change someone's public image. Deepfakes are a threat to celebrities careers and images. Second, deep fakes harm the original adult film stars as well as any production team they worked with. Deepfakes steal their content they created, generally without giving credit. Then, people are watching their videos and the original creators do not receive compensation. Content creators rights also need to be protected. Content theft harms the economy, it’s why copyright law exists in the first place. Deepfakes threaten an industries livelihood, public figures social lives, and the American economy.

The other reason deepfakes are worrisome is the threat they pose to news media and national security through the spread of false information. It does not take an expert to create a good deepfake, just time. Anyone could create any scenario, and with video evidence anyone would believe it happened. Deepfakes will perpetuate the fake news cycle, which is especially dangerous going into the 2020 election. Not only that, but anyone could make a video of the president or another high-up official saying anything. This technology is advanced and dangerous. The accidental missile alert in Hawaii caused so much panic. Now, imagine a public address where President Trump announces he has officially launched nukes at North Korea. The chaos is unimaginable. Not only that, but what about when North Korea sees it? The possibilities for public harm with deepfakes are endless. Democracy cannot properly function without factual information to inform voters. Deepfakes have the real potential to usher in a new era of AI generated news where voters will not know what to believe or where to trust. Not only that, but they pose a threat to diplomatic relations and national security.

The scariest part about deepfakes is that the software is public, free, and even comes with a free Nicholas Cage template. Literally anybody with a computer has the capacity to play around with this technology, and anything they create is legal. It is illegal for just anybody to build a nuclear reactor for a reason. Deepfakes must be treated with the same caution and care. It is time to step up and regulate this technology now, preventatively, before there are disastrous consequences.

Proposal for Action:
1. Use of a celebrities face in digitally rendered video will be classified as false endorsement, expanding section 43a of the Lanham Act.
2. Deepfakes will be officially classified as violating copyright laws.
3. Creating a deepfake of government personnel under a security clearance of level 3 or higher is criminal offense.
4. In the case of pornographic images, both a child’s face being used on an adults body and an adult’s face pasted onto a child’s body are to be classified as child pornography and distribution of such material will be treated and tried as such.
5. Government sanctioned research on deepfake detection will be allowed to continue.
6. All internet traffic passing through American servers will be subject to American internet laws.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal will expand and clarify a national right to publicity, aiding in protecting people’s right to the use of their own image. Not
only that, but it will prevent misinformation in the 2020 presidential campaign and prevent a new era of mudslinging. The United States will be safer with a legal means to put anyone so blatantly threatening information security in jail.
Proposal #133
Author: Wulfgar Ramsey, Delegation: Pennsylvania

Title:
To create an international agreement to collectively research under governmental supervision, develop ethical regulations, and put into practice Human Germline Engineering for the betterment of mankind.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Scientific Community, Field of Genetics, Signatory Countries, Future Generations

Justification:
On November 25, 2018 an announcement was made that will forever alter mankind. The first genetically edited twins were born in the People's Republic of China, genetically altered to be resistant to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The editing is what is known as germline editing, meaning the genetic edits were done when the twins were embryos and will be inheritable. The altered genetics were done by one Dr. He Jiankui using Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats Cas9 (CRISPR-Cas9) based genetic modification methods, a simple yet effective gene editing tool. When the twins were embryos, Dr. He used CRISPR to turn off the gene CCR5. CCR5 controls a protein on the surface of white blood cells that, once disabled, prevents HIV from entering the cell. The twins' birth signified two things. First, this world-altering science is rapidly outpacing effective legislation and is moving forward without a complete understanding of the ethics and implications, and second, the technology to engineer human genetics to nullify seemingly unstoppable diseases is within our grasp.

Ethical and human rights issues will become quickly apparent if there is not unilateral agreement on the subject of Human Germline Engineering. Without international treaties, countries will begin to utilize this rapidly progressing technology unethically, and any changes in the human gene pools will affect every future generation to come. However, vast arrays of diseases could be solved with Human Germline Editing. Cancer for example, can be caused by a genetic disposition that could be solved with advances in Human Germline Editing.

The National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine states, "Germline genome editing could become acceptable in the future if these risks are addressed and if a number of additional criteria are met. These criteria include strict independent oversight, a compelling medical need, an absence of reasonable alternatives, a plan for long-term follow-up, and attention to societal effects." The proposal outlined exceeds all criteria necessary for the advancement of Human Germline Editing. By creating a multilateral international committee and allowing a multitude of disciplines, sciences, and philosophies to have input, the committee will be able to develop ethical guidelines and regulations for The progression of Human Germline Editing. "The discussions at the (Organizing Committee of the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing) suggest that it is time to define a rigorous, responsible translational pathway toward such trials," and that is exactly what this proposal will do.

Proposal for Action:
An international agreement will be drawn up to accomplish the following
Create an International Committee on Human Germline Engineering, composed of delegates from all signatory countries, to...
Collectively fund and share research in the field of Human Germline Engineering
The research will continually be under continual supervision of the committee
Lift any existing bans on Human Germline Engineering
Draw up strict regulations on what diseases and traits that can be ethically solved with Human Germline Editing. Diseases and Traits that significantly limit quality and length of life will be selected, such as but not limited to forms of Cancer, HIV, Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and Huntington disease
The regulations will be open to amendments as deemed by scientific discovery and information as it presents itself
Permanently ban the implementation of Human Germline Engineering outside of the bounds of this Agreement
Other signatory countries will enforce this ban through trade sanctions.

Create a mechanism that allows input from the National Academies of Science and Humanities and Clergy of all faiths.

Slowly implement Human Germline Editing in an ethical manner in all compliant countries, regardless of GDP, prioritizing bloodlines that are historically at risk of diseases and traits outlined by the committee.

Place a moratorium on Human Germline Engineering until the committee deems appropriate.

The Committee is expected to work under complete transparency.

Results to be Expected:

Because of the extensive research and ethical debates that will arise from this proposal we will have more comprehensive guidelines to the ethics of Human Germline Engineering. Unethical uses of Human Germline Engineering will be publically banned. Diseases and Traits outlined by the proposed committee will begin to disappear as the technology is made available to signatory nations.
Establishing an International Space Agency dedicated for the achievement of scientific progress, and a commitment towards triumph as a human race.

Major Areas to be Affected:

UN, UN members, national space agencies

Justification:

Nationalism, the idea that one nation is better than another, is on its last legs. This ideology that has had its roots set firmly in the minds of many people for centuries, has waned within the last few decades. Many of history’s greatest tragedies were as a result of nationalism, such as World War 1, the Armenian Genocide, the senseless Reign of Terror of the French Revolution. This power player of history has been curbed by a recent development known as globalism. Globalism is the idea that rather than fight amongst each other, countries should cooperate and work towards achieving common goals. It is only through this that nationalism has quieted in recent years.

Yet, more must be done. Countries are still tense and uncooperative. Citizens still refuse to see their neighbors as equals. A consideration of the World Value Survey over the years 2004-14 finds that nationalism is not yet on its way out. This is supported by examinations of Pew Research Center surveys from 2017, that find correlations between nationalism and the movements of anti-diversity anti-technology. Furthermore, nationalist parties have steadily grown more influential since the 1980s, especially culminating in recent years. When one considers the drastic rise in hate crimes of places like Austria, Spain, and the Netherlands, they can see that nationalism is still a very big issue.

The enactment of an international space agency provides the necessary step towards curbing this violent and reactionary ideology. Such an agency would operate under the principle of advancing space technology and development in regards to outer space. The immediate benefit would be an increase in scientific standards and technology, as well as evolution in empirical practices. The main benefit though, would be the ideological impact. An intergovernmental cooperative such as this has the important distinction of being beholden to no individual country. This means that any achievement made by the agency is viewed as a world victory, not a state victory. This lessens feelings of competition between nations and would encourage states to work together on other issues, having been proven how well they cooperate. Thus nationalism, already dying, can be further set aside in favor of a more fair world.

Proposal for Action:

I. Establishment of the United Nations Outer Space Cooperative (UNOSC).
   A. UNOSC will operate with the goals of advancing space technology and its implementation. This may include:
      1. Research and development of aforementioned technology.
      2. Oversight of manned or unmanned space exploration by UNOSC operatives.
   B. UNOSC shall be a purely cooperative partnership. There shall be fair representation of all merit from across the world.

II. Establishment of the Board of Directors.
   A. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of 9 representatives, as elected by the UN General Assembly.
   B. The Board of Directors shall make decisions concerning research, projects, and the goals of the UN General Assembly.

III. Establishment of the position of General Secretary, as elected by the Board of Directors. The General Secretary.
   A. Shall enact any programs allocated for by the Board of Directors.
   B. Shall ensure the success and achievement of all projects.
Results to be Expected:

Being that a regulated, well-established agency can combine the collective technological might of the world, there will be leaps and bounds made in the development of scientific application and machinery. This would bring dignity and gratification in a non competitive manner, and further solidify the idea that the human race is stronger as a group than on it's own. This leads to a decrease in nationalistic tension and further assertion of the values of partnership and fraternity.
Proposal #163

Author: Sophie Anderson, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
Sequestration Research and Development

Major Areas to be Affected:

Power plants, carbon emissions, scientific research, overall populational health, pollution

Justification:

Earth is dying. Humans are killing it, industry is killing it, emissions are killing it, and without a legitimate step towards resolving the multiple crises threatening the only planet we’ve ever called home, there will be nothing left. Carbon emissions have reached a point of no return, but our federal government has been aware of that for decades. Our country needs a first-step into a Greener Era where all energy comes from renewable resources. Geosequestration is a complex process which will allow the United States to drastically reduce and reverse the effects of carbon emissions in our country. This is a short-term solution until the energy used by the nation is completely renewable. (Turbines, solar power, windmills, etc.) Similar projects have successfully occurred in Canada and Iceland.

Proposal for Action:

A carbon sink is a solid formation of the element, such as a rock or mineral. Rocks are the largest, densest carbon sinks on earth. They are naturally occurring, decomposable, and weatherable. Geosequestration is a process by which industrial carbon emissions are solidified into carbon sinks (rocks), essentially putting the carbon back where it started before it was burned as a fossil fuel. I propose immense tax incentives to public or private power plants that participate in sequestration research, as well as funding for research and development.

Results to be Expected:

By taking this large step towards a future of clean energy, the United States will see a massive reduction in carbon emissions. As the world superpower, the United States should lead other nations to convert completely to renewable resources. Geosequestration buys time for the country to find its plan for a fully green future for many generations to come.
Proposal #176
Author: Caroline Odom, Delegation: South Carolina

Title:
Expanding federal funding for stem cell research

Major Areas to be Affected:
Stem cell research facilities, fertility clinics

Justification:
In 1996 the Dicky-Wicker amendment was passed. The amendment states that no federal funds may be used for the creation of human embryos or destruction of human embryos for research purposes. Then in 2001 President Bush, through an executive order, prohibits federal funding of research using embryonic stem cell lines derived after August 9, 2001. However in 2009 President Obama signed an executive order to override the restrictions put on stem cell research by the Bush administration. However because of the ethical backlash to embryonic stem cell research most of the federal funds are given to non-embryonic cell research. In 2016 over 73% of funds were given to non-embryonic research.

Millions of embryos are created through in vitro fertilization every year and only a small amount are actually implanted in order to create a child. The leftover embryos create a dilemma, many families don’t know how to handle them. Their options are: keeping them in storage, giving to a different couple, donating them to researchers, or just discarding to medical waste. If families opt to give their embryos to science federal funds can’t be used for that research because it goes against the Dicky-Wicker amendment. However they are making this decision with informed consent and with the knowledge of what will happen to the embryos during the research. Therefore it should be a choice from family to family and if they are going to be able to donate the embryos then the federal government should have no problem funding the research of left over donated embryos.

There are many advantages to embryonic cell research rather than non embryonic cell research. First, embryonic cells are easier to produce than non embryonic. Adult stem cells have to be genetically reprogrammed in order to produce embryonic like qualities while embryonic cells can be produced as is. Embryonic cells are able to generate into any cell in the body because they don’t have a “niche” yet. Adult cells have already been created for a purpose such as liver, heart, and kidney cells. Also, there are smaller numbers of multipotent stem cells in the adult tissue. Therefore, these cells can’t be as readily produced in large quantities.

Proposal for Action:
The US Department of Health and Human Services will be able to give funds to researchers using embryos. Congress shall pass legislation that puts the Obama era executive order into law. Also the National Institute of Health would need to update their guidelines to include granting of federal funds not only to non-embryonic stem cell research but also to embryonic stem cell research.

Results to be Expected:
There would be an increase in research done with embryonic stem cells because the funds would expand past private funding. Also, with more funding the actual stem cell treatments could go through the Food and Drug Administration faster because their research is moving quicker and stem cell treatments could become more common in the United States. An influx of this research could lead to many new scientific discoveries that could benefit people who are diseased and hurting.
Proposal #182
Author: Charis Maxwell, Delegation: Texas

Title:
Providing funding to federal investigative agencies to determine whether there is a connection between gang violence in the United States and domestic and international terrorism.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Justice Department, FBI, CIA, the American people, the youth, international politics, courts, juvenile detention centers, prisons, the United Nations, urban areas

Justification:
Gang violence in the United States has been readily increasing in recent years, as has the number of gang members and amount of gangs in the United States, especially in urban areas. Gang homicide rates have also been increasing, accounting for about 13% of all homicides in the US. In New York City during the summer of 2018, gang violence drove the murder rate up 8%, and gang-related homicides accounted for about 30% of all homicides in the city.

Recently, with the expansion of the internet and social media, domestic and international terrorism has greatly increased as well. The number of Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs) has also increased in recent years. Terrorism, both at home and abroad, is rapidly becoming a larger focus for the United States investigative bodies.

Seeing as both terrorism and gang violence are increasing, as is membership in gangs and terrorist organizations, it is logical to suspect that these may be connected. Terrorist organizations are known to participate in other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, that many gangs are also involved in. The investigative agencies of the US federal government must determine whether the rise in terrorism and the rise in gang violence in recent years are connected. Some terrorist organizations, notably the Islamic State, are said to be similar to a street gang in their operations, meaning that increased study of the similarities of the operations and profiles of terrorist organizations and street gangs shall provide useful data to aid in the arrest of known terrorists and other criminals.

Proposal for Action:
Federal investigative bodies, such as the FBI and CIA, are to receive funding for an investigation to determine whether the rise in gang violence and the rise in domestic and international terrorism are related. The potential connection between terrorism and gang violence shall be one focus of the investigation, the second being gathering information on the similarities between the profiles and operations of known gangs and terrorist organizations, and the third the investigation of potential rivalries between street gangs and terrorist organizations. If the investigation concludes that these are indeed connected, the United States shall recommend to the United Nations that an international investigation be conducted in a similar fashion in all areas that the UN has jurisdiction.

Results to be Expected:
If the investigation concludes that the rise in gang violence and domestic and international terrorism are connected, the resulting knowledge shall help investigative bodies across the United States and the world bring more dangerous terrorists and gang members into custody. For example, if a terrorist attack took place, if a gang was known to have ties to the terrorists that orchestrated the attack, gang members would be brought to the proper authorities for questioning. This would also apply if authorities suspected that a terrorist attack in the near future and a known gang had ties to the suspected terrorist organization.

The information gathered by the investigation shall also provide useful data on the operations and profiles of known gangs and terrorist organizations.
Title:
Creating a fund to incentivize college students attending public state universities to major in STEM fields.

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Department of Education, Fortune 500 Companies

Justification:
With an increase in tech and science reliant companies in many foreign countries as well as our own, America has shown a lack of production when it comes to workers that can fill these STEM heavy jobs. Forbes.com states that the U.S. placed third last year in STEM degree production among college graduates, with about 4.2 million less graduates obtaining a STEM degree when compared to China, and 2.1 million less when compared to India. With this lack of qualified workers, U.S. companies must turn to workers from abroad to fill the void left by the lack of degree holders on the market. In order for the U.S. to succeed economically as well as technologically, our nation must increase production of STEM students in order to fill these positions that are being filled by foreign employees.

The time and money necessary to obtain a degree that qualifies workers for many STEM positions is not an investment that many students want to make. Although there is nothing to be done about the time that it takes, easing the burden on payment from the shoulders of our nations college students can be a viable option to help with the issue at hand. The average college tuition for an out of state student majoring in mechanical engineering in 2018 was about $25,000 per year, totalling around $100,000 for a four year degree. In order to obtain a basic four year degree without a minor accompanying ones major, one must complete 120 credits for most public institutions, and out of those 120 credits, around 28 of those credits must be classes required by your major chosen in order to obtain the degree desired. Since students pay tuition on a per-credit basis, out of the total cost, around 23% of ones cost is accredited to the classes needed to obtain the degree desired. Using these numbers, the average cost of the credits required to obtain a degree in a STEM field is about $23,000 over the course of four years (although these numbers do vary between fields, universities, and in state vs. out of state costs, these will act as the average). The need for STEM degree holders has become increasingly evident, and will show no signs of stopping in the near future. In order to combat the evident lack of degree holders, the difficulty of payment for the proper education must be addressed. The effects of having this lack of possible STEM workers is being felt across the nation, and the negative concomitants can only increase.

Proposal for Action:
In order to relieve a portion of the cost for the classes required to obtain a STEM degree, the total net income tax on all Fortune 500 companies should be raised, with the money gained from this increase going towards a fund overseen by the Department of Education. This fund will pay for 25%, or up to $8,000 across the four years, of the cost to obtain the credits required to obtain a degree in the field desired by a student majoring in a STEM subject. By creating this fund, students who plan to attend university would be more likely to major in a STEM field for years to come. With around 400,000 total college students majoring in a STEM field, an expected increase due to the incentive would bring this number up to roughly 900,000 students a year. With this increase, the expected cost per year that this fund would need to cover would be about $1.4 billion. The tax placed on the companies would be at a set rate that changes every two years in order to cater to the increase or decrease in the necessary amount. Although the amount proposed would seem to be extreme, the lowest net income in all of the Fortune 500 companies in 2018 was $23,556,000,000, with the highest being $500,343,000,000. If there were to be a surplus of money within the fund in a given year, this money would roll over into the next year, meaning the tax on these companies would decrease to fit the necessary goal.

Results to be Expected:
Overall, the money collected and dispensed to these students is seen as an investment to these companies. With an increased pool of...
workers to employ, the companies will benefit for years to come when trying to find workers with the necessary educational
qualifications to fit the positions that these companies desire. Since STEM fields touch every company to a certain extent, this fund will
benefit all companies in one way or another. The amount of workers in STEM fields will increase greatly among Americans to fit the
rapidly growing need for STEM degree holders in the American economy. Not only is the fund helping the American STEM student, but
it is helping the American economy as a whole.
Proposal #287
Author: Hannah Linder, Delegation: New Mexico

Title:
Dissolvement of Research & Development (R&D) work within NASA

Major Areas to be Affected:
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Department of Defense (DOD), Private Spaceflight Companies

Justification:
A 2017 report by the Space Foundation found that 76% of the international “space economy” is commercial. SpaceX, founded in 2002, became the first commercial company to dock at the ISS in 2012. Blue Origin, founded in 2000, has a suborbital spacecraft that could launch civilians as early as this year, and has plans to put people on the moon’s surface by 2024. Virgin Galactic, founded in 2004, is pursuing and achieving similar goals. August 2012, Spaceport America, the first commercial spaceport was completed and has had regular launches by private companies.

These private companies, along with many others, have shown that the arena of spaceflight is not strictly governmental. The capabilities to launch spacecraft is shared by the private sector. Additionally, the progress and results shown by these companies has shown that space research in the private sector has far more will.

Additionally, NASA muddles space efforts within the government. A 2016 report by the Government Accountability Office found that space R&D is distributed among 60 different government organizations, 45 of which are DOD. These overlaps have led to confusion, delays, and inefficiency. Current Air Force research, as well as the signing of Space Policy Directive 4, show that DOD research regarding space is only expanding, and therefore the confusion, delays, and inefficiency will worsen. Current developments in government will lead to more unjustifiable and inefficient overlap with NASA efforts.

While NASA has laid out a considerable foundation for space research, the cost of the research is unjustifiable due to the fact that NASA efforts are overlapped by the US government and the private sector. Their 20 billion dollar budget could go towards a number of the nation’s immediate issues.

Proposal for Action:
All current NASA contracts and missions will be carried out. No new missions will be planned and no new contracts will be signed. DOD will get priority use of retired NASA R&D facilities. Remaining NASA R&D facilities will be leased to private spaceflight companies. Educational and critical aspects of NASA will stay.

Results to be Expected:
Greater innovation and progress will be seen in space research from the private sector. Additionally, the ability for private companies to use retired NASA facilities will create jobs and industry in the US. Government R&D regarding space will be more efficient and productive due to less overlap and confusion. Educational benefits, such as museums or programs for children, will remain the same.
Title:

Deep fakes

Major Areas to be Affected:

Department of Justice

Justification:

Deep fakes are synthesized human images projected onto another human using artificial intelligence. When this technology first came out it could only be run on a high-end computer and was traditionally used in the movie industry to bring back characters for movies such as Paul Walker in The Fast and the Furious after his death. Deep fake programming can now be accessed on a standard laptop through software available on the internet. Deep fakes pose a national security concern, as they could be used to misrepresent politicians or other prominent political figures. If a deep fake is made of the President claiming to launch nuclear missiles on North Korea, it could then go viral on Twitter. In this hypothetical, next, North Korea sees the tweet and responds; launching nuclear missiles in response to a threat that does not actually exist and before the deep fake is detected. Projecting the image of the President onto another human is now possible for anyone. Deep Fakes are also used to alter pornographic material. Porn star actors will often be filmed and using editing, a deep fake of a celebrity lookalike will be projected on the actor. Often this is done not only without the consent of the celebrity but the actor in the explicit video as well. Related to this, revenge acts are also a concern. A possible situation that could occur is if a wife catches her husband cheating on her, she can film a man with a similar body figure beating her and apply deep fake masking over the actor framing the husband for assault. Deep fakes should not be banned as they have practical positive uses in the real world, but this technology can also be used for harm and must be regulated. Deep fakes pose a serious threat as these videos when created properly, can look real.

Proposal for Action:

A Task force under the Department of Justice will be established to:

Create legal language for Deep Fakes under section 43a of the Lanham Act
Create an Artificial Intelligence program that can detect if a video is a Deep Fake
Create a Blockade program that can detect and verify sources for deep fakes versus real video.

Results to be Expected:

The creation of this task force will decrease the risk of misidentifying a deep fake video as real. The Blockade system can be used by news sources, courts, and US Government to certify if a video originates from credible sources. Blockades certify and confirm where a video originates from, ensuring that a supposed Oval Office address from the President does, in fact, come from the President. The Artificial Intelligence program will be created to recognize trends in deep fake videos, such as the use of tools like scaling, rotating, or splicing in order to search for inconsistencies between frames to determine if a video is a Deep Fake or not. By providing this technology through this proposal, American websites can choose to automatically run a video through the blockade and or the AI program to see if it is indeed a deep fake or not. A prime example is Reddit, as the site has now banned the posting of Deep Fakes, but can not consistently prevent them from being posted on the site, but with this technology that could change. Seeing as no legal language exists right now for Deep Fakes; laws must begin to be established. This solves one of the current struggles of courts not knowing how to deal with these situations as currently there is no legal precedent.
Title:
Raising Funding for AIDS Research

Major Areas to be Affected:
The areas of which will be affected by the raised funds would be notably shown through the percentage of funds going towards the research part of the AIDS and HIV funding. The percent of funding going towards research will rise higher than 7%. The patients would greatly affected as well, due to the fact the research would benefit the wellbeing of them.

Justification:
Using the raised funds for the research of AIDS, a cure would be found quicker due to the rise of supplies. This is very important, due to the fact that AIDS is an epidemic that kills. In South Africa, around 400 people die of AIDS every day. That doesn't even include the rest of the world, which can total up to an alarming amount.

Proposal for Action:
First we will raise the funds on AIDS research through the governments funding, which will not create a detrimental negative effect due to the fact the government has plenty of extra funding that we can afford. We will remove some funds from the military service, and put that towards the funding for the medical process of researching on AIDS.

Results to be Expected:
The results will be a very positive thing, with the cure being able to be found faster due to the materials used having higher quality because of raised funds.
Proposal #468  
Author: Grant Thevenot, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:
Mandatory Open Access for All Government Funded Research Act

Major Areas to be Affected:
Office of Scientific Research and Development, Future Government Funded Research, Research Universities and Colleges

Justification:
Too often, research funded by the federal government is published to private journals that require large payments for other researchers and the public to view. Almost exclusively, elite schools and universities pay millions of dollars annually to view the research that their students pay for through taxes. The Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) was introduced in 2013 to finally make research open-access. However, this proposal has proved largely unsuccessful in its attempt to provide open-access research for all. This is because any government funded research under $100 million was blatantly excluded from the requirement of OA (Open Access). Due to the severe restrictions of up-to-date science being currently withheld from those who paid for it, I propose that all taxpayer funded research be made and maintained with open-access for the public.

Proposal for Action:
This proposal will mandate that all government funded research be immediately made public free of charge following the publication of any findings. This applies to all research federally funded, only excluding findings deemed “unfit” for the public. In this case, “unfit” refers to any information which should reasonably be restricted from the people in order to maintain national security. This proposal only applies to federally funded research. This proposal requires only research published after its enactment be made public; however, it is still encouraged that research before its enactment also be expanded to the public.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal, if passed, will directly affect scientists and students alike currently unable to access up-to-date government funded research. Information paid for by the American people should not be marketed for profit, not only because it is directly stealing from taxpayers, but also because the findings released in some of these private journals contain valuable information that could possibly be the key for finding cures to the worst diseases, as well as other groundbreaking developments. Scientists will be better able to stay current on all important findings due to access to more up-to-date research from within the science community that is currently being restricted. If our government is not doing research for the people, then it should not be doing it with our money.
Title:
Planning for the end game.

Major Areas to be Affected:
NASA, The Department of Defense.

Justification:
Right now, unbeknownst to the human population as a whole, a giant orbital dragnet of death is slowly and diligently trapping us on
earth. Everytime we look to the stars, or advanced global communication and networking, this metaphorical noose around humanities
neck tightens. This snare which threatens to cut off our collective reach towards a space age is comprised of 2,000 broken satellites and
upwards of 100,000,000 pieces of orbital debris circling the earth at speeds surpassing 17,000 miles per hour. The reason orbital debris
is such an issue is because when an object moves at terminal velocity around the Earth, it doesn't really matter how big it is, it will still
tear a hole in almost any spacecraft that could be feasibly constructed with materials found on Earth. This poses an incredible risk to not
only man operated spacecraft, but to other satellites in orbit as well. Most satellites operate in what is called Low Earth Orbit (LEO),
which is close enough to the Earth that drag is still generated by the atmosphere. What this means is that the things in LEO breakdown,
losing pieces every year. Not only are all unmanned satellites operating in LEO, but every empty fuselages from every single
conventional rocket mission has added to the cacophony of junk which populates the graveyard of LEO. Another consequence of space
junk in LEO is the risk it poses to operating satellites in the area. Only about 500,000 pieces of space debris are currently big enough to
be tracked so that their flight paths can be avoided by any new satellites, the other five hundred thousand pieces are too small to
monitor, but still big enough to destroy a rocket or satellite. This poses an incredibly high risk to global communication, GPS systems,
high-speed internet, the future of internet, as well as any manned space missions to the International Space Station or any destination
beyond it. The space junk in LEO must be eliminated before it can continue to increase on an exponential scale. If a large piece of
debris, possibly a dead satellite, where to hit another large piece of debris not only would the scattering pieces of space debris be
moving in completely random directions, there would be hundreds of millions of them. Each Hypothetical piece of debris resulting from
this incident would be fully capable of completely destroying another satellite spawning hundreds of millions of more pieces of debris.
This concept is called A Collision Cascade, a hypothetical domino effect in which satellites continue to hit each other turning lots of big
tings into lots of little things, a process which would transform big things that are easy to track, in to an unstoppable wave of
destruction. Weather we are currently in the process of experiencing a domino effect is hard to say, but it is easy to verify that the
number of satellites going offline is increasing exponentially every year. Everytime we lose a satellite to a collision, we gain another
hundred things to track, and another hundred things that could destroy more satellites. If we want to preserve any chance humanity has
at reaching a Space-age, or even preserving our Global-age we must act quickly. If the situation continues unchecked it is estimated
that within 10 years it will be impossible to maintain anything in low earth orbit for more than a few months. That means no more GPS,
satellite internet, dish, weather tracking, traffic tracking, global communication, high-speed streaming services, and definitely no more
monitoring the stars.

Proposal for Action:

1. Under this law the federal government would be required to allocate 5 billion dollars of the federal budget every year to a joint mission
undertaken by NASA and the Department of Defense. The purpose of this mission would be to clean up all space debris in LEO within
25 years.

2. These two agencies would be required to implement this funding for the purposes of their mission to clean up all space debris in LEO
within 25 years. This implementation would entail researching and implementing possible means of reclaiming debris in LEO such as,
but not limited to; electromagnetic satellites designed to push debris onto a re-entry trajectory, satellites mounted with high intensity
lasers to vaporize large clouds of debris, remotely controlled satellites armed with nets and harpoons designs to manipulate debris onto
a re-entry trajectory.

3. This joint mission shall be monitored and headed by NASA, with Department of Defense representatives acting as liaison between
the two agencies vast research and engineering staff, but not holding management positions relating to the mission.

4. Mission representatives from both agencies shall report to Congress yearly with updates on Mission progress. Congress may terminate the mission at any time if it feels as though Mission progress is not adequate. The mission may be terminated by 2/3 majority in both the House and the Senate.

Results to be Expected:

A secured future full of both global communication and interconnectivity, as well as a secure knowledge of future space travel. Should this proposal pass, and humans ever be required to leave Earth, this proposal will have insured that there is no net keeping us here.
Proposal #542
Author: Cameron Germe, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
A proposal to allow federal funds to be used for researching germline cell gene therapy.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The FDA, Research labs that receive federal funds, future generations of Americans

Justification:
New innovations in the world of genetics have opened the doors to incredibly effective gene therapy. CRISPR technology is not expensive and allows scientists to make very specific edits in the DNA of a cell with relative ease. In 2017 Chinese researcher, He Jiankui, used the CRISPR technology to edit the genes of human embryos. He was trying to prevent the embryos in his lab from contracting HIV from their parents. However, the effects of gene therapy are very unpredictable and can cause adverse mutations to subject’s DNA. Jiankui faced heavy criticism from the scientific community regarding the risk involved in this experiment. These experiments were conducted in secret and I believe that if the situation had been more transparent the researchers involved could have been prevented from carrying out the experiment or provided with more tools with which they could have measure risk without the use of human embryos.

These new discoveries and their applications have prompted many discussions regarding the ethics of germline cell gene therapy specifically. Germline cells are sex cells that have the potential to combine and create a zygote during sexual reproduction. If a germline cell with edited DNA were to undergo fertilization all of the resulting organism's cells would have the edited DNA. This technology has the potential to eradicate genetics disease. However, it is shrouded by controversy because of its inherent risk.

Proposal for Action:
Allow federal funds to be used for researching germline cell gene therapy.

Results to be Expected:
If federal funds were allowed to be used for researching germline cell gene therapy it would effectively encourage the practice and reduce the controversy surrounding it. The research will yield either positive or negative results regarding the future of the using the CRISPR technology on germline cells. The results will enable the federal government to draft appropriate legislation regarding the regulation of the practice in order to ensure the safety of the citizens of the United States.
Proposal #550
Author: Lauren Evans, Delegation: Connecticut

Title:
Requiring all U.S. citizens to undergo DNA collection: the results of which will be collected and stored in a national database.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Justification:
The Framers of The Constitution created America’s judicial branch under Article III, approximately 230 years ago. They established an effective system for bringing justice to victims of crime and incarceration to those guilty of crimes. However, they never imagined how advanced technology could become. They never speculated that DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid, a self-replicating material which is present in nearly all living organisms as the main constituent of chromosomes) existed and is unique for every individual. Due to several scientific breakthroughs, DNA can now be collected and used as forensic evidence in many criminal cases.

Never the less, around 10,000 people are still wrongfully convicted every year in the U.S.—and that is only counting the people who were eventually exonerated. In 2018, 40% of murders in the United States went unsolved? But, science says these criminals can easily be incriminated by their own DNA?

Why is such a useful device only used in less than 1% of criminal cases every year? This is because law enforcement does not have every person’s DNA located on a database. They almost never have exact DNA matches in cases because the criminal’s DNA has never been recorded or collected. An effective way to lower the amount of unsolved crimes, help those wrongfully convicted, and provide justice to grieving families is by the creation of a national DNA database that will accurately identify the perpetrators of crimes.

Proposal for Action:

Require all United States citizens to provide their DNA to a mandatory federal database.
1.) Parents/guardians acting on behalf of their children (under 18 years of age) will be required to provide consent to have their child’s DNA collected and added to the federal database.
2.) The DNA collection must be carried out by a licensed practitioner before the child reaches the age of 12 months.
3.) From the date of enactment, existing citizens have 12 months to present themselves for DNA collection. Similarly, in the case of naturalization, these citizens also have 12 months from date of naturalization to present themselves for DNA collection.
4.) This database will be maintained and closely monitored by the Federal Bureau of Investigations to ensure that this information is only collected, recorded, and utilized for lawful purposes by authorized individuals.
5.) DNA samples will be disposed of after all information is entered into the database.
6.) If, after allotted DNA collection period has past, an individual has not presented themselves for collection, they will be notified of their action and be required to pay a monetary fine of $800. After this fine, the individual must present themselves for DNA collection 6 months or legal action will ensue.

Results to be Expected:
Reducing the amount of unsolved crimes and lowering the false-conviction rate in America.
Title:
To reinvigorate the scientific industry of the American government.

Major Areas to be Affected:
NASA, Military

Justification:
As a percentage of national budget, the budget for NASA has significantly declined in the decades since the Cold War. Meanwhile, the defense budget has been on the steady rise, even in times of peace. As a result, the national budget has increasingly been aimed toward protective measures as opposed to progressive ones.

Had scientific funding been maintained at least on par with the funding at the conclusion of the Cold War, almost certainly our space program would be far more advanced than its current status. Estimates predict we would have long reached Mars. If other scientific fields were more extensively funded, production toward renewable energy would be significantly further along and the United States would be closer to a carbon-neutral economy.

Proposal for Action:
Cut $50 billion of the military budget (starting) and redirect it to NASA. This renewed spending will boost the development of new technology and will aim to improve the quality of life in the United States. Each year after FY2020, another $5 billion will be redirected until FY2030. This gives the military time to adjust their expenditures steadily.

The US Govt will also actively search for and initiate public-private partnerships for the purpose of developing the science industry, especially space exploration.

Results to be Expected:
Improvement in our movement toward renewable energy, a renewed interest in space exploration, a new frontier of development on extraterrestrial bodies, a cutting of our militaristic forces
Proposal #005
Author: Lorena Ortiz, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
Enforce recycling in public schools and reduce waste

Major Areas to be Affected:
Public schools, Department of Education, US general public

Justification:
In the few public schools I’ve been to, the one thing I’ll always recall would be the fact that we had recycling bins and a whole program dedicated to school-wide recycling but there was constantly trash in those said recycling bins. It was a bright idea at first that was initially fought for and was upheld for a while but as time went on, it seems that and I’ll put it plainly, no one cares about the state of the planet we live on. Just in the last year, we have had a variety of catastrophic events like the Thousand Oaks Fire, otherwise known as the Woolsey Fire’s, which occurred at the beginning of November 2018 in California, There were the Floridian hurricanes, an Arctic 11-ton iceberg broke off and lead to an evacuation, African floods, record heat temps, and on. These are all climatic events that were out of the ordinary, they weren’t normal. They shouldn’t have happened but they did, and it feels like how something like this usually feels. People feel sentimental when it happens and they have a spark to do something about it, but the time passes and they lose their interest.

Taking the whole city as a factor, there is not a day where I won’t see mounds of trash, especially ones that are harder to break down, and it personally pains me. Now I know you might think I’m a “tree-hugger” stereotype, but I swear I’m not. I understand in today’s day and age, technology is a major part of pop culture and defines this generation, however, I believe that there is too much money spent on it when it could be spent on other important matters like funding for an environmental program through the nations’ public school. Right now, the world spends $13 billion on tech funding while the U.S. has spent $4 billion alone on mobile devices. I think that spending money on technology for educational purposes is justifiable, but some of that billions of dollars could be spent in other departments more closely related to the students.

in a few short years, the earth may be inhabitable and I certainly do not want to see that happen and see this beautiful place I call home gone. I strongly encourage the committee to pass my proposal. Thank you.

Proposal for Action:
Enforce recycling and environmental programs taught by government workers
Reduce waste by having rightfully used recycling bins and being a conscientious citizen
Take money from the budget for electronics ($5 million from $4 billion total) and redirect to being more environmentally cautious and aware
Eventually leading to having the budget for this environmental program is large enough to add solar panels where they can be added to schools, build gardens, etc.

Results to be Expected:
US public school students will be more accustomed and sentient with the education given about environment. As it is being encouraged by the government through the public schools of the country, it is strongly believed that this will lead a good majority to live more conscientious of their role in the world and on the planet. It will want the public to care again about living on such a sensitive, delicate place that has been weakened by all of humanity. I hope that those will find the appreciation and care for it, as well.
Title:
Federal Grants for State Recycling Programs

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (specifically the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery), State Environmental Protection Agencies, Local Governments, Other Entities (ex. Nonprofits and Businesses) Eligible to Receive Grants from States, the Recycling Industry

Justification:
In the United States, the recycling industry accounts for 757,000 jobs, $36.6 billion in wages, and $6.7 billion in tax revenues yearly. Additionally, recycling reduces the harvesting of new non-renewable resources, saves energy, uses less water than producing goods from virgin materials, and reduces mining waste. According to the NIH Environmental Management System, recycling paper can decrease the need to harvest wood by 75%, recycling aluminum takes 95% less energy than making it from raw materials, and using scrap steel instead of virgin ore requires 40% less water and produces 97% less mining waste.

To encourage sustainable environmental practices while reducing the burden of costs related to beginning recycling initiatives, some state governments have programs that provide grants to groups including nonprofits, businesses, cities, counties, tribal governments, and municipal solid waste authorities. Depending on the specific program, recycling-related grants can be used toward researching and developing new products using recycled materials, funding processing equipment or infrastructure needs, increasing public awareness of recycling, and developing new infrastructure or upgrading existing local recycling facilities, and other activities that will result in increased use of recycled materials.

Despite the economic and environmental benefits of recycling, many states, cities, and businesses lack robust recycling programs because they lack the funding needed to start and support these programs. Some states cannot consistently provide grant opportunities while others have to combine money for grants that can be used for recycling projects with the money for grants for general solid waste services. Furthermore, many states completely lack the ability to provide any sort of grant or assistance program to encourage recycling in any capacity.

Proposal for Action:
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would establish a grant managed by the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery to provide funding to states, specifically for recycling related programs. The EPA already has many established grant programs, though none of them focus on supporting state recycling initiatives. Eligibility for grants would be limited to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and other territories of the United States. Funding acquired through this grant would be used exclusively for statewide recycling initiatives and to supplement in-state recycling grant programs. State agencies would apply for funding through applications detailing their work plans, which would be reviewed through a national EPA review process.

Results to be Expected:
With grant funding obtained from approved applications, states could begin or expand their own statewide recycling programs or in-state recycling grant programs. Through such programs, states could enable cities or other divisions of local government to begin recycling programs. Beyond the effect of recycling grants on government agencies, expanding the recycling industry could increase employment opportunities, create revenue for state and local governments, reduce the amount of waste going to landfills, and promote sustainability and environmentally-friendly practices.
Title:
A proposal to enact the implementation of plastic coated aggregat (PCA) as a replacement asphalt for roads

Major Areas to be Affected:
Environment, infrastructure, health and safety; road construction workers, asphalt/material producers

Justification:
Four years in one of the most environmentally challenged areas (multiple monsoons, high heat, flooding, high road population/use), it has no developed potholes, cracks, rutting, raveling, or edge flaws. These “plastic roads” have significantly higher heat tolerance (30 degrees), double the tensile strength, recycles millions of tons of plastic waste, and 8 to 50% less cost. The federal highway system has a building cost $521 billion dollars, as well as a four lane highway having a maintenance cost of $1.25 million dollars and 4-6 lane highways have one of roughly $4 million per mile- repairs and maintenance which need to be done AT LEAST annually. If implemented, could save the country $260.5 billion, as well as a roughly $61 billion annual repair rate at the lowest possible annual rate, not even including the price for non-interstate highway roads. Also, on an individually affected area, potholes and road damage alone cost US drivers an estimated $3 billion annually. Not only that, but due to “poor” or “worse” roads, 11,000 to 14,000 people die annually in crashes. Millions of cars are damaged, especially in high density urban areas, where drivers are often people of limited means that can’t afford to pay these costs out of pocket.

Proposal for Action:
Propose that the government replace all asphalt used in road creation, maintenance, and repair to PCA mixed asphalt. In areas with a population of 100,000 (definition of a “large city”), require roads to be entirely replaced with PCA mixed asphalt (to save lives and cost immediately).

Results to be Expected:
Annual deaths from car crashes decrease by a guaranteed at least 33% (11k to 14k out of 33k deaths), with decreases as roads become safer and less deaths occur without bad roads influencing them
Annual hospital fees to be reduced by $11.4 billion from accidents directly caused by poor roads
Annually $68 billion saved from road repair fees
Annually American drivers save $3 billion from damage caused by bad roads
Prevent federal bill to fund new road infrastructure to be built, saving the U.S.
Title:
Decreasing methane emissions by giving subsidies to farmers who feed their cows seaweed

Major Areas to be Affected:
The EPA, cows, seaweed farmers, dairy farmers, all humans

Justification:
Methane emissions are the 2nd largest contributor to climate change, trapping 85 times more heat than CO2 emissions. The biggest contributor to methane emissions is livestock, with cattle showing the highest rates of methane production. American cows produce 120 million grams of methane per year, and over the past twenty years methane production has increased by 400 percent. If these numbers continue to rise as expected, the Earth will see major negative impacts on global climate, biodiversity, and human health.

Studies in California, Pennsylvania, Canada, and Australia have proven that when just 2% of a cow’s diet contains dried asparagopsis taxiformis seaweed, the cow’s methane emissions decrease by an average of 70%. This is because asparagopsis seaweed contains a chemical called bromoform (CHBr3) that interferes with the microbial digestive enzymes responsible for methane creation.

Incorporating seaweed into cows’ diets not only has environmental benefits, but benefits for farmers and cows as well. Methane production in cows is wasted energy that otherwise would increase food productivity and digestion efficiency for the cow. Decreased methane production also increases milk production. Seaweed availability is not an issue; globally, over 25 million tons of seaweed are currently farmed (over 2 times that of lemons) and this number can feasibly be increased if necessary because seaweed cultivation can take place both at seas and on land. Seaweed’s cultivation absorbs excess nitrogen and dissolved carbon dioxide, thus benefiting the waters it is cultivated in.

Proposal for Action:
The Federal Government will amend the Clean Air Act (CAA) to give subsidies to farmers and who report to the use of asparagopsis seaweed in at least 2% of their cattle’s diets. The CAA Compliance Monitoring Program will determine strategies to monitor farmer’s use of seaweed and the CAA Compliance Assistance program will be responsible for providing farmers with the resources they need to either a) connect them to seaweed farms or b) instructions on how to manage their own seaweed cultivation.

Results to be Expected:
Methane emissions from cows will significantly decrease, the effects of climate change will be lessened, farmers will have more capital to expand their use of seaweed as a result of subsidies, cows will increase their milk production and food/energy efficiency, the ecosystems surrounding cultivated seaweed will be healthier as a result of decreased extraneous carbon and nitrogen in waters, increased seaweed farming industry.
Proposal #091
Author: Alec Spano, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
An Act to Reduce Air Pollution

Major Areas to be Affected:
Car Manufacturing
Livestock
Fertilizer Production

Justification:
The chemical most present in the polluted air of the eastern and middle United States as well as eastern China is Nitrogen which is released due to agricultural cultivation including fertilizer breakdown and livestock husbandry. Presently in the cattle and calf livestock industry 1.1% of all farms of livestock hold over 1000 heads of cattle and despite that small percentage these farms contain 34.5% of all cattle and calves in the industry. In the hog and pig industry this is better demonstrated in that 62.4% of all hogs and pigs are owned on 0.8% of operations and these operations oversee more than 5000 hogs and pigs each. These massive numbers of cattle necessitate factory farming, the most economically favorable -but morally deplorable- process. This process also creates an excess amount of nitrogen in concentrated areas contributing to air pollution as aforementioned. Another large contributor to the nitrogen pollution of both the United States and Eastern Asia is nitrogen fertilizer as it is the most common fertilizer at approximately 117 billion tons to be used this year for agricultural cultivation. Though chemical fertilizers increase crop production, their overuse has hardened the soil, decreased fertility and strengthened pesticides. During the Obama administration a number of policies were enacted which mandated that cars and light trucks approximately double their gas mileage by 2025 and the EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has since stated that this demand is too stringent.

Proposal for Action:
In order to address the large air pollution issues of both agricultural countries and vehicle oriented nations, it is a necessity that these industries be regulated. Both as a moral and as a protective effort, the size of livestock herds must be reduced. Nitrogen fertilizer is generally produced as either natural or chemical fertilizer and natural fertilizers are sometimes more commonly referred to as slow release fertilizers. This is due to the nature of these fertilizers to release their chemicals slowly as opposed to the nature of dense nitrogen salts present in chemical fertilizers. These nitrogen salts dry out soil and leave it hard and progressively difficult to farm as more crops are harvested and fertilizer added. The solution to this problem is that chemical fertilizers must eventually be substituted for slow release fertilizers despite the higher cost and increased complexity potentially incurred by this process. Slow release fertilizers are those as their name implies, fertilizers which releases their nutrients slower through natural and organic processes that may differ depending on the soil. As with all changes it will certainly be difficult at first to adjust to new circumstances, but slow release organic fertilizers will aid to sustain a healthy agricultural system. This conservation effort shall require that all automobile manufacturers drastically improve the mileage of their vehicles in order to reduce emissions and their use of precious fossil fuels. All gas automobiles need to get over fifty miles per gallon in order for them to be viable and to aid in cutting fuel emissions. Increasing fuel economy will slow the draw upon fossil fuels and as less fuel is burned less emissions shall be released into the atmosphere.

Results to be Expected:
By placing a limit upon the number of animals able to be kept by a person or company as stock, emissions will be lowered and morality within the industry improved. Organic slow-release fertilizer will result in healthier crops and soil as well as mitigating if not stopping the contamination of underground water sources after an adjustment period during which the most efficient process shall be determined. By mandating automobile manufacturers worldwide to increase gas mileage to 50 mpg the emissions output due to automobiles shall be greatly reduced thus slowing the rate at which the air and the atmosphere of earth is contaminated.
Proposal #099
Author: Azia Greenman, Delegation: Michigan

Title:
Beef With Beef

Major Areas to be Affected:
The agriculture and food industries, American consumers, the green economy

Justification:
Climate change is a rapidly advancing global crisis that threatens every species on the planet. According to recent measurements, atmospheric carbon dioxide has reached levels that far exceed what was in the air during any climate event in the last 400,000 years, according to NASA. These levels are tied to severe weather, the acidification of the oceans, rising sea levels, and the displacement and/or extinction of numerous species of plants and animals. As one of the top five countries for carbon emissions per capita, it is the United States’ responsibility to act on the climate crisis and address its net emissions. The EPA states that one of the United States’ main sources of greenhouse gas emissions is the animal agriculture industry, which produces large amounts of potent and concentrated pollutants, such as methane, which is notably more effective at trapping energy in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. The environmentally negative impacts of livestock production aren’t limited to its pollutants, either. The livestock production process is the largest consumer of potable water on the planet, as well as one of the leading causes of deforestation, and one of the biggest consumers of land on the planet. The average American consumes roughly 345 dollars worth of beef per year, according to the National Chicken Council. At this rate, a 15 cent tax on each pound of beef could raise nearly 17 billion dollars for climate restoration efforts, while only increasing the cost of beef by 52 dollars per year per person. By taxing an everyday environmentally harmful item, such as beef, not only can funding be secured for further research into how to adequately address climate change, but emissions can also be decreased by encouraging Americans to purchase less of it.

Proposal for Action:
Implement a federal tax on beef products to secure funding for environmentally beneficial technology, jobs, etc.

Results to be Expected:
Funds secured from the tax will be used to further implement green energy methods, increasing the number of jobs needed for the field, while decreasing net emissions. Additionally, decreased consumption of beef can decrease the country’s net emissions while simultaneously improving the health of many Americans, as beef is a group one carcinogen and consumption of it is a known cause of various other conditions.
Title:
Utilizing the Textile Waste Created by The Modern Fashion Industry

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Environmental Protection Agency, fashion retailers and producers, waste-to-energy power plants

Justification:
More than 15 million tons of used textile waste is generated each year in the United States, and the amount has doubled over the last 20 years. This figure is held up by the fact that as a country we use our clothing for only a quarter of the time that the rest of the world does. This high consumption rate has only done damage to the environment and pollution rates. However, much of this waste is not directly caused by the consumer, much of this waste is caused by the retailers and producers of modern garments. An article published by the New York Times gives a clear example of how this waste is being produced intentionally by these retailers and producers, “In the bitter cold on Monday night, a man and woman picked apart a pyramid of clear trash bags, the discards of the H&M clothing store that reigns in blazing plate-glass glory on 34th Street, just east of Sixth Avenue in Manhattan.” It is practices such as these that serve as the core issue for the generation of this waste.

Proposal for Action:

In an effort to utilize and manage the waste generated by the fashion industry, waste-to-energy plants across the country will be outfitted to receive and manage incoming textile waste generated by retailers and producers. A committee to oversee and manage the outfitting of these facilities will be created and managed under the Environmental Protection Agency. Retailers will be responsible for delivering textile waste to waste-to-energy plants. Upon the processing of these waste products at the waste-to-energy plant's government subsidies will be provided to the retailer or producer that has provided the textile waste for processing to incentivize transporting the waste to a waste-to-energy plant for processing. Any textile material deemed acceptable by the energy-to-waste facilities can be transported from a landfill to an energy-to-waste plant by the landfill responsible for the waste. Government subsidies will be provided to the landfills responsible for transporting the waste to the facility. All generated power will be distributed by the waste-to-energy plant to the surrounding communities.

Results to be Expected:

By using the textile waste and excess clothes generated by companies more power can be generated for surrounding communities, as well as reducing the amount of textile waste thrown away by retailers and in landfills. This proposal will also reduce the need for coal-based power methods. Because of this, the pollution created by coal-based power plants will decrease due to the fact that textile products let off lower emissions than coal when used to generate power.
Title:

A proposal to save recycling in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:

Waste management companies, the Environmental Protection Agency

Justification:

Since the Environmental Movement in the 1960s and 1970s, recycling became a common household practice. Since the invention of single-stream recycling, or a system in which all paper fibers, plastics, metals, and other containers are mixed in a collection truck, instead of being sorted by the depositor into separate commodities, curbside recycling has never been easier. For decades, the United States shipped the majority of its recyclable goods to China in order for them to compensate for its manufacturing boom. This created an industry heavy on foreign trade with little infrastructure to handle recycling in the U.S. However, in 2017 China passed its “New Sword” regulations not only banning certain types of recyclable materials from being imported but also creating incredibly strict guidelines that most distributors did not follow. China enacted this in order to lessen their environmental impacts as a nation; prior to this, China processed almost two-thirds of the world’s plastics, with the U.S. being the second highest importer after Japan. Under this policy, 24 types of foreign waste were banned from import, and those allowed must be in pristine condition that American curbside recycling simply does not account for. This created a void for all U.S. recyclables. The United States only recycles about 9% of the plastics consumed, and the average American produces 4 to 6 pounds of trash every day. Waste collectors are attempting to sell their recyclables to places like Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, however, these countries do not have the means necessary to process all the materials and have begun refusing to import. Since the ban, the price of recycling has increased and the industry has almost hit a standstill. Now, most products left in curbside bins are taken to the landfill, put in natural environments, or are incinerated. All of these methods are destructive to the environment. The landfill leaves items to degrade and eventually pollute rainwater, whereas increasing causes harmful gasses to be realized into the atmosphere. Every disposal method is not only destroying ecosystems and animal species but is additionally contributing to climate change as a whole. In local communities, recycling is still collected meaning that citizens are unaware of the larger problem. By increasing recycling production in the U.S., significant amounts of waste could be processed therefore lessening the waste produced, destroying ecosystems, and releasing carbon emissions. Additionally, by recycling in-house, the U.S. can decrease part of their export carbon emissions.

Proposal for Action:

1. Create a low-interest loan program through the Environmental Protection Agency for recycling plants.
   a. The loan program will be monitored by the EPA’s Office of Grants and Debarment
      i. Each borrower will be audited during the loan process. Any violation of the terms set between the borrower and EPA will result in termination of the loan.
   b. The loan applicants will be those wishing to start a recycling program that actually processes the waste into raw materials and will be selected by the EPA through an application process. Both companies and local governments can apply.
      i. Based on that review, the EPA loan program proposes terms and conditions for the project and negotiates with the applicant until they develop a mutually agreeable term sheet and loan agreement.
      ii. To establish the interest rate on the date of the loan closing, the EPA program will identify the Treasury rates through the use of the daily rate tables published by the Bureau of the Public Debt for State and Local Government Series (SLGS) investments.
   c. Loan Funding will come from the EPA’s Environmental Programs and Management.

Results to be Expected:

A long-term solution more established recycling industry in the United States that will ultimately decrease plastic consumption and production, therefore, decreasing carbon emissions.
Title:

To promote the common defense of the United States against extreme environmental hazards as posed by Global Climate Change.

Major Areas to be Affected:

United State Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Defense, Federal Emergency Management Agency, population of the United States living in areas vulnerable to climate change, general population of the United States

Justification:

Since the onset of the first industrial revolution in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the climate of the planet Earth has seen increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and a warming trend that is overwhelmingly associated -- overwhelmingly being defined as “greater than 95 percent probability” in this instance using data from the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) -- with human activity. Estimations range of when this trend firmly begun, but recent studies published in the journal Nature conclude that the 1830s are the likely origination point of when human emission of greenhouse gases began having a definitive warming effect on the global climate.

According to Climate Analytics and data from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, the Earth’s surface temperature had already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial averages, with 2015 itself being the hottest year in approximately 11,000 years. In addition, the rate of change at which the global temperature is rising is increasing exponentially. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the average rate of change from 1901 to 2017 was 0.7-0.9°C per century; from 1975 to 2017, that rate of change increased to approximately double, at 1.5-1.9°C per century. Multinational agreements, most recently in the form of The Paris Agreement, have come to the consensus that avoiding a net change of 2°C above pre-industrial temperature levels is necessary, with a net change of less than 1.5°C being preferable, for preventing numerous negative consequences to global ecosystems and populations.

As laid out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there is a high scientific confidence in “climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth” and “impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction” among other effects, as well as medium confidence in “hot extremes in most inhabited regions,” “heavy precipitation in several regions,” and “probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions” -- all of which are likely to lead or exasperate the previously mentioned high confidence results of climate change -- among other effects.

Combined with numerous reversible and irreversible human driven changes to ecosystems, the rising global temperatures will pose an “immediate risk” to the national security of the United States; the stance outline previously is supported by the Department of Defense, the National Resources Defense Council, the World Resources Institute, and the Council on Foreign Relations among numerous other organizations.

A limited selection of immediate effects of global climate change on the national security of the United States are outlined by the World Wildlife Foundation as follows: an increase in wildfires in number, duration, and intensity -- as of 2015, the area burned annually by wildfires had doubled from 1985; an increasing number of short-term droughts which threaten large areas of the American Southwest, Great Plains, and Southeast, which in turn directly threaten American agricultural production capability and populated areas within these respective regions; more extreme weather phenomenon off of the Atlantic Coast, including hurricanes and tropical storms; increased inland flooding of urban and rural areas as a result of heavy precipitation events, including numerous events which have broken local, state, and national precipitation records; and loss of habitable coastal land due to coastal flooding directly correlated with rising sea levels caused by increasing global temperatures. Of these consequences, many are expected to be irreversible and worsened as a result of continually increasing global greenhouse gas emissions and temperature increases. As concluded by the IPCC, NASA, NOAA, and the Paris Agreement, preventing a global temperature increase of 1.5-2.0°C would dampen the effects of these numerous consequences.

Even so, the United States has failed to meet recommended guidelines for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. According to the
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, the United States’s net emissions of greenhouse gases declined 12% from 2005 to 2017; furthermore, the Center estimates that by 2025, net emissions will have declined by at maximum 18% from 2005 levels, which is stated as being “far less than what is needed to address climate change.” Furthermore, as reported by the United States Energy Information Administration, the actions of the most recent presidential administration have contributed to greenhouse gas emissions increasing in the year 2018, reversing a three year long decreasing trend. While not expected to increase further in 2019, there is no expected decrease in greenhouse gas emissions at a national level.

**Proposal for Action:**

1). The Office of Civil Defense is to be re-founded. Duties of the Office of Civil Defense that were absorbed into the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1979, as pursuant to Executive Order 12148, are to be assigned to the Office of Civil Defense.

2). The Office of Civil Defense is to be assigned duties relating to the preparation of the United States against extreme climate related phenomena outside of the scope of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

2a). The duties assigned to the Office of Civil Defense shall include but not be limited to the following: the creation and execution of preemptive community programs aimed at reducing the human and economic cost of extreme climate events; the construction of long-term and short-term shelters capable of housing communities and populated areas in the event of a climate event rendering normally habitable zones inhabitable; the execution of training exercises among the general population on a regular basis as to reduce confusion and possibly destructive incidents in the event that a rapid response to a climate change event is needed; the acclimation of the general population to the possibility of such events in the next century.

3). The Office of Civil Defense is suggested as being funded through an appropriation of funds from the Department of Defense, although this suggestion is not binding.

4). The Office of Civil Defense is to perpetually exist until a point where net increases in global temperatures are predicted to not exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, or the United States is to have eliminated 90% of national greenhouse gas emissions.

**Results to be Expected:**

By re-establishing the Office of Civil Defense, the general population of the United States is to be inoculated against any climate related phenomena which may threaten the national security of the United States or disturb the general welfare of the United States. The inoculation expected shall occur on both a societal level, acclimating the general population to the concept of frequent catastrophic climate events, which in turn shall reduce societal upheaval when these events occur, and in a physical manner, creating the mechanisms necessary to protect the minimum population necessary to carry on the existence of the United States against climate change events; in doing so, the United States shall be fulfilling its constitutionally prescribed goal of providing for the common defense of the United States against threats to its people and its existence. Given that such phenomena are to be of increasing frequency, and the national and global response to climate change is lacking, it is foreseeable that the Office of Civil Defense will be required to execute its mission for numerous generations.
Proposal #184
Author: Jack Schneeman, Delegation: Texas

Title:
To educate and inform about the economic and environmental impacts of climate change on American citizens, as well as discuss and analyze potential solutions.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States Government, US citizens, anything related to fossil fuels

Justification:
The biggest factor in climate change is the emission of carbon dioxide, which is released by burning fossil fuels. From transportation to energy production, fossil fuels are used, either directly or indirectly, by Americans, and other people across the world, every day. Fossil fuels have a distinctly negative impact on the earth, its environment, and its people. When fossil fuels, such as coal or carbon are burned, they release carbon dioxide, or CO2, into the atmosphere. CO2 traps heat and energy from the sun in the atmosphere, which warms the planet and is the root cause of man-made climate change.

At this point, it's clear that human-caused climate change poses an unparalleled threat to the environment and to the economy of the United States. According to NASA, if climate change is not fixed, there will be several disastrous consequences. Temperatures will continue to rise, precipitation patterns will go haywire, droughts and heatwaves will become more commonplace, hurricanes will become stronger and more frequent, the sea level will rise up to four feet by 2100, and the Arctic will likely become ice-free. But what about the effects that climate change will have on just the United States? Well, in the Northeast, heat waves, heavy rain, and a rising sea level will threaten both infrastructure and agriculture. Ecosystems will be damaged as well. In the Northwest, availability of water resources will be diminished due to changes in the timing of streamflow. Increasing ocean acidity, sea level rise, inundation, and erosion pose major threats to infrastructure and lives of both humans and animals. Wildfires, droughts, and insect waves are causing the death of trees, which threatens the entire Northwestern ecosystem. In the Southeast, extreme heat and sea level rises will affect health, agriculture, and infrastructure. In the Midwest, heat waves, flooding, and heavy rains will affect infrastructure, transportation, health, air and water quality, forestry, and poses a threat to the Great Lakes. Finally, in the Southwest, droughts and heatwaves will propagate wildfires. Furthermore, reduced water supplies and agricultural yields will negatively affect both health and the economy. Health is further threatened by heatwaves, and flooding and erosion are additional concerns.

Furthermore, the economic impact of climate change, both domestically and across the world, will be catastrophic. Economists predict that, if nothing is done, the global gross domestic product will fall 30% by 2100. That's worse than the Great Depression, only this would be permanent.

Proposal for Action:
The easiest way to combat climate change is to make a gradual switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and nuclear. Of these, solar is likely the most viable. First and foremost, solar energy is significantly cheaper than fossil fuels. Because the production of solar energy is cost-effective (solar farms run themselves), the out of pocket cost for those provided with solar energy is nearly free. Many believe that solar energy is not ready for its primetime, but this is not the case. In fact, we could power the entire world with just under 200,000 square miles - which is just barely bigger than the state of California. The technology is ready, but the only thing preventing it from being implemented is taxes on solar energy and subsidies on fossil fuel energy.

Results to be Expected:
If we gradually transition from fossil fuels to solar energy, we can save this planet. By implementing this proposal, the effects of climate change can be gradually reversed, preventing further environmental and economic damage to this country and the planet.
Proposal #225

Author: Juan Sarenpa-Maldonado, Delegation: Minnesota

Title:
Ban all recyclables and 1-time use plastics

Major Areas to be Affected:
Pacific ocean, major corporations

Justification:
Every year, 8 million metric tons of plastic is put into the ocean, and we have no plans to decrease dramatically, or at all. Only 1% of plastic bags are returned for recycling, and the rest end up in landfills. Approximately 1,000 recycling plants in California have been shut down due to recycling contamination crisis. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. It is the job of the nation to stop this from happening.

Proposal for Action:
Ban all single-use plastics and recyclables from all stores.

Results to be Expected:
Stores and the population will focus on climate change. The nation will invest in climate change solutions.
Title:
Phasing Out of Plastic Production in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:
mass plastic producing companies, waste disposal companies, general public

Justification:
In the past 60 years, mass production of plastic has generated 8.3 tons of the durable and non biodegradable material. The catastrophic effects of this mass production are becoming clear as plastic piles up in landfills, streets, and the ocean, affecting our marine life and expediting the destruction of the environment. Many stages of the process of creating plastic create significant issues, including fossil fuel extraction and transportation, air pollution created by the chemical processing plants which convert fossil fuels into plastic, chemical additives in plastic that can leak and contaminate our food and water, and, ultimately, the lack of a way to degrade and dispose of plastic leading to build-up in landfills and oceans. Although the solution that seems to be commonly suggested is recycling, only 9% of plastic is recycled, and much of the plastic generated cannot be economically recycled. The United States is one of the biggest proponents of this issue, with the second largest amount of plastic waste production in the world. In 2019 the United States is predicted to produce 40 million tons of plastic waste. Previously, much of our waste recyclable plastic was sent to China to be disposed of. Now however, China has stopped taking our plastic, leading to a broken recycling system in the United States. Groups and individual states around the United States are working locally to attempt to remedy the problem, but a comprehensive federal legal plan is needed in order to truly begin to solve the plastic problem.

Proposal for Action:
In order to reduce plastic waste in the United States, effective immediately the federal government should:
1. Place a tax on landfills - for every ton of plastic disposed at landfill by consumer/company/waste disposal/etc.
2. Impose fees directly on companies for use of plastic packaging. The funding from the fees would go towards:
   i. Extending and renovating US recycling system
   ii. Scientific research regarding alternatives and solutions to the overuse of plastic (ie. advancement of microbes that degrade plastic and biodegradables)
3. Ban on single-use plastic items with non-plastic alternatives (ie, straws, plastic cutlery)
   Over the next 10 years the funding from these immediate changes will go towards revamping the recycling system and innovation into biodegradable and ways to cleanup the ever growing trash pile up in our marine life. By 2030 the federal government will facilitate companies to:
   1. Terminate the production of plastic items with any non-plastic alternatives in favor of biodegradables and other alternatives
   2. Revamp the recycling system through:
      i. Collection: many places in rural areas do not have access to collection of recyclables. The new system could involve contracting private companies that service rural areas (ie. the startup Recyclops)
      ii. Sorting: using enhanced item-recognition technology, sorting of recyclables can be done using computer programing and AI, to ensure rapid and reliable sorting.

Results to be Expected:
It is impossible to change the entire system of plastic waste production and recycling overnight. First, the regulations and fees on plastic producing companies, and the tax on landfills, will incentivise companies to reduce plastic production and will fund money for scientific innovation in the area and for renovating the flawed recycling and waste management system. Over the next 10 years the federal government will renovate the recycling system and will push companies towards phasing out of plastic usage and production in favor of biodegradables. With technological advancement and new regulations, the mass production of plastic in the United States can be halted, allowing for a focus on the already enormous buildup of plastic in our marine environments.
Proposal #334

Author: Samantha Dreussi, Delegation: Tennessee

Title:
A Proposal to Eliminate Agricultural Subsidies

Major Areas to be Affected:
Farm owners, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), tax payers.

Justification:
Agricultural subsidies are a misuse of taxpayer money. The $20 billion used for subsidies redistribute wealth upward and mainly go to already high-earning households. The average income of all farm households was $117,918 in 2016, which is 42 percent higher than the average American. Subsidies also do not fulfill their purpose in helping struggling farmers because large farms are much more intensely subsidized than small farms, receiving $29 per acre in comparison to the $12 per acre of small farms. Subsidies also encourage farmers to misuse land and work less effectively to receive more subsidies. They also contribute to overproduction of land which contributes to misuse of land and excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Proposal for Action:
All current federal agricultural subsidy programs will be phased out over a period of ten years.
The $20 billion previously allotted to agricultural subsidies will be redistributed in the federal government.

Formation of a federal grant program regulated by the USDA to low-income farmers. Applicants will be required to fit the definition of a limited-resource farmer and make a commitment to sustainable farming practices as defined by the USDA.
The funds for this program will be drawn by the money previously allocated to agricultural subsidies.

Results to be Expected:
Title:
To decrease the amount of plastic waste in the United States by way of a recycled diesel.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Justification:
It has become apparent that the United States has a major problem with pollution in the form of plastic waste. In 2013, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash and recycled only 34.3% of said waste, sending over 194 million tons of trash to landfills all around the United States. Pollution is already a major epidemic across the country, and will only increase as time goes on. However, with the practice of converting plastics to diesel becoming increasingly popular, the amount of plastic found in landfills has begun to show an unexpected decrease. The actual conversion of plastic to diesel occurs in two main steps; the first of which is the change of plastic into oil by way of a Waste Plastic Pyrolysis Plant. A Waste Plastic Pyrolysis Plant is the device used to change plastic waste into an oil that can then be converted into a functional recycled diesel. The second step is where the oil is actually converted and made into the final product. The oil is processed thoroughly in different distillation equipment before becoming a fully modified, usable, and recycled diesel. With this proposal enacted, the amount of plastic waste would decrease dramatically, which in turn would benefit the overall health of American wildlife, as well as reduce the total amount of emissions produced by landfill centers.

Proposal for Action:
Between January 2020 and December 2029, there will be a systematic conversion of machinery in all United States owned and regulated diesel plants to acquire the tools and means necessary to produce a recycled diesel. In January 2030, the plants will then be required to convert from the making of the original product to the use and production of an environmentally friendly diesel made up of recycled plastics. In addition, also requiring all United States landfills to divvy out the appropriate amount of plastics needed to sustain the demand for diesel.

Results to be Expected:
With the decrease in overall waste in the United States, the condition of our environments would begin to become cleaner and healthier. Along with the prosperity of our ecosystems, we could also see a drop in the cost of clean-up efforts that are not as high in demand because of decreased pollution. While there may be an upfront cost in the proper machinery not already provided by existing diesel plants, there is also the potential for costs of diesel production to lower, as the resource used to create the fuel (plastic waste) is readily available and free for the country to use. This proposal does not contain any costs that would drastically affect the United States's debt, nor does it pose any potential threats to the state of the economy.
Proposal #381
Author: Kara Luster, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
Mandatory Switch for all Brewing Companies in the U.S to Produce Biodegradable Six-Pack Rings

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S brewing industry and marine life

Justification:
In 2015, scientists estimated that around 90 percent of all seabirds have ingested some amount of plastic. UNESCO estimates that 100,000 marine mammals die because of plastic pollution each year. This being 4 years ago, the number of marine life affected by six-pack rings has only continued to increase exponentially. For example: on April 2nd, 2019, a dead pregnant sperm whale washed up on the shore on Italy’s Island of Sardinia. When scientists and veterinarians cut open her womb, they discovered nearly 50 pounds of plastic waste jammed into her stomach. Currently, it is estimated that there are 100 million tons of plastic in oceans around the world. The plastic that ends up in the oceans then, sometimes, blocks food from traveling from the stomach to the intestine in animals, essentially starving the animal. Other times, sharp edges poke holes in their internal organs. The only way to fix the amount of animals who are dying every year is to go to the root of the problem: plastic. By using the product named E6PR, the amount of plastic will be reduced. E6PR is a product made of wheat and barley, both of which are edible if exposed to marine life.

Proposal for Action:
All brewing companies in the U.S must switch to biodegradable 6 pack rings. These rings known as E6PR are composed from the byproducts of beer: wheat and barley.
The biodegradable rings will at first be manufactured in a factory in Mexico, but will be obtainable from a company created in the U.S at the end of 2022.
All brewing companies will have until the end of 2020 to begin to switch over to the biodegradable 6 pack rings, the first penalty for not showing significant proof of decreased plastic ring production and implementation of biodegradable rings will be a $250,000 fine.
If the breweries do not switch over to the biodegradable 6 pack rings by the end of 2022, then all manufacturing and distribution licences for the company will be revoked.
Companies may also not choose to opt out of creating rings for their alcohol and switching to only cardboard containers. If production of cardboard materials is increased over the use of biodegradable materials, the company will be fined $500,000.
Companies will be responsible for sending their product evaluation sheets that show the numbers of biodegradable 6 pack rings that are created to a committee tbd
Companies will also sign an agreement to allow the committee (tbd) to conduct inspections.

Results to be Expected:
The use of the E6PR will reduce the amount of plastic products exposed to marine life. By starting the switch to biodegradable products, the revolution of new biodegradable products will not only be promoted but established more as a dominate product.
Title:

An act to illegalize the personal and commercial use, production, and distribution of glyphosate-based herbicides in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Americans citizens, herbicide distributors and producers, herbicide consumers.

Justification:

Right now it is not illegal to use, sell, or make glyphosate-herbicides in the United States of America. Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum systemic herbicide. It was reported by a committee of scientists working for the International Agency for Research on Cancer that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic. This ban of glyphosate needs to be implemented now to stop the health complications that are leading to major health complications and death among Americans.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal will ban all glyphosate products from use in the United States of America. And all production of glyphosate products will cease. All current glyphosate products will be turned over to local law enforcement.

Results to be Expected:

Health complications due to glyphosate exposure will cease to exist in the United States. Air and soil quality will improve, and other more natural herbicides will be used.
Title:
The beginnings of an American movement to combat climate change

Major Areas to be Affected:
The expansion of these programs would increase the ability for the private market to utilize renewable energy sources. The amount of pollution and greenhouse emissions on a national level would significantly decrease.

Justification:
The United States is the second largest greenhouse gas contributor in the world. This proposal is not meant to solve the entirety of global climate change, but it will start the reduction of the impact America has on climate change. The science behind climate change is irrefutable. Climate change should not be a partison issue, but unfortunately it has become one. Regardless, it still needs to be addressed.

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere that would otherwise disperse into space. This increasingly trapped heat can raise and cause fluctuations in temperatures around the world. Greenhouse gases come in many forms such as nitrous oxide and methane, but by far the most abundant of the gases is carbon dioxide. The world’s carbon dioxide level has reached its highest level in 800,000 years at just over 410 ppm. At the beginning of the industrial revolution, the carbon dioxide levels were at about 285 ppm. To put this in perspective, the carbon dioxide fluctuation levels in the past 800,000 years has never exceeded 300 ppm. However, it seems we have not only exceeded 300 ppm, but 400ppm in the past 150 years. The evidence for human impact on the climate is undeniable.

Proposal for Action:
The United States would begin funding agencies such as NASA and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) for the development of practical technologies that can be used with renewable energy sources and storage i.e. batteries, tubines etc. Further funding would be granted to these agencies to prepare for further development of changing the primary energy source from fossil fuels to renewables. This would include plans of construction of solar fields, wind farms, etc. and the management of such operations as well. The estimated cost of the subsidized innovation is ranged from $100-200 billion.

Results to be Expected:
Much of the damage already caused by humans is irreversible, but with this new policy, America would begin to reduce their impact on climate change. After this, more countries would hopefully follow as well.
Proposal #576

Author: Samira Mudd, Delegation: Maryland

Title:
To create a more efficient tracking system for food products which increased traceability of foods.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Food growers, producers, and distributors, consumers, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture

Justification:
Because of the increased use of pesticides and antibiotics in agriculture there has been an increasing amount of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. These bacteria are resistant to antibiotics and the human immune system. In order to effectively combat such bacteria which could create new illnesses and potentially harm a large portion of the population, the FDA and CDC have to be able to find the source of the bacteria, which involves being able to trace the contaminated food back to its origin. Two of the most common antibiotic-resistant bacteria are Salmonella and Campylobacter, which cause an estimated 410,000 cases per year. About 1 in 6 Americans get sick from foodborne illnesses per year, with about 128,000 having to be hospitalized and 3,000 dying. Although the United States has a basic plan for food tracking, it has been largely ineffectual in allowing the CDC and FDA to efficiently track and contain such bacteria during foodborne illness outbreaks in the past. By strengthening the program already in place, such illnesses could be prevented from spreading so easily and could also assist medical researchers in finding new ways to combat resistant bacteria. This is because they would be able to study the environment in which it grew to be resistant, and from there could draw conclusions about how to prevent the growth of such bacteria moving forward.

Proposal for Action:
Tighten regulations outlined by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 to include within the FSMA:

1. Food producers, must keep records of who they distribute to, what product, and when, for a minimum of one year.

2. Have all the producers, distributors, and sellers included in this proposal switch from a paper/receipt system to a computerized/technological one as it is more efficient and manageable. This would be a barcode printed on some part of the food product packaging.

3. Stipulate that distributors must keep the records of where food is bought from food producers past the current 180 day limit, and instead for at least a year.

4. Restaurants must keep records of what produce and meat, poultry, or fish was bought, from what distributor or grower, and when it was delivered.

5. Individual growers at farmers markets must keep track of the quantity of individual products they sell and what it is.

6. Create Animal ID laws:
   a. Packaged meat, poultry and fish must have a barcode, the same kind as on produce, on the packaging.
   b. Unpackaged meat and poultry and fish being sold must have an ID tag on it.

7. During all investigations into a food outbreak, food producers must allow the CDC, FDA, and other organizations working with them to investigate their farms as long as the investigation does not halt their distribution of food for more than a week. They may still continue to care for animals and plants on their properties such as milking cows, removing chicken eggs from coops, and harvesting produce...
during the necessary time; however, they cannot then sell the product of that collection nor slaughter any animals within the time during which the investigation is underway during that weeks time period.

a. If there is a contamination found on the premises, the regulatory organizations will follow the procedure already in place as to how to deal with it.

Results to be Expected:

Easier containment of contaminated foods and faster eradication of the diseases or illnesses because of earlier identification of the source of the foods. This can also allow research scientists to understand what the bug has become resistant to or why it spread so quickly in order to prevent future recurrences. It will ease the job of the FDA or CDC if a food is found to be contaminated because they will not have to spend as long searching for the origin and thus a containment and treatment plan.
Proposal #006
Author: Sumaiya Manjra, Delegation: Arizona

Title:
Add a Term Limit for Justices on the Supreme Court

Major Areas to be Affected:
American People, Congress, Supreme Court

Justification:
A lifetime tenure of the Supreme Court means nine people hold a seat in the highest court of these United States for as long as they please, unless nature takes its course. Allowing people to serve for so long allows them to push their political agendas through what is considered to be a non partisan judiciary. As people age they tend to lose their working capacity, which can affect their ability to make important decisions. An important part of being a Justice is to check the constitutionality of a proposed bill by congress. Because people, society, and ideals change, it is important to have people in the court representing that.

The Supreme Court has been divided by this day and ages harsh political scene. It is important to make sure the court remains nonpartisan. To ensure this a term limit must be set in place.

Proposal for Action:
End a term at 18 years maximum. No qualifications will change. Can only serve for one term.

Results to be Expected:
Each justice will serve for a maximum of eighteen years. Justices will be more aware and up to date with current technology and other advances. There will be less of a political bias in the court.
Title:
A proposal to repeal mandatory minimum sentencing for nonviolent drug crimes in the United States.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The US Criminal Justice System, US Department of Justice, US Bureau of Prisons, inmates currently convicted for drug crimes

Justification:
Statutory mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes - set by congress, not judges, are a minimum number of years that a person must serve based on the amount of drugs in their possession. Mandatory minimums took effect in the 1980s in an effort to fight the crack cocaine epidemic. The amounts of drugs that can trigger a substantial sentence, such as 5-10 years without parole, are often lower than the amount a high level drug trafficker would handle. For example, a drug offender could receive five years in federal prison for selling as little as five grams of crack cocaine. Five grams might be only 25 doses of crack, depending on purity, worth a few hundred dollars. This is not what high level traffickers are involved in. In a report issued in 1995, the U.S. Sentencing Commission found that only 11% of federal drug trafficking defendants were major traffickers. More than half were low level offenders. This means that non-violent drug offenders are being affected by these sentences, rather than the high level drug traffickers that the United States wants to take down.

These minimum sentences were intended to deter drug use with harsh sentences but they have led to a surge of non-violent drug offenders in federal prison without any chance of parole. Mandatory minimum sentences increase the number of inmates in the already overcrowded prison system. The average federal prison is overcrowded by 36%. In some correctional institutions, the inmate population has been 50% over the rated capacity. In 2013, more people were sent to federal prison under drug charges than for any other crimes and nearly half of all current federal prisoners are serving sentences for drug crimes.

Proposal for Action:
Repeal all statutory mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug-related federal crimes. Federal judges will be given discretion in sentencing for drug-related crimes. Inmates currently serving time for these laws will have the opportunity to be appeal and be reevaluated by a judge.

Results to be Expected:
This proposal would reduce minimum sentences for drug crimes, resulting in fewer people in prison for a fewer number of years, and saving the United States billions of dollars. Moreover, when the minimum sentences are reduced, offenders currently serving in federal prison will be able to appeal for a reduced sentence. This will eventually remove even more inmates for the overcrowded federal prisons, saving the United States even more money.
Proposal #069  
Author: Morgan Hughes, Delegation: Louisiana

Title:  
Defending America’s Defendants

Major Areas to be Affected:  
U.S. Federal Court System; State Court Systems; Defendants; Attorneys

Justification:  
Following domestic terrorist events during the 1990s, the federal government took aggressive measures to curtail and prevent terrorism. In 1996, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) was passed with the purpose to “deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, [and] provide for an effective death penalty.” While many components of this legislation did fulfill this goal, one provision of this act has created an unintended consequence.

Title I of the AEDPA places tremendous restrictions on the federal court system’s ability to review appeals cases and grant writs of habeas corpus. The writ of habeas corpus is referred to as the “Great Writ” due to its wide-reaching effects and protections. For example, under habeas corpus provisions, a defendant may have his conviction overturned if he is able to prove his confession was forced.

However, under AEDPA, federal courts are only allowed to grant such relief if the actions of the State Court:
(1) “resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as determined by the Supreme Court of the United States; or
(2) resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in the State court proceeding” (Statute 1219 D).

These denials of habeas corpus relief are not simply denials of legal motions; they hold grave consequences. As publicized through the docu-series “Making a Murder,” at the age of 16 Brendan Dassey confessed to the murder and sexual assault of a local woman. However, Dassey had a reported IQ of 73, making him easily susceptible to suggestion, and provided this confession after hours of interrogation where he had no lawyer or parent present. Judge Ilana Rovner, who heard Dassey’s appeal, described his case as a “profound miscarriage of justice,” but, due to AEDPA, it was not able to be overturned. Given the Supreme Court declined to hear his case, Dassey will continue to serve a life sentence.

Dassey’s case is not a unique one. While an expedited appeals process can be beneficial in terrorism cases, these same provisions now affect all U.S. citizens sentenced in state and federal courts. A 2007 study found that, of the 2384 non-capital filings since AEDPA’s passage, only 7 received any form of relief.

Proposal for Action:  
Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 will be revised to allow federal courts to grant writs of habeas corpus during any appeals case.

Results to be Expected:  
By upholding the Constitutional standard of habeas corpus for all citizens, this proposal will ensure adequate protection under the law for America’s defendants, decreasing the amount of unjust sentences served.
Proposal #085
Author: Jacqueline Roderick, Delegation: Massachusetts

Title:
Enact a comprehensive federal shield law.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Journalists and the press, federal courts, agencies of the United States government.

Justification:
On June 29, 1972, in the case of Branzburg v. Hayes, the Supreme Court ruled in a contentious 5-4 decision that journalists are not fully protected by the First Amendment once they refuse to testify against their own and often confidential sources. “Reporter’s privilege” should be similar to the immunity lawyers have from testifying against their clients and immunity from the court holding them in contempt. Allowing grand juries to force journalists to testify against their sources - confidential or not - undermines the important work done by that journalist or his or her news organization. As Justice Douglas said in his concurring opinion, there is the possibility that with this case, “Sooner or later, any test which provides less than blanket protection to beliefs and associations will be twisted and relaxed so as to provide virtually no protection at all.” However, the legislative branch has the ability to correct this infringement on our First Amendment right by passing a federal shield law, guaranteeing a reporter’s right to absolute and qualified protection under the law.

Proposal for Action:

Ensure the absolute protection of confidential sources:
Journalists shall be exempt from contempt on all confidential news. In no way will a journalist need to procure records written in confidence, nor testify in favor or opposition of said confidential source in a courtroom.

Ensure qualified protection of non-confidential sources:
Journalists shall be exempt from contempt on all non confidential news unless the party seeking such news has made a clear and specific showing that the news (1) is relevant to the case, (2) is critical or necessary to a party’s claim, whether it be defense or proof of an issue, and (3) is unobtainable from any other source. A court shall order disclosure only of such portion, or portions, of the news sought as to which the previously described qualifications are made and shall support such order with clear and specific findings made after a hearing.
If any information is brought about in violation of the two former sections, that information will be void and unusable in any legal proceeding.
These privileges will extend to the employer in which the journalist works for.

Results to be Expected:
In a time where the press is constantly being undermined, scrutinized, and challenged by powerful politicians and institutions, the passage of this proposal will guarantee the press their constitutional right to investigate and uncover corruption, crime, and general wrongdoings in America.
Title:
A Proposal to Abolish the Death Penalty

Major Areas to be Affected:
Federal and State Courts, Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys, Inmates on Death Row, and Other Criminals Whom Could Face the Death Penalty

Justification:
In Gregg v. Georgia, the Supreme Court defined two legitimate purposes for capital punishment: retribution and deterrence. Dr. Robert T. Muller of York University has found that the death penalty negatively affects the family of the victim psychologically discrediting its effectiveness at being retribution. In addition, John Lamperti, professor of Mathematics at Dartmouth College, found that the death penalty is not an effective deterrent of crime. Due to capital punishment not fulfilling either of those purposes it should be considered unconstitutional. Even though the Fifth Amendment infers capital punishment, the Eighth speaks against cruel and unusual punishment, and with 7.12% of lethal injections leading to botched executions such an experience is unconscionable to not be considered cruel and unusual—again rendering the death penalty unconstitutional.

Proposal for Action:
The death penalty shall be considered unconstitutional and shall not be a sentencing option for any crime.

Results to be Expected:
The unconstitutional taking of life in the form of punishment for crimes shall cease.
Title:

An act to implement a pretrial service program in every county in the United States

Major Areas to be Affected:

US Department of Justice, Bureau of Prison, National Institute of Corrections, Federal and state prisoners, US court system, bail bondsmen, local jails

Justification:

Putting up bail has become a principal part of court sentencing. The indicted must pay the courts through money or assets; however many americans can not the median price of $10,000. Because of this approximately 540,000 people a night sit in jail, a majority of which are men and women of color, without being convicted of a crime. In a speech given by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye she states, “And we need to create—like other states—more pretrial release programs. Because we must not penalize the poor for being poor.” The bail system criminalizes poverty, severely interrupts the defendant's lives, has cost many their jobs, and put families in difficult places.

Pretrial services offer impartial universal screens, assess the risk of the indicted for failure to appear, and remind people of their court dates. These services monitor defendants and give sentencing judges an indepth look at the defendants background through their reports. This system would replace the widely used pretrial detention, which cost annually costs taxpayers $9 billion dollars. While the daily cost of pretrial services is less than a tenth of the daily cost of pretrial detention. Organizations like the American Bar Association, American Jail Association, and American Probation and Parole Association have advocated for the switch to a nonfinancial based bail system. We can not continue to allow thousands of unconvicted Americans to sit in jail for days, months, and years.

Proposal for Action:

Require all counties in the United States to implement a comprehensive pretrial services program within their communities. These programs will perform risk assessment that influence the bail amount or potential release of the defendant. Pretrial service personnel must conduct interviews with the defendant to gain background information. After the information is verified and the history of the defendant is evaluated. The program creates a risk assessment report, that will given to the presiding judge at the defendant's first appearance in court. The program also would help defendants obtain counsel for first court appearances and remind defendants of upcoming court dates. Along with the implementation of pretrial services, judges, prosecutors, all types of legal counsels, and law enforcement must be educated on importance of the risk assessment report. The US government will fund the generation of more pretrial service programs through the United States.

Results to be Expected:

After the implementation of this policy, there will be a lower recidivism rate among many offenders. There will be a decrease in pretrial detention and jail population, which would create lower daily costs to run the prison. Overall, the program would contribute to the fair and efficient use of detention facilities.
Title:
To decrease the casualties caused by elderly driving in the most efficient means possible.

Major Areas to be Affected:
Citizens aged 70+
Positive Externalities to All American People

Justification:
Today, citizens of America are living longer lives than ever before. However, several are beginning to outlive their ability to drive. 80% of people in their 70s have arthritis and other diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts, and osteoporosis are much more common. According to the Senior Driving AAA, “[w]eaker muscles, reduced flexibility and limited range of motion restrict senior drivers’ ability to grip and turn the steering wheel, press the accelerator or brake, or reach to open doors and windows” and “since older drivers are more fragile, their fatality rates are 17 times higher than those of 25- to 64-year-olds”. They are one of the highest causes of car crashes, second to newly licensed teenagers. For these reasons, it is imperative that elderly citizens who are unable to drive are not putting themselves and others at risk.

Reasons for elderly drivers continuing to be on the road are the feeling of having a right to transportation and the inaccessibility of assisted living programs. These demands must not be overlooked by the importance of getting many elderly drivers off of the road. The demands of elderly citizens as well as the right to public safety must be balanced properly to ensure widespread satisfaction.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will require all Americans that are at the age of 70 to take a driving test and repeat the same test every ten years following.
The driving test will include a standard road and vision test available at any Department of Motor Vehicles.
Those taking the test must show their existing Driver License and their respective state requirement of 6 points of identification and will be held to the same expectations of any driver applying to get their License.
To gain back their license, those who do not pass the road test the first time will be given a provisional license and have the option to schedule and retake their test once within 30 days of their initial failure. It takes an average of two weeks for glasses to be changed and thus, one more vision test will be available within these 30 days as well.
For the purpose of practicing their driving, the provisional license will permit the senior citizen to drive from 5AM-11PM and allow them to have only one other passenger in the vehicle.
Those who fail to complete the tests successfully both times will receive a card that will replace their license. The card will replicate the necessary information regarding identification on a regular license and will be processed the same way, however, it will be titled “Senior Card” instead of “Driver License”.
By showing this card to a respective driver or transportation facilitator who confirms that the holder is the correct owner of the card, the senior citizen will be eligible for free public transportation and free rides on Uber, Lyft, and other official Transportation Network Companies.
Those who pass the test successfully will be allowed to continue using their license as before.
Under existing procedure of a doctor suspending one’s license due to medical concern of a person aged 50+, one can visit a DMV with proof of their medical diagnosis and identification to receive a Senior Card.
To raise revenue for the free transportation, the government will implement a 1.5-cent-per-ounce sin tax on all sugary sweetened beverages, which will raise millions of dollars a year while saving millions of dollars in healthcare costs.
Each year $430,000 worth of tax revenue will go towards the United States Department of Transportation to compensate for the elderly citizens receiving free transport. This is the approximate amount of money made from senior citizen passengers.
Additional funding will be distributed to Transportation Network Companies based on the amount of completed trips with elderly drivers who used their Senior Card.
Transportation Network Companies that choose to participate will include a “Senior Card” selection in payment options. If the passenger
clicks this option and then shows the driver their Senior Card, their trip will be free. The citizen will be denied of the discount if they do not show a validated Senior Card. As normal, the trip will be marked as complete only once the full journey to the destination is made. The amount of completed senior trips will be tallied on a national server and generated government funds will be allocated to companies based on the expense of the collective senior trips. If companies are found allowing citizens free rides under a Senior Card payment option without them showing a valid Senior Card or if they are found adjusting prices to gain unnecessary profit off of senior drivers, under the jurisdiction of the judicial system, they will be given half or none of their allocations. Any left over revenue will primarily go towards assisted living facilities, in light of decreasing the cost of assisted living, and thus, decreasing the amount of elderly drivers on the road.

Results to be Expected:

If this proposal takes action, the United States of America will see much less casualties due to car accidents, while senior citizens will remain satisfied with their transportation privileges. Additionally, the obesity and diabetes rate will decrease significantly due to the soda tax.
Proposal #327
Author: James Torbert, Delegation: Alabama

Title:
Reforming Plea Bargaining in the US Criminal Justice System

Major Areas to be Affected:
US Criminal Justice System

Justification:
The use of plea bargaining is incredibly coercive, discriminatory, and harmful to core values of the American Criminal Justice System. Defendants are coerced by prosecutors to take plea deals because they are convinced that the harms of losing a jury trial are worse than agreeing to a guilty plea. Plea bargaining, in its current state, ultimately punishes individuals for exercising their constitutional right to trial by judge and jury. Furthermore, plea bargains have substantial racial disparities. Professor Berdejo at Loyola Law School explains, “White defendants are 74% more likely than black defendants to see all misdemeanor charges carrying a potential imprisonment sentence amended to lesser charges.” Finally, plea bargaining destroys the political legitimacy and democratic accountability of the American Criminal Process by removing the judge and jury from the proceedings.

Proposal for Action:
To ban the practice of plea bargaining, unless a judge in present through all proceedings. Criminal defendants may still be offered a plea deal by prosecutors. However, that agreement may not be negotiated unless the defendant requests a judge to be present as a moderator

Results to be Expected:
With less abusive plea bargaining between prosecutors and defendants, there will be less coercion in the Criminal Justice System, there will be a decrease in unnatural racial disparities, and the 6th amendment rights to a fair and public trial will now be upheld for all defendants.
A proposal to change current illicit drug laws to abolish the use of incarceration as punishment for casual non-violent drug possession charges and substitute rehabilitation as treatment.

Major Areas to be Affected:


Justification:

Our incarceration system is ineffectively being used to hold people for non-violent drug offenses. With one of the highest recidivism rates in the world, the goal of incarceration, reintegration into society, is being lost. Families are being torn apart, recidivism is increasing at an alarming pace, and tax money is being squandered in this ineffective system. Incarceration isn’t the solution to the problem, rather it perpetuates this medical problem. Drug offenders comprise about half of the federal prison populations and drug crimes disproportionately affect minorities. Nonviolent drug offenders make up a significant portion of the overcrowded incarceration network today. This proposal advocates for the amelioration of this entire situation by reducing recidivism and allowing people to make the necessary changes in their lives through rehabilitation, which is proven to be effective. In addition, this will save the nation tremendous amounts of money in the long run as rehabilitation is much less expensive than incarceration.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal aims to decriminalize all scheduled drugs and implement a rehabilitation program in order to replace the incarceration of people who commit non-violent drug offenses. By decriminalizing possession charges and rehabilitating the possessors of drugs in America, we are striving for a future in which America does not have the highest incarceration rate in the world. The rehabilitation that would be instituted would be varied by drug and schedule system as defined by the Federal Government.

Those charged with the simple possession or casual exchange of schedule 1 or 2 drugs (excluding marijuana) will have a mandatory minimum of 365 days in a rehabilitation facility. However, the convicted person may stay in the program for an extended time if he/she so chooses and can pay without financial assistance from the federal or state government.

Those charged with the simple possession or casual exchange of schedule 3 drugs will have a mandatory minimum of 90 days in a rehabilitation facility. However, the convicted person may stay in the program for an extended time if he/she so chooses and can pay without financial assistance from the federal or state government.

Those charged with the simple possession or casual exchange of schedule 4 & 5 drugs and Marijuana will have a mandatory minimum of 30 days in a rehabilitation facility. However, the convicted person may stay in the program for an extended time if he/she so chooses and can pay without financial assistance from the federal or state government.

The administration of scheduled drugs will take place in a medical rehabilitation facility where drug users will be given said drugs in small doses to gradually deprive, and eventually end the users’ addiction. Some prescribed drugs used in order to begin the recovery process are Benzodiazepines prescribed for 2-milligram, used to reduce anxiety and irritability, Methadone (40-mg tablets and a solution) to treat narcotic addiction and Clonidine (0.2 mg) used to treat the symptoms of alcohol and opiate withdrawals. It will be regulated where drug users will be administered prescribed drugs on a regular basis on the judgment of a medical professional or as they often as they need.

Results to be Expected:

The results to be expected would be an extreme decrease in the incarceration levels in this country and an overall lessened burden on taxpayers. Not only that overdose rates for all schedule drugs are expected to decrease significantly because of previous similar legislation in local, regional, and national governments internationally. Additionally, this act will have little to no fiscal impact on the nation since any funds saved by the decrease in incarceration can be used to pay for rehabilitation.
Proposal #367  
Author: Alexa Gomez, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
Abandoning mandatory minimums sentencing for non-violent misdemeanor drug crimes while Implementing federal ‘problem-solving’ drug courts in order to curve prison overcrowding.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The American people. All federal prisons, inmates and courts. The department of justice.

Justification:
Over half of the federal prison population is there because of drug related offenses. The necessity for abandoning mandatory minimums has been discussed for years. The use of mandatory minimums ties judges hands and restricts more lenient sentences depending on the situation. Non-violent drug offenders are forced into federal prisons due to these minimums and they are causing overcrowding and losing taxpayer dollars. The use of mandatory minimums takes the power away from judges and places it in the hands of prosecutors. Judges are now forced to deal out harsh sentences to non-violent offenders who cause the least danger to their community.
The term Drug Courts refers to the implementation of alternative treatment options instead of traditional courts. These courts are specialized dockets to help assist criminal defendants who have a dependency on substance abuse. These courts help curb reoffenders while costing less to the taxpayer. Drug courts are used all around the country on the state level and have had mass success. By dismantling mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses while replacing courts for drug courts, we can help change the makeup of prisons forever.

Proposal for Action:
Repeal the mandatory minimums for non violent misdemeanor drug offenses  
Implement drug court dockets in all federal courts for non violent drug offenses over the course of 5 years, of that time all drug offenders will go through regular courts but not be subjected to mandatory minimums.  
After the 5 year period, all courts with non-violent misdemeanor drug offenses will go through drug courts.  
Allow for lawyers of current inmates serving more than mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses to try and repeal sentencing.  
If an inmate is serving exactly the mandatory minimum for the drug offenses they will be grandfathered in as the inmate knew the punishment for the crime at the time.

Results to be Expected:
I will expect a slow transition into drug courts but after the 5 year period a complete adaptation of drug courts. Less over crowding in prisons and less federal tax dollars into prisons will occur. The economy will be better because there will be less people will federal prison records and will have better opportunities to get jobs.
Proposal #368  
Author: Carson Groce, Delegation: North Carolina

Title:
Amend Article III of the Constitution to limit justices of the Supreme Court of the United States to eighteen year terms with nominations staggered to take place every two years.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Supreme Court and the judicial branch at large, the powers of the President, the American people.

Justification:
The Supreme Court today has become more powerful, more political, and more polarized than the framers of the Constitution could ever imagine. Today most decisions are by a 5-4 vote following party and ideological lines and the nomination process is being used corruptly by both major parties for their own gain. In 2016 following the death of conservative justice Antonin Scalia, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to take his place. Senate Republicans would not even allow Garland a hearing for almost an entire year for the fear of him serving on the Court for the next 30-40 years. Democrats also tried to block President Trump's nominee, Brett Kavanaugh for concern of his presence on the bench for decades. The Framers of the Constitution designed the judicial branch to be free of political pressures and to be the weakest and least dangerous branch of government. It is evident from only the past few years that this is no longer the case and it is time for a change.

Even some current justices have favored the idea of term limits for Supreme Court Justices. Chief Justice John Roberts stated “Setting a term of, say, 15-18 years would ensure that federal judges would not lose all touch with reality through decades of ivory tower existence. It would also provide a more regular and greater degree of turnover among the judges. Both developments would, in my view, be healthy ones.” Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan have also come out in support of term limits for justices. This belief is growing on both sides of the aisle because people are seeing the increased partisanship and polarization of our branch that is responsible for safeguarding our Constitution.

Proposal for Action:
Limit all Supreme Court justices to 18 years of service thus overtime created a cycle in which a new Supreme Court Justice is nominated every two years on odd numbered years. This would ensure that the American people are truley represented by the Court and end the game of judicial Wheel of Fortune where the number of justices a president gets to nominate is soley based on luck and strategic retiring.

The nine justices who are currently on the Court would be required to retire overtime every two years based on how long they have served. If this amendment is ratified this year, Justice Thomas will retire in 2021, Justice Ginsburg will retire in 2023, Justice Breyer would retire in 2025, Chief Justice Roberts would retire in 2027, Justice Alito would retire in 2029, Justice Sotomayor would retire in 2031, Justice Kagan would retire in 2033, Justice Gorsuch would retire in 2035, and Justice Kavanaugh would retire in 2037. If a justice dies or retires before serving 18 years, the President will nominate someone to serve the rest of their term. This amendment would have no effect on the Senate's role of advice and consent for the Supreme Court nominees nor the power of Congress impeach a justice.

Results to be Expected:
The passage of this amendment would reduce the heated divisiveness created by Supreme Court justice nominations by limiting them to serve for only eighteen years and by increasing rotation of justices in the Court to truly reflect the interests of the people. Voter turnout would likely increase due to there being more at stake in each presidential election. Age would also become less of a factor for nominees under this system. Finally, the trust of the American people would be restored in our judicial system which suffering a legitimacy crisis that can only be improved by giving the American people a voice in our judicial system.
Title:
To shorten mandatory sentencing and fines for nonviolent drug offenders.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The Federal Prison System, Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Citizens, Drug Enforcement Administration

Justification:
Every year, thousands of young U.S. citizens are found with possession of illicit drugs, some with only a small amount, and others with the intent to distribute. However, when caught and charged with a drug crime, the penalties can often be severe and can lead to several years in prison. This specifically affects Latino and African-American communities who face much higher incarceration rates than white drug offenders. Shortening sentences could also prove beneficial to state correction systems with the issue of overcrowding in prisons as nearly half of all sentences in federal prisons are related to drug offenses.

Proposal for Action:
Eliminate the mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines enacted in 1986 and establish new time frames for sentencing based on the discretion of federal judges. They will now have the ability to bypass mandatory minimums and lighten drug sentences based upon the evidence given to them. Also eliminate the "three strikes" penalty that results in life in prison after a third crime. In several cases, this has caused for several inmates to serve life after committing three minor, nonviolent crimes. Federal judges will not be able to raise years spent in prison, they will only be given the ability to shorten jail time and fines imposed.

Results to be Expected:
It will allow for federal correction systems to focus on those who really deserve to be behind bars rather than nonviolent criminals who made a bad mistake or decision. The problem of overcrowding could also be resolved by the enacting of this proposal and allow federal prisons the chance to save money as large populations of these prisons are made up of nonviolent drug offenders.
Proposal #390
Author: Margaret Allman, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
Require 50 hours of pro bono annual service to retain license to practice for private practice criminal defense attorneys

Major Areas to be Affected:
United States Department of Justice, private practice criminal defense attorneys

Justification:
Public defenders are overwhelmed with cases; only 21% of state-based public defender offices have enough lawyers for the amount of cases they receive. It's recommended that public defenders work no more than 150 cases a year. However, in most states, this reality does not exist. In Florida, the average public defender worked on 500 felonies. In Washington, they could only work on each felony case for an average of an hour, when the ABA recommends 47 hours of work for each case. When lawyers work pro bono, it reduces the caseload for public defenders, and therefore provides a more fair playing field for lower income citizens. 4 out of 5 lawyers believe in pro bono work, and the American Bar Association recommends that all lawyers should work at least 50 hours pro bono annually. However, there is no way to assure that this happens. Revoking the license to practice would provide an incentive for private practice attorneys to complete the 50 hours of service.

Proposal for Action:
Lawyers will be required to complete 50 hours of pro bono work each year
Only lawyers working in private practice will have this requirement
Proof of this work would be sent to the state before license to practice will be renewed for the next year

Results to be Expected:
The amount of work that public defenders would have to complete would decrease significantly. They would have a more reasonable caseload, and therefore, spend more time effectively preparing for, and therefore defending each case. Additionally, this might encourage more law students to consider public defense because it would be a less daunting and overwhelming job than before. Because of this, public defenders will be better able to defend for minor crimes where they now might have to pressure their defendants into pleading guilty or receive a guilty verdict because the didn’t have enough time to properly prepare. Therefore, if public defenders were more prepared, there would be a decrease in prison population.
Proposal #393  
Author: A.J. Hessburg, Delegation: Missouri

Title:
A proposal to remove federal financial aid penalties for students with nonviolent drug convictions

Major Areas to be Affected:
U.S. Students, U.S. Department of Education, Universities

Justification:
Restrictions on student aid come into effect whether an applicant is convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, whether the offense involved the sale or merely the possession of a drug, and apply to convictions under both state and federal law. That means no or limited funding from Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Federal Work-Study as well as federal student loans.

Data from the Department of Education shows that over 1,000 students last year lost full or partial access to federal financial aid because of a drug-related conviction. Since penalties were implemented in 1998, over 200,000 students have been partially or fully denied financial aid. However, these numbers don’t capture how many students never applied for aid because they expected they wouldn’t qualify.

This penalty is unique to drug offenses. A student convicted for a crime such as burglary and not incarcerated would still be eligible for federal aid, while a student convicted of a nonviolent drug offense would not. Many students that lose their federal aid are forced to drop out of school, hampering future opportunities and reinforcing a cycle of poverty.

Proposal for Action:
I. Question 23 on the FAFSA form, which reads, “Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, work-study, or loans)?” will be removed.

II. All students currently under temporary or permanent suspension from FAFSA benefits will have their eligibility restored.

Results to be Expected:
Access to the opportunities higher education provides will allow more students to break the cycle of poverty and achieve success in their lives.
Proposal #489
Author: George Laopodis, Delegation: New York

Title:
Remove Mandatory Minimums on all Non-Violent Crimes

Major Areas to be Affected:
Prison system, judicial system

Justification:
Mandatory minimums are minimum sentences that must be imposed for certain crimes regardless of circumstances. Specifically, according to the CJPF organization, "Mandatory minimum sentencing laws are statutes that require judges to sentence offenders to a specified minimum prison term for a specific crime." This policy is inherently biased and discriminatory towards low-income and racial minorities, despite what proponents may argue. What these minimums do is shift the bias and discriminatory actions from the judge to the prosecutors. This is especially relevant as prosecutors’ jobs are to serve the interest of their client and therefore having their views affect sentences makes these issues worse. The reason for this is that prosecutors can threaten defendants with more severe crimes that they did not commit in order to sway defendants to take a plea deal. Often times, defendants are uneducated and unaware of the way our legal system works and are easily taken advantage of. The policy itself is also ineffective. Mandatory minimums are not actually taking any "bad guys" off the streets, in the usual sense, and making our streets safer. The reasoning for this is most mandatory minimum sentences are given to non-violent crimes like minor drug possession. Again, these low-level crimes are unfortunately most commonly committed by poor minorities which is one reason for such high incarceration rates for this demographic. Some other proponents also argue that having these mandatory minimums for crimes can allow them to act as a deterrent. However, there has been absolutely no evidence to corroborate this argument; data presented and reported on by the New York Times in November of 2018 in fact refute this. This lack of a correlation between sentencing time and crime deterrence is due to the idea that the prospect of conviction itself is more of a deterrent than the actual length of jail time. Having mandatory minimums in our judicial system also hurts our government and its role. The judiciary is supposed to act as a mediator for the law; properly judging each case and handing down an appropriate sentence. These mandatory minimums don't allow for extenuating circumstances that all too often affect minorities. This arbitrary and unfair policy does not allow judges to do their job properly. This proposal does not get rid of all mandatory minimum sentences, rather only for situations that do not involve violence. This does not mean that the perpetrators of the crime will get away with what they did wrong but there would be the allowance for a judge to prescribe a punishment relative to and equating the severity of the crime as well as the situation of the criminal. If we want to promote a more just society, where there is truly equal justice for all under the law, then this proposal is the first step. Judges from around the United States of America are all in support of this proposal as they have seen firsthand the damage that these rules can have. We have also seen widespread support from legal pundits and scholars. This is a step in the right direction.

Proposal for Action:
Seeing as how Mandatory Minimums are set by Congress, not judges, it shall be Congress to pass this legislation removing all mandatory minimums on non-violent crimes "Non-violent" crimes will be considered those not fulfilling the criteria of a violent crime as defined by 18 U.S. Code §?16 Mandatory minimums shall no longer be enforced, however the sentencing times may still be referred to by judges

Results to be Expected:
With the removal of mandatory minimums, we can expect a much smarter judicial system. Our prisons will not be as crowded with unnecessary incarcerations. Judges will also have the ability to make their own decision as to the appropriate punishment. They will also no longer feel an inclination to inflict a punishment greater than the minimum required.
Title:
To implement rehabilitative punishments for nonviolent drug offenders.

Major Areas to be Affected:
The United States government, the federal prison system, the criminal justice system nonviolent drug offenders, the American people

Justification:
The current criminal justice system fails to solve the issues surrounding nonviolent drug charges. It is centered around punishing addicts instead of getting them help, often resulting in worse addictions and recidivism rates as high as 76.9%. Ridiculously disproportionate sentences result in more harm than good for prisoners. In addition, convicted criminals face stigmatization which can impact them socially and economically. A nonviolent drug charge, especially when jail time is served alongside it, hurts the chances of one being able to get a good job because of both employer bias and the less qualified work experience offered in prison. In fact, people with a criminal conviction are 50% less likely to get offered or called back for a job as found in a report from 2015 by the NAACP. The institutional damage this causes is worsened by policies which have for years targeted the lower class and minorities. Change is needed, and this change must aim to reduce drug addiction instead of locking up people in desperate need of help.

A rehabilitative solution is the best option here. When thrown into prison with no treatment, addicts can go through serious withdrawal symptoms and may turn to drugs upon release and overdose from low tolerance. Systematic rehabilitation to wean addicts off of drugs for good is necessary. The National Institute on Drug Abuse in 2016 published findings which supported the idea that rehabilitative approached work, claiming that drug treatment reduces drug use by 40 to 60 percent and significantly decreases criminal activity by at least 40% during and after treatment.

This doesn’t even address the significant economic benefits of choosing a rehabilitative approach over a punitive one. A study from 2015 in Sage journals found that if 10 percent of drug-addicted offenders received drug rehabilitation instead of jail time, the criminal justice system would save $4.8 billion compared to current costs; and if 40 percent of addicted offenders received treatment instead of jail, the system could save $12.9 billion. This money could then be reinvested into rehabilitation and diversion programs, making them even more cost effective.

Proposal for Action:
The nonviolent drug offenses in question will be charges which involve possession or use of a drug or drug paraphernalia. This will not apply to charges which involve furnishing drug or sentences which involve the intent to sell. Sentencing reform will be instituted on a national scale to alter the punishments given for the outlined crimes in the following ways:

A) Mandatory minimum sentences will be reduced by 50%, with court-ordered rehabilitation given to convicts in conjunction with or instead of jail time, depending on the severity of the charge. Treatment plans will be determined with the help of medical experts and testing.

B) Record sealing will be implemented for first-time offenses regardless of whether or not jail time is served.

C) Mandatory community service will be given as a punishment along with any rehab and/or jail time. The amount of service will be relative to the scope of the offense but will be centered around convicts repairing their relationships with their community. This may be, for example, working as a sponsor with a rehab facility following successful completion of rehab.

Results to be Expected:
Punishments for nonviolent drug crimes will become more centered around helping drug addicts and less about strictly deterring them from reoffending. In turn, this will decrease recidivism rates, help curb drug abuse, and generally promote social progress. The decrease in prison time will lead to more actively engaged community members (due to the rehab and the community service) who help their communities grow and develop. In addition, we see the economic benefits of over $12.9 billion saved. Decreased jail time in favor of other forms of punishment is cost-effective and can reduce spending by a significant percentage. As a whole, this system is a better representation of true justice, seeking to help put people on a road to recovery instead of locking them in a cage.
Title:

Financial penalties for crimes to be adjusted based on income.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Perpetrators of crimes punishable by little to no jail time.

Justification:

Because of the fixed fines that come with certain crimes, richer offenders aren't as affected as poorer offenders are. While one criminal may find themselves shelling out a month's wages for an infraction, another may only drop the equivalent of a Saturday night out. Because of this, some are quicker to commit crimes as they know they can pay the fine with no issue. An effective way to curb this would be to introduce the day-fine.

Proposal for Action:

Crimes warranting little to no jail time (such as infractions and low-level misdemeanors) shall be punishable from a minimum of one day-fine to a maximum of sixty day-fines. One such day-fine shall be equivalent to one day's worth of wages.

Results to be Expected:

By introducing day-fines, richer offenders will be less likely to commit crimes as they would financially suffer the same way a poorer offender would. Day-fines would result in fewer minor crimes being committed, as well as fewer repeat offenders.
Title:

A proposal to clarify the intentions and reform the structure of the United States Supreme Court.

Major Areas to be Affected:

United States Supreme Court, United States Appellate Courts, United States District Courts, Republican Party, and Democratic Party.

Justification:

The Supreme Court reform highlighted in this bill has multiple goals. First, it is designed to ensure that the Court would remain an institution that is seen as operating above politics. Second, it significantly reduces the political stakes of nominating individual justices, to avoid situations that we have seen over the last couple years. In our current justice system, appointments and decisions essentially run on random events. When any one of the justices dies or retires, it can have massive consequences for the law, depending on when the vacancy occurs and, it seems, whether the President’s party controls the Senate. This is a dangerous way to run a constitutional democracy. Whatever your views on abortion, free speech, or the powers of Congress, these issues should not depend on the health of elderly justices.

The idea behind this proposal is that it provides a mechanism to restore something important that we fear has been lost - the notion that Supreme Court justices are deciding questions of law with partisan mindsets. It was once true even during periods of the most serious political conflict over the Supreme Court, the Justices were not strictly following party lines. Today, there seems to be a trend of Presidents only choosing Supreme Court justices who vote in favor of their party interests. Given that both parties seem to realize the stakes of Supreme Court nominations, it is hard to believe that there will be many more justices who would sometimes vote against their political alignment in the biggest cases. This proposal brings back the possibility of a Supreme Court that isn’t strictly partisan.

The proposal expands the size of the Supreme Court and changes how justices are selected. The proposal explains argues that the Supreme Court shall start with ten justices. Five would be affiliated with the Democratic Party, and five would be affiliated with the Republican Party. These ten justices would then select five additional justices chosen from current circuit and if needed, district court judges. The ten partisan-affiliated justices would need to select the additional five justices by a strong supermajority. These additional justices would be chosen two years in advance to avoid conflict of interest.

The “partisan” justices would have to agree on colleagues who have a reputation for fairness, independence, and centrism, and who have views that do not strictly track partisan affiliation. In short, the kind of judges who have essentially zero chance of being appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court today. The partisan justices would pick such colleagues not for public-regarding reasons, but out of self-interest: assuming that those justices want their own views to prevail on the Court, they would have an incentive to veto committed partisans on the other side. But each side might be willing to compromise on other judges who seem open-minded and persuadable.

Requiring a strong supermajority, by at least four of each of the two groups of five is key to the selection mechanism. Even if one or two of the justices ended up voting against ideological “type,” requiring all or most of them to agree would help ensure that committed partisans are not selected for the final five slots on the Court.

The reason to opt for a supermajority requirement rather than unanimity is to avoid the risk of a single holdout who might prefer that the Supreme Court not operate at all. The partisan justices would select their colleagues with two years of lead time. This would reduce the risk of the justices brokering deals during the selection process to pick colleagues based on their expectations about individual cases or issues.

For example, knowing that a gay marriage case was on the docket, perhaps the Democratic justices would accept a generally conservative judge who had a reputation for voting in more liberal directions on important social issues (say, like Justice Kennedy). Even assuming the partisan justices had such information about their potential colleagues votes, delaying the start date of the new justices would reduce this risk. Once chosen, the independent justices would serve for terms of one year. Their terms would not be renewable. Although the prospect of renewal might serve as a powerful incentive for centrisim, the threat of non-renewal would
undermine the justices independence and damage the internal dynamics of Supreme Court decision making. Also, it's always good to have some justices with shorter tenures - it helps address many term limit concerns.

Finally, the independent justices, and the explicit partisan-balance requirements, would significantly reduce the stakes of the Supreme Court nominations process. Because each political party would get a set number of seats, and because additional justices would join the Court no matter what, the fate of issues like abortion would never turn on the consequences of any one confirmation battle. Because the “independent” justices would be drawn from the lower courts, this proposal would likely exacerbate the politicization of lower-court nominations. But that phenomenon is already happening on its own, so it should not make a difference.

With luck, a Court designed as proposed would issue rulings in big cases that wouldn't be predictable based solely on party affiliation. Those rulings would have a greater chance of being seen as legitimate by the general public. And thus of preserving the image of law as a branch separated from politics.

Proposal for Action:

The proposal calls for various types of reforms of the United States Supreme Court. This proposal seeks to have the Supreme Court start with ten justices whom will serve life terms. Five must be affiliated with the Democratic Party, and five must be affiliated with the Republican Party. The sitting President will fill Supreme Court vacancies but appointments must follow the party alignment ratio rule mentioned previously.

These ten justices would then select five additional justices from current circuit and if needed, district court judges. The ten partisan-affiliated justices would need to select the additional five justices by a strong supermajority of at least four of each of the two groups of five. These additional justices would be chosen two years in advance, to serve for one year term. And if the justices failed to agree on a slate of additional colleagues, the Supreme Court will lack a quorum and could not hear any cases for that year - therefore, justices of both parties will be motivated to come to a consensus. The five new independent justices shall join the Court immediately after the “long conference,” in which the Court votes on a significant number of certiorari petitions that have built up over the summer, to avoid partisan motives behind independent member appointment. There are no changes to the position or selection process of the Chief Judge. This position also makes no changes to the constitutional role or judicial influence of the Supreme Court.

Results to be Expected:

Recent events have seriously called into question the legitimacy of the Supreme Court. Americans have begun to question the judicial systems separation from politics - a deadly blow to our democratic system. This proposal seeks to curb the questioning of the courts by instituting centrist and independent judicial selection. It also cures the poisoned image of the courts to the American public by requiring bipartisan justice selection. It can be expected that this proposal will restore America’s belief in the Supreme Courts and allow compromised solutions. This solution isn’t perfect but it would be an improvement over the status quo, especially given how we expect our already broken system to deteriorate even further in the next few short years.
Proposal #562
Author: Breanna Mapes, Delegation: Arkansas

Title:
To outlaw the death penalty

Major Areas to be Affected:
Department of Justice, people on death row

Justification:
The death penalty is inhumane, and killing people for their crimes is not a just way of punishment. There are already so few people on death row that are actually put to death for their crimes, with large amounts of people on the waiting list. By banning the death penalty, those people will be taken off of death row and given different sentences.

Proposal for Action:
The United States will be required to:
1. Outlaw the death penalty
2. Give certain crimes that were previously punishable by death life sentences

Results to be Expected:
The United States will implement more humane ways to effectively punish criminals for their crimes. In addition, removing the death penalty will reduce the cost America spends on prisoners, as those on death row cost $90,000 more than the average prisoner, and it costs more money to kill the prisoners.