

The Ohio Speech and Debate Association



Congressional Debate
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D24-01

The Lithium Extraction and Development (LEAD) Act

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2. **SECTION 1.** Due to recent discoveries of domestic lithium reserves and to combat China's monopoly
3. on global lithium, the United States shall create a fund to offset initial mining costs as
4. well as creating a tax subsidy to incentivize businesses to mine domestic lithium and
5. manufacture green technology that requires lithium domestically.

6. **SECTION 2.** Green technology in this instance shall be defined as technology that primarily serves to
7. help the environment requiring lithium for production, including but not limited to
8. lithium-ion batteries, wind turbines, and EV energy storage systems.

9. **SECTION 3.** The Department of the Interior, the EPA, and the IRS shall be in charge of enforcement of
10. this legislation.

11. A. The United States shall allocate \$100 billion over 5 years to create a fund to help
12. cover US mining businesses' initial costs for getting started, only if they pledge to
13. exclusively mine in the United States.

14. B. A 5% tax credit on a businesses' income tax shall be provided to those that mine
15. lithium domestically to manufacture green technology.

16. **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect on January 1st, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Stow-Munroe Falls High School

D24-02

A Resolution to Contain the War in Europe

1. **WHEREAS,** The situation involving Ukraine’s conflict in Russia has recently escalated due to Ukraine
2. pushing into Russia and
3. **WHEREAS,** This Congress absolutely recognizes the right of Ukraine to defend itself but
4. acknowledges that they are pushing into Russia’s territory with US made weapons; and
5. **WHEREAS,** Should the war escalate further, US made arms could be used inside Russia to harm
6. Russian assets; and
7. **WHEREAS,** This could be used by Russia as a *casus belli* for a wider European war, a global
8. catastrophe that we cannot risk and would undoubtedly harm every single American;
9. therefore be it
10. **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that Ukraine shall not use US weapons acquired
11. through aid in any kind of offensive against Russia.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Perry High School

D24-03

A Bill to Mandate States to Allow Faithless Electoral Voting

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** States shall henceforth allow members of the electoral college to participate in the act
3. known as faithless voting when casting votes for presidential candidates.
4. **SECTION 2.** Faithless voting shall be defined as the event in which a member of the electoral
5. college, aligned with a specific party, chooses to cast their electoral vote for a candidate
6. outside of their party, thus potentially skewing election results. Thus, all pledges to
7. political parties made by electors shall be prohibited. Furthermore, faithless electors
8. may not be replaced or fined.
9. **SECTION 3.** The Office of The Federal Register shall oversee the enforcement of this bill by
10. overseeing the voting process and providing the states with any required funding in
11. order to support the bill.
12. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be instated by January 1, 2027
13. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hathaway Brown

D24-04

A Bill to Delay Pharmaceutical Patents Until Market Release

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** Pharmaceutical patents shall become effective only after the completion of clinical trials,
3. drug testing, and availability for sale in the open market.
4. **SECTION 2.** "Completion of clinical trials" refers to the conclusion of all phases of FDA-mandated
5. drug trials, and "availability for sale" refers to the point at which a drug is distributed to
6. consumers through commercial channels.
7. **SECTION 3.** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) shall oversee the enforcement
8. of this policy, with collaboration from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to verify
9. the completion of clinical trials and market availability of the drug.
10. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2026.
11. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dublin Jerome High School

D24-05

A Bill to Create a Binding Ethics Code for Federal Employees

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** The Department of the Interior will oversee the creation of a binding ethics code for all
3. federal employees and all members of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches at
4. all levels of government.
5. **SECTION 2.** A binding ethics code will be defined as a document outlining what behavior is
6. acceptable and unacceptable. Those in violation of this code will face prosecution.
7. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DoJ) shall oversee the enforcement and implementation of
8. this legislation.
9. A. The DoJ will prosecute any federal employee who violates this ethics code.
10. B. The DoJ shall coordinate with local law enforcement to promote the enforcement
11. of this legislation.
12. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are
13. hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Centerville High School

D24-06

A Bill to Abolish Capital Punishment

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** The death penalty will be abolished in all states, felons currently facing the death
3. penalty will have to be resentenced before the date set for their execution.
4. **SECTION 2.** The term “Resentenced” means that the felons who are waiting for their execution will
5. be given a new sentence which will replace capital punishment.
6. **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice will oversee the passage of this piece of legislation.
7. **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect on January 1st, 2025.
8. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Canfield High School

D24-07

A Bill to Allow Left Turns at Red Lights

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** Drivers operating motor vehicles will be now permitted to make a left turn at red lights
3. at select two-way intersections after making a complete stop and assuring that no other
4. vehicles are approaching from either direction.
5. **SECTION 2.** A motor vehicle is defined as a self-propelled land vehicle, commonly wheeled, that
6. does not operate on rails (such as trains or trams) and is used for the transportation of
7. people or cargo.
8. **SECTION 3.** Ohio Department of Transportation, Local City Law Enforcement
9. A. The Ohio Department of Transportation and Local City Law Enforcement will
10. work together to implement and enforce this bill.
11. B. Vehicles making a left turn on red will not be viewed as having the right of way,
12. and will thus be held responsible for any damages or accidents as a result of their
13. turn.
14. C. Drivers who misuse this law may be subject to paying fines and receiving traffic
15. tickets up to \$300 or as decided by a judge dependent on the severity of the
16. violation.
17. **SECTION 4.** This will go into action the first of January, 2025.
18. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Medina High School

D24-08

Ohio Therapies Act

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** This bill, once enacted, will offer grants to public universities and public schools in order
3. to increase the employment of therapy occupations across the state.
4. **SECTION 2.** Therapy occupations include but are not limited to physical therapists, occupational
5. therapists, speech-language pathologists, and mental health therapists. Schools will
6. include all levels of schooling and includes but is not limited to High schools,
7. Elementary or middle schools.
8. **SECTION 3.** The Ohio Department of Education will oversee this bill.
9. A. If the Ohio Department of Education finds that a school is misusing the grant
10. money for its intended purpose, then the school will be asked to return the
11. funding.
12. B. Funding for this Act will come from income tax dollars.
13. **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect immediately in order to give schools time to apply for grants
14. and begin the hiring process before the 2025 school year.
15. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by GlenOak High School

D24-09

A Bill to Eliminate Paid Political Advertising on Social Media Platforms

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** No person or organization shall compensate another person or organization for the
3. publication or promotion of a political advertisement on a social media platform.
4. **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this act:
5. A. “Social media platform” shall have the same meaning as in 42 U.S.C. §
6. 1862w(a)(2).
7. B. “Political advertisement” shall be defined as any content created and published
8. for the purpose of influencing public opinion with respect to legislative,
9. administrative, or electoral matters, or with respect to any controversial issue of
10. public importance.
11. **SECTION 3.** The Federal Communications Commission shall be responsible for enforcing this
12. legislation.
13. **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026.
14. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by St. Ignatius

D24-10

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Abolish the Electoral College

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **WHEREAS,** The Founders of the Nation established the electoral college in an era of limited
3. nationwide communication and information sharing;
4. **WHEREAS,** The electoral college is premised on an antiquated theory that citizens will have a better
5. chance of knowing about electors from their home States than about Presidential
6. candidates from out of State;
7. **WHEREAS,** The development of mass media and the internet has made information about
8. Presidential candidates easily accessible to United States citizens across the country and
9. around the world;
10. **WHEREAS,** Citizens now have a far better chance of knowing about out-of-State Presidential
11. candidates than about Presidential electors from their home State;
12. **RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as
13. an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
14. intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of
15. three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by
16. the Congress:
17. ARTICLE --
18. **SECTION 1:** The President and Vice President shall be elected by the people of the several states and
19. the district constituting the seat of government of the United States.
20. **SECTION 2:** Each citizen shall cast one vote for two persons who have consented to the joining of
21. their names as candidates for President and Vice President.
22. **SECTION 3:** The pair of candidates having the greatest number of votes for President and Vice
23. President shall be elected.
24. **SECTION 4:** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Oakwood High School

D24-11

A Bill to Create the ABC (Abandoned Buildings Commission)

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2. **SECTION 1.** The Abandoned Buildings Commission is hereby established. This commission shall be
3. tasked with the demolition of abandoned structures, especially those that pose a danger
4. to the public.

5. **SECTION 2.** For the purpose of this bill, "Structures" shall be defined as free-standing construction
6. projects that cost over \$1,000 at the time of construction, and that are used for
7. primarily commercial purposes. Abandoned structures shall be defined as structures
8. that have not been maintained by the property owner for at least 3 years.

9. **SECTION 3.** The newly established ABC will oversee this bill.

10. A. Counties and Cities can apply to have the buildings considered for removal, and
11. those structures considered dangerous to the public by the ABC shall be
12. demolished first.

13. B. This land will be put up for auction with funds going to the ABC. If the land is not
14. considered valuable by the ABC, then the land will be designated as a natural
15. area.

16. C. In addition, whenever a new structure is built, the business constructing said
17. structure will put an additional 1/10 of the cost to construct the structure into
18. trust to pay for the eventual demolition of the structure, with a minimum of
19. \$1,000.

20. **SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect January 1st 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sylvania Northview

D24-12

A Bill to Grant Felons Voting Rights

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** Felons will regain their right to vote one year after their release, including felons that are
3. on probation or parole.
4. **SECTION 2.** Felons shall be defined as someone who has committed a felony and resultantly become
5. incarcerated. Probation shall be defined as a period of supervision over an ex offender,
6. which is ordered by a court. Parole shall be defined as the temporary or permanent
7. release of a prisoner before their sentence is over.
8. **SECTION 3.** Both the National Association of State Election Directors and The U.S. Department of
9. Justice shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.
10. **SECTION 4.** This bill will come into effect immediately following passage.
11. **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Canfield High School

D24-13

The Currency Act of 2024

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** The U.S. Mint shall stop producing one-cent coins.
3. **SECTION 2.** All paper bills will be redesigned to reflect modern American values. All new bills printed
4. will be formatted similarly to current bills but will feature exceptional American citizens
5. and other important symbols of national identity, as follows:
6. A. The one-dollar bill will feature President George Washington on the front and
7. Martin Luther King Jr. at the 1963 'March on Washington' on the back.
8. B. The five-dollar bill will feature abolitionist Frederick Douglass on the front and
9. Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima on the back.
10. C. The ten-dollar bill will feature author Mark Twain on the front and the American
11. Bison on the back.
12. D. The twenty dollar bill will feature women's suffragist Susan B. Anthony on the
13. front and Neil Armstrong during the Moon Landing on the back.
14. E. The fifty-dollar bill will feature labor leader Cesar Chavez on the front and
15. Redwood National Park on the back.
16. F. The one hundred dollar bill will feature philosopher Benjamin Franklin on the
17. front and The United States Capitol Building on the back.
18. **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing shall stop printing two-dollar bills.
19. **SECTION 4.** All one-cent coins and two-dollar bills shall remain legal tender.
20. **SECTION 5.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury will oversee compliance with this legislation. The
21. U.S. Mint will oversee section 1. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing will oversee
22. sections 2 and 3, including the specific design and distribution of the new currency.
23. **SECTION 6.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation
24. are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Wadsworth High School

D24-14

A Resolution to Modernize US-Afghan Relations

1. **WHEREAS,** The Taliban has been the acting government of the nation since 2021; and
2. **WHEREAS,** The US continues to recognize the government in exile, which, in the foreseeable future
3. has little chance of returning; and
4. **WHEREAS,** Current US recognition status upholds an outdated structure; and
5. **WHEREAS,** The status quo forces Afghanistan into political and economic isolation, ultimately
6. putting civilians at risk; now, therefore, be it
7. **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled, that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is
8. recognized as the acting government of the nation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by New Philadelphia High School

D24-15

The Anti-Tyrant Amendment

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2. **RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as
3. an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
4. intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of
5. three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by
6. the Congress:

7. **ARTICLE 1**

8. **SECTION 1:** Any and all immunity associated with the position of the President of the United States
9. and any and all other governmental positions including, but not limited to, the Vice
10. President of the United States, United States Representative, United States Senator,
11. Cabinet Official, Bureaucrat, and Supreme Court Justice, shall henceforth be removed.

12. **SECTION 2:** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Hoover High School

D24-16

A Bill to Reschedule Marijuana

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2. **SECTION 1.** Marijuana shall be rescheduled from a Schedule 1 Drug to a Schedule 2 Drug under the
3. Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

4. **SECTION 2.** A. Schedule 1 shall be defined under 21 U.S.C. § 812(b)(1) as (A) The drug or other
5. substance has a high potential for abuse; (B) The drug or other substance has no
6. currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; and (C) There is
7. a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical
8. supervision.

9. B. Schedule 2 shall be defined under 21 U.S.C § 812(b) (1) as (A) The drug or other
10. substance has a high potential for abuse; (B) The drug or other substance has a
11. currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently
12. accepted medical use with severe restrictions; and (C) Abuse of the drug or other
13. substances may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

14. **SECTION 3.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will oversee the implementation of this
15. legislation.

16. **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passing.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Oakwood High School

D24-17

A Bill to Create a Temporary National Sales Tax to Increase Infrastructure Investment

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2. **SECTION 1.** The United States must increase the amount of funding put forward towards national
3. infrastructure investment. This funding would be allocated directly from a temporary
4. national sales tax that would last no longer than a year. The national sales tax would be
5. 1% of consumer goods purchased. The sales tax will only apply to items subject to state
6. sales taxes.

7. **SECTION 2.** Congress shall work with the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of
8. Interior (DOI), the Department of Commerce (DOC), the Department of Agriculture
9. (USDA), the Army Corps of Engineers and any other entity needed to ensure that funds
10. are properly distributed. The allocations of funds shall be determined by a special
11. nonpartisan house committee design to oversee the initiative.

12. A. Consumer goods are defined by the Census Bureau under the Department of
13. Commerce.

14. B. "Sales Tax" is a tax placed on a good sold that adds a percentage increase in
15. cost to the product based on the primary price of the good.

16. C. Infrastructure is defined as the basic physical and organizational structures and
17. facilities such as, but not limited to, buildings, roads, and power supplies needed
18. for the operation of a society.

19. **SECTION 4.** The tax will be collected for no longer than one year beginning in 2025 and
20. disbursement of funds will continue until 2029. Any leftover funds at the end of 2029
21. will be evenly dispersed among the DOT, DOC, and DOI. This legislation will go into effect
22. by the fiscal year of 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared
23. null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Centerville High School

D24-18

A Bill to Deregulate Muzzle Devices

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. **SECTION 1.** Silencers, suppressors, or any other muzzle device intended strictly to dampen the
3. report of a firearm shall henceforth no longer be regulated or taxed under the National
4. Firearms Act of 1934 and the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986.
5. **SECTION 2.** A muzzle device shall be defined as a device fixed to the forward end of the barrel of a
6. firearm, intended to have an effect on the report, mechanics, or recoil of a firearm.
7. A silencer shall be defined as a muzzle device specifically designed and intend to reduce
8. the report of a firearm by a least 5 decibels.
9. **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and the Internal Revenue Service
10. (IRS) will be tasked with carrying out this piece of legislation.
11. A. The ATF will oversee the enforcement of this law under its jurisdiction.
12. B. The IRS will handle all outstanding tax stamps from the status quo.
13. **SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect at the beginning of 2026 fiscal year.
14. **SECTION 5.** All clauses in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Poland Seminary