

Indiana High School Forensic Association 2009-2010 Congress Legislation

#1 A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE TO EARMARKS

BE IT ENACTED by the IHSFA Student Congress here assembled that:

1. **Section 1.** The United States Federal Government shall no longer permit earmarks to be inserted into federal
2. legislation or congressional committee reports.
3. **Section 2.** The House and Senate Budget Committees shall set aside a fund to be distributed to the States and
4. Territories. This fund shall be known as the "Collective State Fund" and the amount allocated to
5. this fund shall be left to the discretion of the President and the Budget Committees within the
6. House and Senate in order to allow for an adequate degree of flexibility.
7. **Section 3.** The capital within the "Collective State Fund" shall be distributed proportionately between
8. American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico,
9. the Virgin Islands, and the 50 states with respect to geographical size and population of the
10. specific state or territory.
11. **Section 4.** The United States federal government shall include these provisions into the 2011 United States
12. Federal Budget and all earmarks will be prohibited after September 30, 2011.

#2 A RESOLUTION TO BAN BOTTLED WATER, EXCEPT FOR MEDICINAL OR SANITATION PURPOSES

1. **Whereas**, water from a tap has little to no difference than bottled water, and
2. **Whereas**, the extremely high use of plastic is damaging the environment, and
3. **Whereas**, during filtration, minerals and fluoride that are beneficial to consumers and found in tap water are
4. not present, and
5. **Whereas**, the production of bottled water is not overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency; therefore,
6. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA Student Congress here assembled that bottled water be banned in the
7. United States except for medicinal or sanitation purposes.

#3 A RESOLUTION TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. **Whereas**, the state of affairs in the Koreas has remained more or less the same since the temporary armistice
2. of 1953, and
3. **Whereas**, the status quo is detrimental to the citizens of both the North and the South, and
4. **Whereas**, the failure of North Korea to end its nuclear and ballistic missile tests in accordance with U.N.
5. Resolution 1718 cannot be tolerated; therefore,
6. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that the United States will intensify all
7. sanctions against North Korea and urge its allies, especially South Korea, to do the same, and
8. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Congress will respond to any further breach of international law by
9. the DPRK with a declaration of war.

#4 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NON-PROFIT STATUS FOR U.S. NEWSPAPERS

1. **Whereas**, United States newspapers have been a constant source for in-depth reporting of significant issues in
2. the United States, and
3. **Whereas**, newspapers have been a main source of information for other types of news gathering media (e.g.
4. radio, television, the internet), and
5. **Whereas**, many readers of the news have migrated to free sources on the Internet, and
6. **Whereas**, the loss of readership has led to a decline in advertising revenue for newspapers, and
7. **Whereas**, the decline in revenue has led to the a reduction in the amount of news some newspapers produce
8. on a daily basis, and
9. **Whereas**, the decline in revenue has led to the shutting down of several major newspapers in the United
10. States, and
11. **Whereas**, over 16,000 newspaper reporters have lost their jobs in the past year, and
12. **Whereas**, it is apparent that the business model for the newspaper in the United States is broken; therefore,
13. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that United States newspapers be
14. allowed to become non-profit organizations with the following stipulations:
 - A. Advertising and subscription revenue will be tax exempt.
 - B. Private contributions to the newspaper will be tax deductible.
 - C. Non-profit newspapers will not be able to make political endorsements; however, they will be able to report on politics.

#5 A BILL TO IMPLEMENT INTERNET VOTING

BE IT ENACTED by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that:

1. **Section 1.** Each state of the United States shall design a plan to implement Internet voting for all eligible
2. voters in that state. The plan will be reviewed by the United States Department of Justice Civil
3. Rights Division (USDJCRD) and must meet the following basic guidelines:
4. **A.** All registered voters in that state must have some way of using the online system.
5. **B.** The online system will be required to be used for all federal elections. The online system will be
6. required to be used on Election Day and during “early voting,” if it exists in the state.
7. **C.** A top priority should be security in order to prevent fraud. If the plan is approved by the
8. USDJCRD, part of the implementation costs will be paid for by the federal government.
9. **D.** If the online system is to be used for only federal elections, 40% of costs will be covered. If the
10. online system is to be used for federal, state, and municipal elections, 80% of the costs will be
11. covered.
12. **Section 2.** The plans will have to be approved by the USDJCRD and if they deem them acceptable, then the
13. state will be eligible for the funding.
14. **Section 3.** This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.
15. **Section 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

#6 A RESOLUTION TO END PURSUIT OF THE EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENSE NETWORK

1. **Whereas**, the perceived detente between the United States and Russia has been an increasingly uphill battle in
2. recent years, and
3. **Whereas**, Russia has offered to diplomatically resolve the issue with the new Obama administration, and
4. **Whereas**, the missile defense network hasn’t even been proven to be an effective means of protecting the
5. United States and the the other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries, and
6. **Whereas**, there is a plethora of diplomatic options that the NATO nations could pursue to solve the issues of
7. national security; therefore,
8. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that the United States end its pursuit of
9. the European Missile Defense Network.

#7 A BILL TO PREVENT ADVERTISING OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION ON TELEVISION

BE IT ENACTED by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that:

1. **Section 1.** The advertising of prescription medication will be prohibited on all television airwaves.
2. **Section 2.** The Federal Department of Health in cooperation with the Federal Communications Commission
3. (FCC) will oversee this piece of legislation. Any broadcasting station that does not comply can
4. receive a variety of penalties, including, but not limited to, fines, restrictions, and license
5. termination.
6. **Section 3.** This bill will take effect on January 1, 2011.
7. **Section 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

#8 A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY SYSTEM

1. **Whereas,** the current United States Presidential Primary system is outdated and does not allow for equal
2. representation by all states, and
3. **Whereas,** the current system gives states such as Iowa and New Hampshire, the first states to hold their
4. caucuses or primaries, too much influence in the Presidential Primary process, and
5. **Whereas,** the states at the end of the primary schedule often have no say in who the Presidential candidates
6. will be, as most trailing candidates will have pulled out of the race, depriving many voters from
7. voting for their candidate of choice, and
8. **Whereas,** a national primary would prevent any one or two states from holding more influence in the Primary
9. Process than any others, and
10. **Whereas,** a national primary would enable voters from all states to vote for the candidate of their choice;
11. therefore,
12. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that the United States adopt a national
13. primary date during which all 50 states will cast their votes as to whom the Presidential candidates
14. should be.

#9 A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT
(Constitutional amendments take a 2/3 majority to pass)

1. **Whereas,** the United States posted a \$485.2 billion deficit in the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, and
2. **Whereas,** the national debt grows by \$1,000,000 a minute, and
3. **Whereas,** the risk of hyperinflation poses great obstacles for future generations, and
4. **Whereas,** Congress spends millions on superfluous “pork barrel” spending, and
5. **Whereas,** bailouts and stimulus packages fail, and
6. **Whereas,** such debts cannot go forever unpaid, and
7. **Whereas,** the illusion of such insulates Congress from accountability; therefore,
8. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that the Constitution be amended to
9. require a balance in the projected revenues and expenditures of the United States Government.

#10 A RESOLUTION TO REALLOCATE OIL SUBSIDIES TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

1. **Whereas**, an energy crisis is looming in the United States, and
2. **Whereas**, peak oil is imminent, indicating the decreasing oil supply, and
3. **Whereas**, oil companies have received \$365 billion in subsidies despite their windfall profits, and
4. **Whereas**, oil subsidies impede the development of alternative fuels, and
5. **Whereas**, in order to ensure the development of renewable energies and avoid an energy crisis, it is
6. imperative that action be taken in a timely manner; therefore,
7. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that subsidies to oil companies be
8. eliminated, and,
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this funding be reallocated toward the development of alternative fuels.

#11 A BILL TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR ENERGY

BE IT ENACTED by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that:

1. **Section 1.**
2. **A.** A federal commission shall be formed to evaluate the costs and benefits of a more extensive
3. civilian nuclear energy program.
4. **B.** 200 billion dollars in contracts will be allocated to construct new nuclear facilities subject to the
5. approval of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
6. **C.** 20 billion dollars in additional funding will be divided among those who receive a contract
7. annually for the construction maintenance, protection, and operation of storage facilities over the
8. next 20 years.
9. **D.** The same commission will be tasked with evaluating and creating a strategy for the containment
10. of all nuclear waste, to be presented to Congress 18 months after creation of this commission.
11. **Section 2.** The President of the United States in conjunction with the Secretary of Energy and the Chairman
12. of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall determine the make up of this committee.
13. **Section 3.** This law will be implemented on January 1, 2011.
14. **Section 4.** The Department of Energy will oversee the implementation of this law in conjunction with the
15. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
16. **Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

#12 A RESOLUTION TO COMBAT GENOCIDE BY JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

1. **Whereas**, the protection of human rights is the single most important issue that faces the international
2. community today, and
3. **Whereas**, the International Criminal Court (ICC) is in harmony with U.S. foreign policy goals and the
4. American justice system, and
5. **Whereas**, the ICC is a permanent international entity that can try violators of human rights, and
6. **Whereas**, the U.S. must do all that it can to prevent genocides, war crimes, crimes against humanity, etc., and
7. **Whereas**, the U.S. currently has laws that prohibit joining into or even supporting the ICC; therefore,
8. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that the current U.S. policies regarding
9. the ICC be revoked and that the United States take steps to become a signatory to this court.

#13 A RESOLUTION TO REFORM THE IMF AND WORLD BANK

1. **Whereas**, the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank continually have negative
2. impacts on countries, and
3. **Whereas**, both organizations advocate currency manipulation for developing nations, which prohibits long-
4. term growth, and
5. **Whereas**, the World Bank's development projects have continuously disregarded environmental and local
6. concerns; therefore,
7. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that the United States cut 50 % of its
8. funding to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund until Congress believes each
9. organization has undergone successful reform.

#14 A BILL TO AWARD THE PURPLE HEART TO POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER VICTIMS

BE IT ENACTED by the IHSFA student congress here assembled that:

1. **Section 1.** Victims of combat-induced Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) will henceforth be awarded
2. the Purple Heart.
3. **Section 2.** Once it is proven by a licensed medical professional that a veteran has PTSD, the Purple Heart
4. will be awarded the same way it would be awarded to someone suffering a combat-induced
5. physical injury. The funding for Purple Hearts is already in place.
6. **Section 3.** This bill will be enforced by the Department of Defense.
7. **Section 4.** This bill will be implemented in December of 2010.
8. **Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.