

LEGISLATION

TO BE USED

AT THE

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT CONGRESS

QUIIGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 5, 2011

#1 A Resolution to Prohibit Adults 21 Years Old or Older From Smoking While in a Vehicle with Minors.

1. **WHEREAS:** Smoking has been proven to be hazardous to the health of people
2. **WHEREAS:** Minors are dependant on adults for legal transportation
3. **WHEREAS:** 85% of smoke from cigarettes is inhaled by people other than the
4. smokers
5. **WHEREAS:** Smoking has been proven to cause lung, mouth, and throat cancer
6. **WHEREAS:** Smoking has been proven to cause respiratory problems, such as
7. chronic asthma
8. **WHEREAS:** Chemicals from cigarettes may remain in the car as residue
9. **WHEREAS:** Minors may be subject to suspicion of possession of illegal
10. substances
11. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NFL STUDENT CONGRESS**
12. **HERE ASSEMBLED** that adults 21 years or older are not permitted to smoke
13. while in a vehicle with minors.

Respectfully submitted,

North Allegheny

#2 A Resolution for a Four Day Public School Week

Karns City High School

- 1 **Whereas**, federal and state funding for schools across America diminishes as the economic recession continues.
- 2 **Whereas**, schools have been forced to cut back in extracurricular activities due to transportation cost (diesel fuel).
- 3 **Whereas**, the upkeep cost of heating, electrical, and staffing school buildings continues to rise.
- 4 **Whereas**, school breakfast and lunch programs have been forced to cut back due to rising food costs resulting in smaller portions.
- 5 **Whereas**, school days could be lengthened to 10 hour days instead of 8 hour days to provide after school tutoring, activity/club periods, or academic/athletic groups, etc.
- 6 **Be It Resolved that**: Public School districts be converted to a 4 day school week format, and thus saving the taxpayers up to 20% of operating costs across the board while delivering the same amount of instructional clock hours and maintaining educational standards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karns City High School

**#3 A RESOLUTION TO REDISTRIBUTE THE WEALTH
OF THE UNITED STATES**

1 WHEREAS, 14.3% of Americans are considered “in poverty”
2 by the United States Census Bureau; and
3 WHEREAS, Recent years have shown a split between the upper and
4 and lower class, as well as a shrinking middle class; and
5 WHEREAS, Many corporate executives have increased their personal
6 finances due to poor business practices at the expense
7 of their employees; and
8 WHEREAS, Economic strains cause millions of American families to
9 lack the funding for crucial necessities such as
10 healthcare and adequate shelter; now, therefore, be it
11 RESOLVED, By the Student Congress here assembled, that 95% of all
12 assets and future incomes of United States citizens
13 be absorbed by the federal government; and, be it
14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That 40% of the money absorbed by the federal
15 government go to government works such as road repair, mail delivery,
16 and 60% of the money absorbed be equally distributed among all
17 children and working adults in the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sewickley Academy

**# 4 A BILL TO IMPLEMENT A SEVERANCE TAX ON NATURAL GAS
EXTRACTED FROM THE MARCELLUS SHALE FORMATION**

1 BE IT ENACTED by the Student Congress here assembled:

2 Section 1: A severance tax will be imposed upon each and every natural gas producer
3 who uses water resources from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to
4 extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale Formation.

5 Section 2: The tax shall not be less than nor exceed one dollar (\$1.00) per one
6 thousand (1,000) cubic feet of natural gas.

7 Section 3: Said tax will be paid into a dedicated fund for the preservation, cleaning
8 and improvement of the streams, rivers, and waterways of the
9 Commonwealth.

10 Section 4: This tax program and its benefits will be under the oversight of the
11 Department of Environmental Protection.

12 Section 5: This bill shall have the effect of law within 18 months of passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethel Park High School

**# 5 A Resolution Regarding the Future of the
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

1. **Whereas**, during the 2009 fiscal year, the U.S. Agency for International Development
2. (USAID) was responsible for distributing more than \$16 billion in development aid to
3. some of the world's poorest nations, including Afghanistan, Kenya, Sudan and
4. Pakistan, and
5. **Whereas**, there is little indication that aid money has measurably reduced poverty in
6. any significant way in developing nations over the past fifty years, and
7. **Whereas**, economic aid actually encourages complacency within the governments of
8. developing nations, and does not solve the inherent problems of chronic poverty, and
9. **Whereas**, development aid promotes a subservient relationship between recipients
10. and their benefactors, and
11. **Whereas**, during this global recession, the United States cannot afford to spend
12. \$16 billion in assisting other countries, while its own citizens suffer financially,
13. **Therefore Be It Resolved by this Student Congress here assembled that:**
14. The U. S. Agency for International Development be zero-funded in the next federal
15. budget.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peters Township High School

6 A Resolution Concerning the Improvement of Road Conditions

1 **Whereas**, it is currently either illegal in 8 states to use a handheld cellular telephone
2 while driving a motor vehicle regardless of age or driving experience, and it is illegal in
3 30 states for “novice” drivers to use their cell phones while driving a motor vehicle; and.

4 **Whereas**, each year, 21% of fatal car crashes involving teenagers between the
5 ages of 16 and 19 were the result of cell phone usage. This result has been expected to
6 grow as much as 4% every year; and

7 **Whereas**, talking on a cell phone causes nearly 25% of car accidents.

8 **Whereas**, Bluetooth® and other such “hands free” devices help to free the driver of
9 distractions created by talking on a cell phone, thus helping to reduce the amount of
10 accidents caused by talking on cell phones;

11 **Therefore, be it resolved that:** Insurance companies give a discount to drivers who
12 can prove that they use Bluetooth devices while driving. This proof can be proof of
13 ownership of a Bluetooth device. The amount the discount is equivalent to shall be at the
14 discretion of the company, on a case by case basis.

16 **Be it further resolved that:** This discount shall be reimbursed by the Department of
17 Transportation, within one year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shady Side Academy

7 A Resolution Implementing a Fair Tax System

1. WHEREAS: Forms of taxation including the corporate tax, income tax, and others are
2. burdening American business, workers, and consumers; and
3. WHEREAS: The Fair Tax System creates a national retail sales tax of 23%; and
4. WHEREAS: The Fair Tax teaches people to be fiscally responsible and give them the
5. choice of how their money should be spent; and
6. WHEREAS: This type of taxation will increase America's GDP by 2.4 percent higher
7. in the first year and 11.3 percent higher by the 10th year according Laffer & Moore
8. Econometrics; and
9. WHEREAS: Workers will be able to keep the entirety of their paychecks and retirees
10. will be able to keep the entirety of their pensions;
11. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the student congress here assembled that the
12. Sixteenth Amendment of the Constitution be repealed thereby abolishing the national
13. income tax.
14. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that a Fair Tax system replace the federal personal
15. and corporate incomes taxes, estate, gift, capital gains, Social Security, Medicare,
16. alternative minimum and self-employment taxes.

Respectfully Submitted,

North Catholic High School

9 A Resolution to require all high schools to begin school no earlier than 9 a.m.

1. Whereas, the average amount of sleep that a high school student receives on a week
2. night is six hours due to the average school start time being between seven a.m and
3. seven thirty a.m.; and,
4. Whereas, teenagers require 9 hours for a proper good night's sleep; and,
5. Whereas, teenagers ages fourteen to eighteen experience shifts in sleep cycles due to
6. growth spurts and hormonal balance that cause their natural circadian sleep/wake times
7. to be from around eleven p.m to eight a.m.; and,
8. Whereas, lack of sleep and sleep deprivation have been proven by the National Sleep
9. Foundation to negatively impact decision making, short term memory, control of
10. mood, and focus, which are all necessary factors in the high school day; and,
11. Whereas, studies done in both Minnesota and Rhode Island by starting school forty
12. five minutes later to one and a half hours later have shown an increase in school
13. attendance, a decrease in depressed students, lessened nurse visits, and improvement
14. of grades; and,
15. Whereas, the most important stages of sleep that involve REM happen in the last
16. stage of sleep, and are interrupted by lack of sleep, due to waking early for school,
18. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here assembled that all
19. high schools in the United States be required to start school no earlier than nine a.m.

Submitted by

Pine-Richland H.S.

10 A BILL REQUIRING PROFICIENCY IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

- 1 Section I All candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S.
2 Senate and the Presidency of the United States must successfully
3 complete a course on the U.S Constitution 60 days prior to the date
4 set for the general election.
- 5 Section II The course will familiarize and test knowledge of the text of the
6 Constitution, significant Supreme Court rulings, and specific
7 Supreme Court rulings which apply directly to the legislative and
8 executive branches and federal agencies.
- 9 Section III The course will be established and administered under the
10 direction of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 11 Section IV A list of all candidates who successfully complete the course will
12 be made available on a website established for that purpose.
- 13 Section V Candidates failing to successfully complete the course will be
14 prohibited from appearing on a ballot.
- 15 Section VI This Act will take effect prior to the general election in 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

Quigley Catholic High School

11 A Resolution to Establish Quidditch Teams in Public Schools

1 **Whereas** the Center for Disease Control estimates that only 56% of muggle high
2 school students play a sport, and
3 **Whereas** according to the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers,
4 books in the Harry Potter series are the number-one choice of US students reading
5 for pleasure, and
6 **Whereas** Quidditch has already been successfully instituted in the athletic
7 programs of respected universities such as Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, and
8 **Whereas** a number of heroic and respected individuals such as Harry Potter, Ron
9 Weasley, James Potter, and Ginny Weasley honed their leaderships skills by
10 playing Quidditch, and
11 **Whereas** Quidditch programs are relatively inexpensive and easy to implement and
12 would pose no threat to traditional sports for more close-minded muggles, and
13 **Whereas** Quidditch, in contrast to sports like football, is a relatively safe contact
14 sport, and
15 **Whereas** offering Quidditch would interest students who do not necessarily have
16 much interest in the abovementioned conventional sports, and
17 **Whereas** the introduction of Quidditch would inevitably increase the number of
18 students participating in sports,
19 **Be it resolved** by this student Congress here assembled that the United States
20 government make Quidditch a mandatory element of the athletic departments of public
21 schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Oakland Catholic High School

12 A Bill to Raise the Driving Age

1 Be it enacted by the Student Congress here assembled that:

2 Article I: The age at which American citizens can legally drive shall be
3 raised to 18.

4 Article II: Regular procedures for obtaining a driver's license shall still be practiced.

5 Article III: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

6 Article IV: The Department of Motor Vehicles will oversee the enforcement of this bill
7 with computer software.

8 Article V: All laws that are in conflict with this policy shall hereby be declared null and
9 void.

Respectfully submitted,

Mercyhurst Preparatory School

13 A Bill to Facilitate the Building of Desalination Water Plants

Be in enacted by this Student Congress here Assembled that:

1 Section I: Congress will make available 10 billion dollars to lend for the
2 construction of desalination water plants.

3 Section II: The money will be available to any community, state, or
4 private sector organization based in the United States of America for the
5 construction of a desalination plant. Interested parties can borrow up to
6 500 million dollars, at the same interest that the federal reserve bank
7 charges its lending institutions.

8 Section III: Payment of the loan will commence one year after the plant has been
9 approved for operation, and will be paid over a period of 20 years.

10 Section V: This bill shall be implemented January 1, 2012.

11 Section VI: All other laws that are in conflict with this bill will hereby be declared null
12 and void.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fox Chapel Area High School

14 A Resolution to Enact Term Limits in Congress

1. Whereas: as of right now there are no term limits from congressmen and women;
2. Whereas: political machines make it increasingly difficult to remove incumbents from
3. office;
4. Whereas: term limits will lead to equally distributed power, rather than the seniority
5. system that is currently in place;
6. Whereas: politicians would be more likely concerned about the issues, instead of
7. pleasing their voters so they remain in office;
8. Whereas: allowing for new individuals to take office will create a more productive, and
9. efficient United States;
10. Therefore be it resolved: that a term limit of two terms is set for the Senate and three
11. terms for the House of Representatives, effective as of the next election.

Respectfully Submitted,

West Allegheny High School

16 A Bill to Require Ignition Interlock Devices on All Motor Vehicles

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED
2. that all motor vehicles sold in the United States will be required to have an ignition interlock
3. device installed in the steering mechanism, in order to eliminate drunk driving.
4. **Section 1.** Any driver caught driving a vehicle without an ignition interlock in the steering
5. mechanism will be issued a \$1000 fine and will be required to show proof to a state official
6. within one 6. month's time. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of the driver's
7. license. If a driver is convicted of drunk driving with said device installed, their driver's
8. license will be suspended for a minimum of one year and the driver will serve no less than
9. days in jail.
10. **Section 2.** The United States Federal Government and state agencies will monitor proper
11. installation 10. and use of said devices. The ignition interlock devices must be in proper
12. working condition in order 11. for a vehicle to pass any inspection.
13. **Section 3.** Automotive companies have sole responsibility for the installation of said devices
14. in all motor vehicles.
15. **Section 4.** All insured drivers and automotive manufacturers distributing in the United States
16. will have five calendar years from the passage of this legislation to properly install an
17. ignition interlock device.
18. **Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

Deer Lakes High School

17 A Resolution to Implement a National Recycling Campaign

1. Whereas: Our country cannot sustain the amount of waste dumped in landfills every
2. year, without harmful side effects now and in the future; and
3. Whereas: A large portion of the public is unaware what can be recycled and/or
4. what can or cannot be sent to the landfill.
5. Whereas: Every year Americans use over 1 billion plastic shopping bags, creating
6. over 300,000 tons of waste; and
7. Whereas: Other nations, including Ireland, have increased the price of plastic bags,
8. which decreased plastic bag consumption and created revenue.
9. Therefore: Be it resolved that that United States should implement a national
10. recycling campaign to reduce waste and increase knowledge about proper
11. recycling techniques;
12. Be it further resolved that states should allow consumers to recycle
13. electronic items, such as televisions and computers, without charge.

Respectfully Submitted

McDowell High School

18 A Resolution to Annex Mexico

1 Whereas: Annexing Mexico would decrease the amount of land comprising the
2 United States southern border from 3169 km to 1122 km and therefore the
3 cost to uphold it; and.

3 Whereas: Mexico has popular healthy cuisine which can beneficially influence the
4 unhealthy fast food cuisine of America; and.

5 Whereas: It is our civic duty to help the humans in Mexico by providing freedom
6 and order to Mexico and its corrupted public offices through our laws; and

7 Whereas: Annexing Mexico would improve the United States culture and diversity
8 by increasing the amount of UNESCO World Heritage Sites; and

9 Whereas: Annexing Mexico would drastically reduce the scale of the immigration
10 debate;

11 Therefore, be it resolved by this assembled congress: that Mexico be annexed within
12 five (5) years after a two (2) month public comment period that Mexico be recognized as
13 a part of the United States and each state of Mexico become a single state in the United
14 States.

15 Let it further be resolved that if Mexico resists annexation that embargos, travel
16 restrictions, and the arrests of all Mexican politicians and public figures including the
17 Mexican president will occur until it forcefully becomes part of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,
Bethel Park High School

19 A Resolution to Start a Second Language in School in 1st Grade

1 **WHEREAS:** The brain plasticity theory, the biological predisposition theory, and 2
the imprinting theory all support learning a foreign language at an early age to 3
promote better native language pronunciation.

4 **WHEREAS:** As an organism ages, its biological clock affects cellular plasticity
5 therefore making it more difficult to comprehend and retain language skills.

6 **WHEREAS:** In most cases, the second language is spoken free of accent if
7 started by age 6 as opposed to age 12.

8 **WHEREAS:** In oral production tests, children learning a second language scored
9 higher in phonology than their older counterparts.

10 **WHEREAS:** Low proficiency areas of the brain, corresponding with the first
11 language, can be activated with the learning of a second language.

12 **Therefore,** be it resolved by the NFL student congress here assembled that a
13 second language be started in schools in 1st grade.

Respectfully submitted,

North Allegheny High School

20 A Resolution to make the Sale of Cigarettes in the United States Illegal

1 Whereas, the United States Surgeon General has determined that cigarette smoking
2 is extremely dangerous to the health of American citizens; and
3 Whereas, it has been determined by the Surgeon General that cigarettes are
4 responsible for 443,000 deaths each year in the United States; and
5 Whereas, cigarette smoking related diseases/illnesses cost \$193 billion in health
6 care costs each year for our health care system; and
7 Whereas, in addition to deaths set forth above, cigarette smoking causes cancer,
8 emphysema, lung disease, and heart disease, which negatively impacts citizens'
9 quality of life; and
10 Whereas, smoking poses a danger not only to the smoker but those exposed to
11 second-hand smoke; and
12 Whereas, cigarette smoking, through the ingestion of nicotine is highly addictive; and
13 Whereas, the United States government has made the decision to outlaw other
14 harmful drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin; and
15 Whereas, despite laws in place to protect them, young people are able to obtain
16 cigarettes and become addicted to them; and
17 Whereas, since the first study on the dangers of cigarette smoking was released by
18 the United States Surgeon General in 1964, and yet millions continue to smoke ;
19 Therefore, be it resolved by this Student Congress that the sale of cigarettes be
20 banned over the next five years in America.

Respectfully Submitted,
Baldwin High School

21 A Resolution to Abolish the Department of Agriculture

1. Whereas: the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was created to provide
2. guidance in regards to food, agriculture, and natural resources;
3. Whereas: according to Global Agriculture Output in 2005, the United States farming
4. industry is one of the most efficient and productive agriculture industries in the world;
5. Whereas: it is assumed the USDA is to report all food related problems;
6. Whereas: this was proven false when they forbid Californian officials from informing
7. citizens of where tainted beef was in December 2003;
8. Whereas: the conclusion can be drawn that due to the already thriving agriculture
9. industry, the need for the USDA has decreased;
10. Therefore be it resolved: the Department of Agriculture be abolished, effective July 11. 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

West Allegheny High School

**# 22 A Resolution to Equate the Standardized Aptitude Test to School Assessments in
Consideration for College Admissions**

1. WHEREAS: The Standardized Aptitude Test does not measure the full capacity
2. of each student since it only tests math and English; and
3. WHEREAS: School grades consider all areas of study and thus can be used as a
4. means of assessing areas that the Standardized Aptitude Test
5. cannot; and
6. WHEREAS: The Standardized Aptitude Test measures one's ability to reason
7. under pressure; and
8. WHEREAS: These two areas combined provide a proper and comprehensive
9. evaluation;
10. Therefore be it resolved by the Congress assembled here that the Standardized
11. Aptitude Test be equated to school grades in the consideration of college
12. admissions.

Respectfully submitted

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

23 A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX THE ARCTIC

1 WHEREAS, The consequences of global warming will soon
2 cause a "Northwest Passage" to be a practical route of
3 trade through the Arctic area north of Canada; and
4 WHEREAS, Oil drilling in the Arctic would be a solution to
5 America's current "addiction" to foreign oil; and
6 WHEREAS, The Arctic could prove itself to be a crucial
7 military holding for missile defense against countries such
8 as Russia and North Korea; and
9 WHEREAS, Countries, including Russia, Norway, Denmark, and
10 Canada, have already taken steps to claim the Arctic
11 before the United States; now, therefore, be it
12 RESOLVED, By the Student Congress here assembled, that the
13 United States take immediate military action to annex,
14 occupy, and defend the Arctic from all foreign nations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sewickley Academy

24 A Resolution to Eliminate Cell Phone Use in Public Schools

1 **Whereas** the federal government annually pours billions of dollars into the public school
2 system, and

3 **Whereas** despite numerous efforts to increase per-pupil spending and decrease the
4 student –teacher ratio have failed to produce any notable positive impact on the US’s
5 students, and

6 **Whereas** according to PISA’s 2009 study, the US’s global rankings in education have
7 either declined or remained stagnant, and

8 **Whereas** in order for a student to be able to adequately absorb information, he or she
9 must be giving full attention to the subject at hand, and

10 **Whereas** texting during class is a major distraction for students and interruptions caused
11 by teachers confiscating cell phones are detrimental to all students in the class, and

12 **Whereas** the time teachers spend attempting to get a texter’s attention or confiscating
13 phones is an unnecessary waste of valuable instruction time, and

14 **Whereas** in order to excel, US students must apply themselves completely to their
15 lessons and remove unnecessary distractions, and

16 **Whereas** any necessary communication (such as a phone call to one’s parents) could be
17 accomplished by a trip to the school’s office,

18 **Be it resolved** by this Student Congress here assembled that cell phones be collected by a
19 school administrator at the beginning of the day and returned to students at the end of the
20 day.

Respectfully submitted,

Oakland Catholic High School

A Resolution to Stop Piracy

1 WHEREAS: The current United States Navy Counter-Piracy Task Force is too
2 constrained by overly strict rules of engagement and,
3 WHEREAS: The strict rules of engagement are limiting the efficiency
4 needed to end modern piracy across the globe and,
5 WHEREAS: Modern Piracy is on the rise and affecting the economy and
6 Morale within seaboard countries and,
7 WHEREAS: New rules of engagement are needed for the Counter-
8 Piracy Task Force and,
9 WHEREAS: These orders shall allow the Counter-Piracy Task Force to fire
10 upon a suspected pirating vessel without prior warning and,
11 WHEREAS: Increased force will act as a deterrent to seaborne piracy,
12 THEREFORE: Let it be resolved that the United States Navy Counter-Piracy
13 Task Force of the will have new rules of engagement allowing them to open fire
14 upon and directly engage suspected pirate vessels without being required to give
15 them prior warning.

Respectfully Submitted,

North Hills Senior High School