



Congressional Debate Legislation

December 2024 Online Speech Festival

Celebrating Human Rights Day

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This New Jersey Speech & Debate League (NJSDL) legislation packet includes significant portions of legislation from the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) [2021 Diversity and Inclusion Congressional Legislation Docket](#) which are part of the NSDA Diversity and Inclusion collection of resources as well as some legislation from the NSDA National Finals and monthly legislation packets produced by the NSDA. The NJSDL would like to acknowledge and thank the NSDA staff, author of the NSDA monthly dockets Coach John Russell, and members of the speech and debate community who contributed to the original legislation packets.

A Bill to Close the Gender Wage Gap

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Government shall hereby work to close the gender wage gap through
3 making equal pay mandatory and providing pension credits for individuals who have left
4 the workforce to provide childcare.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. Equal pay shall be defined as the concept that individuals in the same workplace be
6 given equal pay, dependent on the profession and job position.

7 B. Pension credit shall be defined as an income-related employment benefit that
8 women who served in the capacity of a primary child care provider can claim once they
9 reach the age of 66.

- 10 1. For single pensioners with a weekly income (including pension) below
11 \$250.00, a pension credit will be awarded up to the amount needed to
12 close the gap between weekly income and the \$250.00 ceiling.
- 13 2. For heterosexual couples, if the pensioner and their legal partner have a
14 joint weekly income (including pension) that is below \$350.00, a
15 pension credit will be awarded up to the amount needed to close the
16 gap between weekly income and the \$350.00 ceiling.
- 17 3. For female-gendered same-sex couples, if the pensioner and their legal
18 partner have a joint weekly income (including pension) that is below
19 \$450.00, a pension credit will be awarded up to the amount needed to
20 close the gap between weekly income and the \$450.00 ceiling.

21 C. Childcare shall be defined as the daily care of a minor for a year or more.

22 **SECTION 3.** The US Department of Labor shall oversee the implementation of this bill to ensure
23 equal pay is carried out in the workplace and pensions are carried out.

24 A. All businesses that fail to comply shall be fined 4% of their annual profits and shall
25 increase by 3% for every consecutive infraction.

26 B. Inspections of all business shall occur annually to ensure the proper implementation
27 of this bill.

28 C. All employed childcare providers shall receive $\frac{1}{4}$ of their monthly wage, while taking
29 parental leave.

30 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect the beginning of next year.

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

A Bill to Require Change to T Visa Eligibility

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The requirement for T Visa applicants to prove removal from the United
3 States would cause “unusual or severe harm” upon return to their home
4 country shall be eliminated from the T-1 Visa application process.

5 **SECTION 2.** A T Visa is one of two visas that can be utilized to keep a non-immigrant
6 legally in the United States as protection from human trafficking.

7 A T-1 Visa is specifically used for an applicant who is a victim of human
8 trafficking. Unusual or severe harm indicates the applicant would not be
9 able to achieve a stable livelihood if returned to their home country.

10 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. State Department will oversee the enforcement of this bill.

11 A. All rejected T-1 applications submitted a year prior to the effective
12 date may be resubmitted and reviewed on a case by case basis.

13 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect on the 1st of January next year.

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

A Bill to Prevent Gentrification in Urban Cultural Areas

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All new residential rental properties within a designated ethnic cultural
3 district are required to reserve 25% of their units for residents of the
4 district displaced by the construction. Rent for these units will be
5 prorated based on the tenant's lease prior to construction and
6 displacement.

7 **A.** Building owners will receive a tax break of 15% for the first five years
8 of the property's existence. After the five year period, their
9 occupancy will be reviewed to continue the tax break every 2 years.

10 **SECTION 2.** A designated ethnic cultural district is an officially identified area of a city
11 recognized specifically as distinct ethnic enclave.

12 Residential rental properties are properties zoned for dwelling and living.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development will oversee the
14 enforcement of this bill.

15 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect on the 1st of January next year.

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

A Bill to Amend the Voting Rights Act to Provide Accessibility

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Section 203 (c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is amended by striking all
3 references to “English-illiteracy rate higher than the national average”
4 and shall mandate that all materials provided to voters shall be made
5 available in Spanish and any other language which is spoken by at least
6 5% of the population of that voting area.

7 **SECTION 2.** “Materials provided to voters” shall include ballots, voter information
8 pamphlets, applications, instructions at polling sites, mailings to identify
9 polling sites,

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice will oversee all provisions related to language
11 accessibility issues. The deliberate failure of a state to adhere to these
12 regulations shall cause that state to be in violation of section 2 of the
13 Voting Rights Act, and shall subject the state to penalties to be
14 determined by the Department of Justice.

15 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect on the 1st of January next year.

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

A Resolution to Acknowledge Sanctuary Cities

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **WHEREAS,** the subject of “Sanctuary Cities” has become an important issue to the
3 current administration; and

4 **WHEREAS,** Sanctuary Cities are defined as an urban area where the local law
5 enforcement does not follow federal immigration guidelines with respect to
6 detaining suspected undocumented immigrants; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Cities which hold these policies choose to do so because they feel that it will
8 make their cities safer by reducing fear of local law enforcement officials;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS,** there is no appreciable increase in crime in an area designated as a Sanctuary
11 City; and

12 **WHEREAS,** undocumented immigrants are more likely to come forward and cooperate
13 with local law enforcement due to this understanding; and

14 **WHEREAS,** such areas may even see an economic benefit from a larger available
15 workforce due to a greater pool of potential workers who will take low-wage
16 jobs; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States federal government
18 should stop attempting to force local law enforcement compliance with
19 federal immigration laws in cities which have chosen a Sanctuary status.

A Bill to Reform the Federal Judiciary to Reflect Gender Equality

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A. 28 U.S.C. §1 be amended to state: “the Supreme Court of the United States shall consist
3 of a Chief Justice of the United States and eight associate justices, five of whom shall be
4 women, and any six of whom shall constitute a quorum.”

5 B. A Gender Equality Bench Protocol be implemented to guide the federal judiciary in
6 adjudication.

7 **SECTION 2.** The Gender Equality Bench Protocol will promote awareness of ways in which gender
8 intersects with other social statuses to affect the justice system, provide tools to help
9 judicial officers achieve gender-sensitive adjudication, and will be modeled after
10 comparable protocols in place around the world, such as Belize’s “Justice Through a Gender
11 Lens: Gender Equality Protocol for Judicial Officers” and Mexico’s “Judicial Decision-Making
12 with a Gender Perspective: A Protocol.”

13 **SECTION 3.** The United States House Judiciary Committee and Department of Justice will be tasked
14 with developing, implementing, and monitoring the progress of the Gender Equality Bench
15 Protocol.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect immediately. The Supreme Court will have until
17 December 31, 2023 to meet parity requirements.

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

An Amendment to the Fair Housing Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 is amended by adding “citizenship
3 status,” after “familial status,” whenever it appears to describe a
4 protected class. Retaliation upon a member of this protected class,
5 including threats to notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall
6 be considered the same as retaliation against any other protected class
7 under this act.

8 **SECTION 2.** “Citizenship status” refers to legal status within the country, whether
9 documented or undocumented.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development shall enforce this
11 definition. The Department shall have the power to sanction property
12 owners for violations of section one using the same penalties as
13 proscribed for other violations of Title VIII.

14 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect immediately upon passage.

A Resolution to Oppose Oppressive Voter ID Laws

1 **WHEREAS,** Voter ID Laws are used in many states to restrict the right to vote “to
2 those who can show appropriate picture identification;” and
3 **WHEREAS,** This identification can often be difficult or expensive to obtain; and
4 **WHEREAS,** Those impacted by these laws are disproportionately people of color; and
5 **WHEREAS,** These laws limit the ability of all people to participate in the democratic
6 process; and
7 **WHEREAS,** A democracy is supposed to be a government for, by, and of the people;
8 and
9 **WHEREAS,** Representation cannot effectively occur if individuals are unjustly
10 silenced; now, therefore, be it resolved
11 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that we reject all oppressive voter
12 identification laws in the United States.