

# **AMER GOVT BMARK 1:**

## **"Don't Hate the Playa, Just Change The Game"**

### **CONTRACT**

#### **HOW YOU PLAN TO WORK?**

***We plan to work in a group.***

#### **WHO YOU ARE WORKING WITH?**

***Michael Sanders/Matthew Rinaldi***

#### **WHAT IS THE "UMBRELLA" ISSUE YOU WILL CREATE A LOBBY FOR?**

***Child Labor Practices/Human Rights***

#### **WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC SUB-ISSUE YOU WILL FOCUS ON?**

***"Constructing new regulations and standards for child labor practices on an national scale for international purposes."***

*One of the most prevalent issue in the world today is unethical labor practices. To be more specific, child labor. This usually derives from the outsourcing of jobs. When companies outsource their jobs to foreign countries, they are able to hire labor for cheap. And usually, these employees tend to be children. They are given a much more inferior pay, compared to the average worker, and are deprived of any rights. By creating an national standard for labor practices for American companies, improper methods of hiring cheap labor can be negated internationally.*

*We understand that to cease child labor is unfeasible. For most of these children, working is the only way to survive and make a living in their situations. So instead, we want to improve greatly upon the standards of child labor. A considerable pay raise must ensue for hired children and any employee alike. Rights of the average U.S. citizen should also be given to these employees, especially if they work for a U.S. company. A company's power to create their own standards and regulations must be replaced with a streamlined approach to promote safer working conditions and counter harsh treatment of children and employees alike.*

#### **WHERE YOU WILL LOBBY?**

***Federal/National***

#### **WHICH ORGANIZATIONS YOU WORK WITH?**

***Stop Child Labor Coalition***

*“The Child Labor Coalition (CLC) exists to serve as a national network for the exchange of information about child labor; provide a forum and a unified voice on protecting working minors and ending child labor exploitation; and develop informational and educational outreach to the public and private sectors to combat child labor abuses and promote progressive initiatives and legislation.”*

*-Mission Statement*

### **Child Reach International**

*“Childreach International USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping children throughout the world to reach their full potential. We work at the grassroots level in partnerships with local communities in the developing world to help improve children’s access to healthcare, education, and to restore children’s rights, thus empowering children to create positive change through sustainable, community-based solutions.”*

*-About ChildReach International USA*

### **WHO “REPRESENTS” YOU?**

**Democrat Robert Brady:** US House of Rep. 1st Penn District.; Congressman 1998-Pres

**Democrat Chaka Fattah:** US House of Rep. 2nd Penn District.; Congressman 1995-Pres

**Republican Newt Gingrich:** Former Speaker of the House 1995-1999; Former US House of Rep. 1979-1999

### **HOW WILL YOU PRESENT YOUR WORK?**

***We will present our work through a website.***

Signature,

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# **“GET HISTORICAL”**

## **FOCUSED RESEARCH**

### **Primary Sources**

<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/guide/> (Matt)

<http://www.statisticbrain.com/outsourcing-statistics-by-country/> (Matt)

<http://www.theonion.com/video/more-american-workers-outsourcing-own-jobs-oversea.14329/> (Mike)

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h1586/text> (Matt)

<http://www.outsaurus.com/est-jobs-lost-details/> (Matt)

### **Secondary Sources**

<http://www.iclarified.com/entry/index.php?enid=19490> (Mike)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2012/09/05/tech-samsung-labour.html?cmp=rss> (Matt)

<http://news.ncsu.edu/releases/wmscrowleyworking/> (Mike)

<http://operationtech.about.com/od/outsourcing/tp/OutSrcDisadv.htm> (Mike)

<http://www.plu.edu/~econ331/perspectives/outsourcing-opponants.html> (Mike)

#### **1. Why should we care about this issue?**

We should care about this issue because of 3 reasons:

1. About 15 million Americans are unemployed and need jobs
2. America's economy is being hurt by the shipping of jobs overseas
3. Unfair/inhumane treatment of workers (very low wages, absurd working hours, etc.)

#### **2. Why did other groups/individuals start caring about this issue?**

For the same reasons as above. They care about their countries economy. If America's economy goes up, then the other countries economy goes up. But shipping jobs overseas creates less jobs for Americans. The people against outsourcing also believe that labor rights in America should be the same overseas. Rumors have been around stating that many people work for American companies overseas work long hours with no breaks. The workers already receive less pay than America's minimum wage, so people are drawing comparisons to slavery.

#### **3. Are there any high-profile individuals in support of your issue?**

Mostly Democrats are against outsourcing jobs. There was an act that was recently denied by a mostly Republican senate. Democrats said that the senate was influenced by Romney's opinion. But not all republicans are against outsourcing. Newt Gingrich suprisely, on his campaign trail, mentioned that he supports anti-outsourcing.

#### **4. How far back can you trace this particular movement for change?**

Outsourcing has been around since the ancient Egyptian and Han Chinese culture. Wherever industrialization has occurred, the concept of outsourcing has been around. Organizations have been using internet for support against outsourcing since the 1990's. Although other movements could have been started before then.

### **5. What major events have occurred in the life of your issue?**

*(include at least five definitive "flash points" in the history of your issue)*

*206 BC-Present: Like mentioned before outsourcing has started since ancient Han-Chinese culture and has continued to financed countries ever since.*

*206 BC-Present: Organizations probably have been around since then to stop them.*

*2010: United States voted yes on American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. Congress voted less on tax cuts to hire more jobs in America, when Americans were losing their jobs, before the recession.*

*2011-2012: Major events include multiple incidents with apple and Samgsung getting caught with labor Issues in the past 2 years.*

*2012: Congress just denied an act that would help fix some problems with American outsourcing a few months ago.*

### **6. What are the other perspectives regarding your issue?**

*(know your opponents "facts/figures" to ensure you can defend your side)*

*The other main perspective would be the view of the companies themselves. Outsourcing is tempting because it benefits the companies more. Outsourcing means cheaper labor and less restrictions. The work force that this entails is massive. By having cheaper labor, more personnel can be hired. Another reason is the "portfolio effect." By having multiple branches in the company, the company can avoid any major setback. For example, instead of investing everything in one stock, there is less risk that you will lose your money. By investing in different stocks, if one fails, you don't lose all your money.*

### **7. What Laws/Supreme Court decisions have been passed regarding your issue?**

*(become VERY familiar with them- for ex. Roe v Wade made Abortion legal)*

*There was recently in 2005 there was a law passed called the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. they passed the act to create more jobs in america. At the time the national unemployment rate was 9.9% which was pretty high at the time. In 2012 another law, Bring Jobs Home act, was almost passed but the senate which was mostly republican sided to get rid of the law.*

### **8. What impact have these legal developments had on your issue?**

*(be specific about the social, economic and political impacts)*

*Many sources state that outsourcing in other countries had an effect on the 2008 recession. The Bring Jobs Home act is recent though and hasn't affected anything socially and economically but could affect the 2012 election.*

### **9. What specific communities/groups have been affected by this issue?**

*(regional, ethnic, socio-economic- for ex. Arizona SB1070 law affects Latino community)*

*Our issue doesn't target just one demographic, but the whole entire nation. It varies depending on who is unfortunate enough to not be able to find a job. To be more specific, this affects about 15 million unemployed Americans. In turn, it also affects the many people working for American companies overseas.*

**10. What do you want your Representative to actually do or change?**

*(You need to pitch something specific- for ex. outlaw smoking in restaurants)*

*We want our representative to pass a law that requires American companies to go by the labor laws that have been created in the U.S. when outsourcing jobs and dealing with international employees.*

## **“CREATE & PROMOTE PETITION”**

### **PETITION CREATION**

**Link to Petition:**

<http://www.change.org/petitions/united-states-congress-to-regulate-a-new-system-of-laws-for-outsourcing>

**Similar Petitions:**

<http://www.change.org/petitions/to-us-congress-make-outsourcing-illegal-or-impose-substantial-taxes> (Made in America)

<http://www.change.org/petitions/more-jobs-in-the-u-s> (More jobs in the U.S.!)

## **“WIN CHANGE”**

### **DAY 1**

**ASK:** *Regulate the U.S. labor laws in American companies that have outsourced their jobs overseas or are planning on doing so.*

**Multimedia History:** <http://flyinggiraffes.weebly.com>

### **DAY 2**

**IN-CLASS PEER REVIEW:**

**-Break into groups of 3 projects**

*(see the [AmerGovBMark1PresentationSpreadsheet](#))*

**-Each individual/group will have 15 mins to present**

*(10 mins to teach, 5 mins to answer Questions and field Constructive Criticism)*

**-Only 1 person/group will be speaking at a time.**

*(THIS IS NOT A DISCUSSION. All others take notes about projects presented)*

***-NoteTakers should be writing down notes in 3 columns:***

*("I Am Impressed By", "I Am Confused About", "An Area for Improvement Could Be")*

***HOME WORK:***

***-Fully investigate the 2 projects you learned about today***

*(Add to the notes you started in class during presentations)*

***-Post meaningful Feedback/Criticism to these projects on Amer Gov Course Blog***

*(remember: constructive, respectful and supportive suggestions to improve their projects)*

**DAY 3**

***PREPARE TO CONTACT DECISION MAKER:***

***Declare how you will contact Your Rep and what you will say***

*(write out email, or map out what you will say during an in-person/phone conversation)*

***3. Contact Representative*** *(with fully researched and developed petition)*

*(provide evidence that you contacted Representative)*

*(if email- cc me in- [dhorman@scienceleadership.org](mailto:dhorman@scienceleadership.org))*

## **Correspondence**

Dear Chaka Fattah/Bob Brady/Newt Gingrich,

We are high school students from Science Leadership Academy. We have sent this email to inform you of a petition we have created. It is called "Regulate!", and it involves the implementation of our labor laws into outsourced American companies.

Here is our mission statement:

*"'Regulate' is the key word here. American companies ship jobs overseas, they are dodging the laws that have been put in place in order to create a safe and just working environment. By outsourcing jobs, companies have found a way to hire labor for cheap and neglect basic human rights and laws. While working Americans receive an income that can sustain their living costs, employees of these outsourced jobs are working twice as hard for twice as less. Their working hours are unethical and the work settings prove hazardous to their health. By regulating the U.S. Labor Laws in outsourced American companies, we can provide better working conditions for people overseas. This in turn can result in a multitude of positive outcomes. Employees overseas can receive fair treatment, the use of child labor can be cut down, And outsourcing will become less of a priority for American companies. This in turn creates jobs for the millions of unemployed Americans in the U.S."*

We believe the outsourced American companies should receive inspections to ensure a safe and just working environment. Companies who fail to abide by the laws should receive tax increases or various penalties depending on the company. Multiple offenders will result in a permanent ban and shutdown of the company branch in that region.

We appreciate your time and understand that you are a busy individual. We just ask you to please take our petition into consideration. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Michael Sanders/Matthew

Rinaldi

