

Bills and Resolutions for the TCFL Student Congress

October 8, 2016

SESSION I

1) A Bill to Ban Fast-Food Restaurant Chain Advertising

Sponsored by K. Graber, Monroe

Purpose: As it did in 1970 with tobacco advertising on television and radio, Congress will ban Fast-Food Restaurant Chain advertising on FCC regulated broadcast media.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED, that this Act may be cited as the "Public Health Fast-Food Advertising Act of 2016."

SECTION 1. Unlawful Advertising. After January 1, 2020, it shall be unlawful for Fast-Food Restaurant Chains to advertise on any medium of electronic communication subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

- a. **Fast-Food:** food prepared in quantity by a standardized method (mass produced) and dispensed quickly at inexpensive restaurants for eating there or elsewhere. Fast-Food is further defined as cuisine prepared by restaurants that prioritize speed and low prices. Fast-Food includes but is not limited to hamburgers, fried chicken, tacos, and pizza.
- b. **Restaurant Chain:** a set of related restaurants in many different locations that are either under shared corporate ownership or franchising agreements. Also: a number of restaurants operating under the same brand name and selling identical menu items.

SECTION 3. Criminal Penalty: Any person who violates the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall on conviction thereof be subject to a fine of not less than \$10,000 per instance of unlawful advertising.

2) A Bill to Eliminate the Penny as Currency

Submitted by Evan Feldman, NHHS Coach

Purpose: To modernize the legal tender of the United States.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. The United States Federal Government shall ban the penny.

SECTION 2. The penny is defined as a one-cent coin equal to one hundredth of a dollar.

SECTION 3. The United States Mint shall halt all production of the penny immediately. Businesses must round their prices accordingly. Businesses will be prohibited from accepting the penny as valid currency beginning 2017-2018 fiscal year.

SECTION 4. Beginning 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Federal Reserve shall declare that the penny is no longer valid United States currency.

SECTION 5. All other laws that are in conflict with this Act are hereby declared null and void.

SESSION II

3) A Bill to Increase Minimum Sentences for the Crime of Rape

Proposed by E. Nishioka, Hart

Purpose: Current California state laws punish a conviction of rape with a sentence of imprisonment in state prison for three, six, or eight years, increasing to a range of seven to eleven years when the rape victim is a minor. This Act increases the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to a range of 15 to 25 years.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that in the State of California:

SECTION 1. Mandatory minimum sentencing for rape convictions will be 15, 18, or 20 years, increasing to a range of 20 to 25 years when the rape victim is a minor.

SECTION 2. This Act will be overseen by the State of California Department of Justice.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect immediately upon passage. All other laws in conflict with this Act are hereby declared null and void.

4) A Resolution to End the Privatization of California Prisons

Sponsored by E. Nishioka, Hart HS, and K. Graber, Monroe

Purpose: To improve California sentencing and corrections practices.

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Justice has announced it will begin phasing out its contracts with private prisons, and

WHEREAS more than 9,000 California state inmates are currently housed in private prisons, with the bulk of those imprisoned in Arizona and Mississippi, and

WHEREAS in addition to the two out-of-state prisons, California contracts with eight in-state prisons, and

WHEREAS California has no specific timeline for reducing the state's contracts with private prisons, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation begin phasing out its use of private prisons to be totally divested within three years of this resolution's passage.

SESSION III

5) A Resolution to Require Public Release of Presidential Candidates' Tax Returns

Sponsored by K. Graber, Monroe

WHEREAS conflicts of interest and transparency of government are of the utmost importance to voters, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that all candidates for President of the United States shall make public a minimum of three consecutive federal and state income tax statements upon filing for candidacy, including the release of tax returns from the year prior to the election year for which he or she is filing.

6) A Resolution to Designate Federal Election Day as a Public Holiday

Submitted by K. Graber & E. Nishioka, inspired by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont

Purpose: To increase voter turnout, because increasing civic participation through voting is good for our democracy; to indicate a national commitment to create a more vibrant democracy.

WHEREAS nationwide, the total turnout for the 2014 elections was only 36.6%, according to the United States Elections Project at the University of Florida, making it the lowest voter turnout in more than 70 years; and

WHEREAS in America, we should be doing everything possible to make it easier for people to participate in the political process;

WHEREAS we should not be satisfied with a “democracy” in which more than 60% of our citizens don't vote and approximately 80% of young and low-income Americans fail to vote; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that Federal Election Day, the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year, shall be a national holiday so that every citizen has the time and opportunity to vote.