

# 2013 CHSSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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## *Student Congress Bills*

### **1) WORLD ISSUES**

The International Microfinance Act of 2013

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All U.S agencies that provide any form of foreign humanitarian assistance, and any U.S dues paid in to international financial development agencies shall be required to dedicate 3% of the total budget to either create or reinforce pre-existing microfinance, microcredit, or microloan programs around the world.

SECTION 2. Microfinance, credit, and loan programs will be defined as financial assistance to poverty and below poverty line persons operating in a non-profit or charity status.

SECTION 3. All programs and proposed programs will be vetted by a bipartisan, independent committee made up of the Secretary of State, the director of the USAID, and the U.S representatives to the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

SECTION 4. The FY2013 budget shall reflect this new prioritization of funds.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation shall hereby be declared null and void.

### **2) CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

A Bill to Make the California Prison System more Self-Sufficient

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All state and county prisons in California shall join the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA).

SECTION 2. Funding to prisons from the state government will henceforth be limited to medical care for the inmates, and the salaries and benefits to all employees. Collective bargaining agreements with employees will remain unchanged in any way by this bill.

SECTION 3. All funding that the government would have given to the prisons for clothing, food, recreations, furniture, cleaning products, and various other supplies, will be allocated to public schools, colleges, and universities in the state of California.

SECTION 4. CALPIA shall be responsible for operating California prisons.

SECTION 5. The changes legislated by this bill must be completed by July 1, 2014.

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this act are hereby declared null and void.

### **3) HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **A RESOLUTION TO FUND MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES INSTEAD OF PRISONS**

Whereas recent events have brought the national discussion on mental health to the forefront; and

Whereas due to social stigma, lack of government support, drug abuse, and poverty, there are many Americans suffering from serious mental health problems without aid; and

Whereas aside from great tragedies that break hearts, there are private, lesser-discussed tragedies that happen each day due to the failures of our health care system to adequately support, evaluate, and treat those with mental illnesses; and

Whereas with the right actions these individuals might be able to live normal, productive lives; and

Whereas the criminalization and marginalization of mental illness must end;

We, the Student Congress here assembled resolve to

- 1) Shift funding from prisons back into the mental health system to re-open psychiatric wards and hospitals to provide long-term treatment to people with mental illnesses instead of waiting until they commit a crime and incarcerating them;
- 2) Open more long-term care facilities and lengthen the allowable stay for appropriate treatment and stabilization;
- 3) Reestablish the rights of legal guardians of mentally incapacitated people to voluntarily sign their wards into a long term care facility without requiring court order.

### **4) BUDGET AND ECONOMY**

#### **MAKE CALIFORNIA A RIGHT TO WORK STATE**

Be it enacted by this Student Congress that

An individual shall not be required as a condition of obtaining or continuing employment to do any of the following:

(A) Become or remain a member of a labor organization as a condition of employment.

(B) Involuntarily pay any dues, fees, assessments, or other charges or expenses of any kind or amount or provide anything of value to a labor organization.

(C) Pay to any organization or third party an amount that is in lieu of, equivalent to, or any portion of membership dues, fees, assessments, or other charges or expenses required of employees represented by a labor organization.

(D) An agreement, contract, understanding, or practice between or involving an employer and a labor organization that violates this act is unlawful, unenforceable and punishable by fines.

## 5) CIVIL RIGHTS

### A RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

1 WHEREAS, The 1965 Higher Education Act, which was reauthorized in 2008, sought to  
2 ensure that no student would be denied a college education because of his or her  
3 financial condition; and

4 WHEREAS, Almost 40 years later, American has failed to make good on that promise of  
5 equal opportunity; and

6 WHEREAS, Low-income students continue to lag behind their peers in college enrollment  
7 rates, degree completion rates, and enrollment and graduation from selective  
8 colleges; and

9 WHEREAS, Funding for Pell Grants has not kept up with the exorbitant rise in college  
10 tuition, thus significantly reducing the purchasing power of these grants; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED By the Student Congress here assembled that the Higher Education Act be  
13 strengthened by shifting aid away from colleges that fail to keep net tuition down, and  
14 toward those colleges and universities that do their fair share to keep tuition affordable,  
15 provide good value, and serve needy students well. Be it further resolved that eligibility  
16 and funding for Pell Grants should be significantly increased.

## 6) CALIFORNIA ISSUES

### A Bill to Promote Veteran Employment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. California state licensing boards shall recognize training received in the armed forces, and waive fees and expedite licensing for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

SECTION 2. Licensing shall be expedited for training in the following areas: commercial driving, railroading, and heavy equipment operation; specialized contractors, as per Contractors State Licensing Board classifications; nursing, radiology, paramedic, EMT, or other medical certification; electronics, computer networking, IT, and telecommunications.

SECTION 3. The Department of Consumer Affairs shall oversee and audit implementation.

SECTION 4. Implementation shall begin within 30 days of passage.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this new policy are hereby declared null and void.