A Bill to Ban the Outdoor Release of Helium Balloons

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

Section 1 The intentional outdoor release of balloons filled with helium or any other gas lighter than air shall be prohibited in the United States.

Section 2 "Intentional outdoor release" is defined as knowingly releasing one or more balloons into the open air. This definition does not include balloons released for weather, scientific, or government research purposes, balloons released by federally licensed amateur radio operators, hot air balloons carrying passengers, or balloons released by accident.

Section 3 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall enforce this legislation as an amendment to the Marine Debris Act, and shall levy a civil penalty of up to $100 for each release of ten or more balloons within a twenty-four hour period. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall receive $5 million annually to administer enforcement and public education, and all penalties collected under this legislation shall be deposited into the Marine Debris Program.

Section 4 This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by National Online Forensics

A Bill to Guarantee Child Care for Active-Duty Military Families

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

Section 1 Every active-duty service member shall be guaranteed a child care placement within ninety days of submitting a request, either at a military child development center or through fee assistance for a civilian provider.

Section 2 "Child care placement" is defined as a funded, full-time slot for one child at a Department of Defense Child Development Center, at a certified Family Child Care home, or with a civilian provider participating in the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood program.

Section 3 The Department of Defense, through the Office of Military Community and Family Policy, shall enforce this legislation and shall receive $600 million annually to expand fee assistance and to raise the wages of child development center staff.

Subsection A No less than half of the funds appropriated under Section 3 shall be spent on the recruitment and retention of child care staff.

Subsection B The Department of Defense shall publish each installation's child care waiting list quarterly.

Section 4 This legislation shall take effect in FY 2029. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by National Online Forensics

Resolution to Update International Space Law for Commercial Space Activities

WHEREAS, The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 prohibits nations from claiming ownership of the Moon, Mars, or other celestial bodies but does not clearly regulate commercial activities there; and

WHEREAS, advances in technology may soon allow governments and private companies to establish facilities and extract resources in space; and

WHEREAS, unclear rules could lead to disputes over resource ownership, safety zones, environmental protection, and access to valuable locations; and

WHEREAS, updating international space law would promote peaceful cooperation and establish fair standards for future space activities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the United States should lead international negotiations to create a supplementary agreement updating the Outer Space Treaty while preserving its prohibition on national ownership of celestial bodies.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Zachary Zhi