**Procedure for Submitting Legislation to the UDCA**

**Congressional Debate Committee**

1. Carefully follow the format found in the UHSAA handbook on page 173-4. <https://www.uhsaa.org/Publications/Handbook/ActivitiesSections/SpeechDebate.pdf>
2. Coaches: please send your school’s best submissions. Please do not send more than 12 submissions in any given month. Thank you for respecting the committee’s limited time.
3. Type the legislation in an editable document, not a PDF. The document must be in a format that can be easily edited. The Congress Committee Chair will make a copy of your legislation and will edit your legislation based on the committee’s recommendations.
4. For the last line of the legislation, type:

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by \_\_\_ (name of author) \_\_ of \_\_ (name of school) \_\_.*

Please fill in your name and your school’s name. The Committee Chair will remove names and schools before sending submissions to the committee for review.

1. Attach legislation in an email to [mary.thayer@rop.com](mailto:mary.thayer@rop.com?subject=Congressional%20Debate%20legislation%20submission). The debate coach must be included in the email either as the submitter or CC’ed if submitted by a student. If the coach changes, please send an update ON THE SAME EMAIL THREAD.
2. Submission deadlines are **Aug 10**, Sept. 10, Nov. 10, and **Dec. 10**. The state docket will include legislation from the entire year.
3. Process:
   1. 10th of the month: deadline for new submissions
   2. 15th of the month: committee chair sends submissions to committee members for review. Identifying info is removed for the review part of the process.
   3. 25th of the month: committee returns review to chair.
   4. 31st of the month: committee chair posts top 6 submissions on the UDCA website. (Chair will post up to 12 for the first month of a new school year.) Accepted legislation is posted with the names of authors and their schools. The
   5. **The final review (December) will not be posted until the end of January.**
   6. All submissions receiving 3.0 or above will automatically remain in the pool until they are among the top 6 for a given month or the school year ends.
4. Submissions that do not follow the UHSAA Handbook format, have spelling/grammar errors, or do not follow the above instructions will be returned for revision before being accepted for review.
5. **All** coaches are welcome to join the Congress Committee. Committee members are **not** required to complete a review every month. Interested coaches, please email chair at [mary.thayer@rop.com](mailto:mary.thayer@rop.com).

Legislation is evaluated based on the following criteria by each committee member and given a score, zero being the lowest and five being the highest. All committee members’ scores are averaged to determine the quality of the submission. Submissions earning below 3.0 will be returned to the student for revision and can be resubmitted for a future review. The top submissions will be posted on the UDCA website for use in interscholastic competition.

**UDCA Student Congressional Debate Committee**

**Legislation Evaluation Rubric**

**Debatability**—legislation is clearly controversial (good arguments exist for both sides)  
**Recency**—legislation is timely with regard to current events  
**Newness**—legislative issue has not been debated recently/too frequently  
**Significance**—legislation is not trivial in focus  
**Interesting**—legislation pertains to issues that students would enjoy debating  
**National Focus**—legislation must involve national interest and enforcement  
**Jurisdiction**—legislative interest or enforcement must be under the jurisdiction of the appropriate federal governmental body  
**Appropriate**—legislation should pertain to issues that teachers deem appropriate for school discussion  
**Challenging**—legislative issue requires research and critical thinking on the part of the students

**Amendment** to the Constitution changes existing laws by adding to and/or omitting existing language in the Constitution. Look at actual amendment precedents for language.

**A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

**Amendment #\_\_**

**SECTION 1**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**SECTION 2**: The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by \_\_\_ (name of author) \_\_ of \_\_ (name of school) \_\_.*

**Bills** create new laws. Notice that the bill does not specify the harms nor the causes of the problem. These are reserved for the authorship speech.

**A Bill to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS THAT:

**SECTION 1**. (State the new policy in a brief declarative sentence, or in as few sentences as possible.) The United States shall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2**. (Define any ambiguous terms inherent in the first section) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3**. (Name the government agency that will oversee the enforcement of the bill along with the specific enforcement mechanism. If you want to include funding, do so as a subpoint in this section.) This legislation will take effect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 4**. (Indicate the implementation date/time frame.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by \_\_\_ (name of author) \_\_ of \_\_ (name of school) \_\_.*

**Resolutions** make recommendations for action or state an official opinion of the Congressional body. This might be appropriate when you want to write a bill about state or foreign policy as opposed to federal policy.

**A Resolution to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, (State the current problem in one brief sentence) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and

**WHEREAS**, (Describe the scope of the problem. This needs to flow logically from the first clause) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and

**WHEREAS**, (Explain the impact and harms allowed by the current problem, again in a logical sequence) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and

**WHEREAS**, (Add as many clauses as needed to establish harm and cause) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that \_\_(State the recommendation for dealing with the problem in a clear call for action) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** that\_\_\_\_ (Optional additional recommendation. If not used, end the previous clause with a period.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by \_\_\_ (name of author) \_\_ of \_\_ (name of school) \_\_.*