

HMDC Model Congress (Fall 2024)

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Pros & Cons Related to the Bills for the Model Congress Conference

Bills for the Model Congress Conference (Pros & Cons)

A BILL TO REQUIRE SOLAR PANELS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Pros:

1. **Significant Energy Savings:** Installing solar panels reduces reliance on traditional electricity sources, saving taxpayers millions annually in energy costs.
2. **Environmental Protection:** Solar energy decreases greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to a cleaner environment and combatting climate change.
3. **Economic Opportunities:** Stimulates job creation in solar panel manufacturing, installation, and maintenance industries.

Cons:

1. **High Upfront Costs:** Initial investment of \$5 billion may challenge federal and state budgets, requiring creative funding solutions.
2. **Limited Effectiveness in Some Areas:** Government buildings in regions with low sunlight may not see substantial benefits.
3. **Exemptions Create Gaps:** Historic and soon-to-be-demolished buildings are excluded, reducing the initiative's overall environmental impact.

A BILL TO PREVENT CLIMATE DISASTERS

Pros:

1. **Reduced Greenhouse Gases:** Stricter regulations on emissions significantly mitigate climate change and related natural disasters.
2. **Expanded Clean Energy Use:** Subsidies encourage businesses and individuals to adopt renewable energy, accelerating a shift away from fossil fuels.
3. **Public Education Impact:** Awareness campaigns foster a culture of sustainability and informed environmental stewardship.

Cons:

1. **Substantial Funding Required:** The \$12 billion cost over five years could strain federal resources and delay implementation.
2. **Coordination Complexity:** Federal, state, and local governments must work closely, leading to potential delays and logistical issues.
3. **Industrial Pushback:** Industries reliant on fossil fuels may resist new regulations, potentially stalling progress.

A BILL TO BAN ANIMAL TESTING

Pros:

1. **Animal Welfare Improvement:** Prohibiting animal testing prevents cruelty and aligns research practices with ethical standards.
2. **Enhanced Research Accuracy:** Promotes use of alternative methods like vitro testing, which can provide more relevant results for humans.
3. **Long-Term Cost Efficiency:** Alternatives are often faster and cheaper than animal testing, reducing research expenses.

Cons:

1. **Costly Transition:** Labs will need significant funding to implement and adopt new testing methods.
2. **Research Gaps:** Some areas, such as drug safety, still lack sufficient non-animal testing alternatives, potentially slowing innovations.
3. **Industry Resistance:** Pharmaceutical and cosmetic sectors may struggle to adapt, causing delays in product development.

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CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE OF 2024

Pros:

1. **Reduced Plastic Pollution:** Removes harmful waste from oceans, protecting marine life and improving ecosystems.
2. **Healthier Ecosystems:** Cleaning oceans restores habitats and biodiversity, ensuring better environmental balance.
3. **Community Engagement:** Encourages public participation in cleanup efforts, increasing environmental awareness.

Cons:

1. **Expensive Program Costs:** Estimated \$2 billion cost may compete with other environmental initiatives for funding.
2. **Enforcement Difficulties:** Ensuring compliance with bans on single-use plastics requires robust monitoring systems.
3. **Limited Geographic Impact:** Focused primarily on coastal areas, leaving inland pollution sources unaddressed.

A BILL TO BAN GAS-POWERED VEHICLES

Pros:

1. **Carbon Emission Reduction:** Eliminating gas-powered vehicles reduces greenhouse gases, directly mitigating climate change.
2. **Improved Public Health:** Reduced air pollution lowers rates of respiratory illnesses and other pollution-related health issues.
3. **Boost to Green Industries:** Encourages innovation and job growth in the electric vehicle and renewable energy sectors.

Cons:

1. **High Transition Costs:** The \$20 billion required for infrastructure and subsidies may strain public budgets.
2. **Accessibility Concerns:** Lower-income families may struggle to afford electric vehicles, even with subsidies.
3. **Industry Pushback:** Automakers focused on traditional vehicles may resist and delay compliance efforts.

A BILL TO LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS

Pros:

1. **Increased Accessibility:** Reducing costs allows more individuals to afford healthcare services, improving overall public health.
2. **Prevention Focus:** Affordable care encourages preventive treatment, lowering the risk of severe illnesses.
3. **Financial Relief:** Eases the burden on families struggling to pay for medical expenses.

Cons:

1. **Funding Challenges:** Requires \$900 million over ten years, demanding consistent budget allocations.
2. **Hospital Financial Pressure:** Reduced income from lower costs may strain hospital operations.
3. **Monitoring Gaps:** Lack of mandatory oversight may limit program effectiveness and accountability.

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A BILL TO PROTECT WILDLIFE BY REDUCING POLLUTION

Pros:

1. **Ecosystem Restoration:** Reduces pollution in water and air, improving habitats for wildlife and biodiversity.
2. **Healthier Environments:** Protects animals and humans from the harmful effects of pollutants.
3. **Public Awareness:** Promotes recycling and waste reduction through education campaigns.

Cons:

1. **High Financial Costs:** \$2 billion over five years may compete with other environmental priorities.
2. **Local Strain:** Increased responsibilities on local governments could stretch their resources.
3. **Compliance Monitoring:** Ensuring adherence to pollution reduction measures is resource-intensive.

A BILL TO MAKE THE ENVIRONMENT BETTER

Pros:

1. **Comprehensive Pollution Reduction:** Targets multiple sources, including industrial, agricultural, and domestic pollution, ensuring significant environmental improvements.
2. **Sustainable Development Promotion:** Encourages green practices and nationwide recycling, fostering long-term environmental and economic stability.
3. **Increased Public Engagement:** Raises awareness and motivates individuals and industries to adopt eco-friendly practices.

Cons:

1. **High Financial Requirement:** Costs between \$103 billion and \$895 billion over one year, requiring substantial government and private sector funding.
2. **Implementation Complexity:** Involves multiple sectors and stakeholders, making coordination and enforcement challenging.
3. **Industrial Pushback:** Regulations may face resistance from businesses reliant on traditional practices, slowing progress.

A BILL TO IMPROVE SCHOOL LUNCHES

Pros:

1. **Improved Student Nutrition:** Introduces healthier meal options, reducing childhood obesity and related health issues.
2. **Catering to Dietary Needs:** Adds vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, and gluten-free options, ensuring inclusivity for all students.
3. **Enhanced Academic Performance:** Better nutrition improves focus and energy levels, positively impacting student outcomes.

Cons:

1. **Implementation Costs:** Requires \$700,000 for healthier ingredients and salad bar installations, which may strain school budgets.
2. **Resistance to Change:** Students and parents accustomed to existing menus may initially resist dietary changes.
3. **Logistical Challenges:** Ensuring compliance across schools and staff training may require additional time and resources.

A BILL TO GIVE FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS FOR KIDS

Pros:

1. **Educational Opportunities:** Provides children with hands-on learning about nature, wildlife, and history, enhancing their understanding of the environment.
2. **Encourages Physical Activity:** Promotes hiking, walking, and exploring, improving children's overall physical health.
3. **Reduced Screen Time:** Offers an engaging alternative to excessive digital consumption, benefiting mental well-being.

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A BILL TO GIVE FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS FOR KIDS (Continued...)

Cons:

1. **Increased Park Maintenance:** Higher visitor numbers may strain park facilities and require additional funding for upkeep.
2. **Parental Costs:** Guardians still bear costs for transportation, camping, or parking, limiting accessibility for some families.
3. **Geographic Barriers:** Children in remote or underserved areas may struggle to access parks, limiting the program's inclusivity.

A BILL TO REQUIRE MORE FIELD TRIPS FOR STUDENTS

Pros:

1. **Hands-On Learning:** Field trips provide experiential education, helping students better understand academic concepts through real-world applications.
2. **Increased Engagement:** Breaks from routine classrooms keep students motivated and excited about learning.
3. **Social Skills Development:** Enhances teamwork and communication as students collaborate during trips.

Cons:

1. **High Annual Costs:** The \$8 million required annually could strain education budgets.
2. **Organizational Challenges:** Monthly trips demand significant planning and coordination from schools.
3. **Teacher Workload:** Adds responsibilities to teachers who must supervise and manage activities during trips.

A BILL TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION

Pros:

1. **Biodiversity Protection:** Safeguards habitats for wildlife, reducing the risk of species extinction.
2. **Climate Change Mitigation:** Forest preservation lowers carbon emissions, improving air quality and combating global warming.
3. **Economic Growth:** Creates jobs in reforestation, forestry management, and sustainable wood product industries.

Cons:

1. **Significant Funding Needs:** \$10 billion over five years requires sustained financial commitment.
2. **Enforcement Complexity:** Monitoring illegal logging and ensuring compliance requires robust systems and personnel.
3. **Industry Pushback:** Companies reliant on logging may resist changes, affecting policy enforcement.

A BILL TO REQUIRE PLANTS IN EVERY HOUSEHOLD

Pros:

1. **Improved Indoor Air Quality:** Plants naturally filter air, reducing toxins and enhancing household health.
2. **Mental Health Benefits:** Caring for plants reduces stress and boosts emotional well-being.
3. **Environmental Awareness:** Encourages families to adopt eco-friendly habits and connect with nature.

Cons:

1. **Maintenance Challenges:** Not all households may have the resources or knowledge to properly care for plants.
2. **Limited Impact:** While beneficial indoors, plants alone won't significantly address larger environmental issues.
3. **Program Costs:** \$2 billion over five years may face scrutiny amid competing funding priorities.

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A BILL TO REQUIRE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE SCHOOL BUS

Pros:

1. **Reduced Traffic Congestion:** Encourages fewer parent drop-offs, improving traffic flow near schools.
2. **Cleaner Air Quality:** Decreases vehicle emissions, positively impacting community health.
3. **Reliable Attendance:** Ensures students have consistent, dependable transportation to school.

Cons:

1. **High Program Costs:** \$15 billion over 10 years for bus fleets, drivers, and safety programs is a significant investment.
2. **Parental Resistance:** Some families may prefer private transportation, leading to opt-outs.
3. **Route Optimization Challenges:** Efficiently planning routes for diverse communities is logistically demanding.

A BILL TO PROMOTE OCEAN EXPLORATION

Pros:

1. **New Discoveries:** Expands knowledge of underwater ecosystems, identifying new species and natural resources.
2. **Disaster Preparedness:** Improves ability to predict tsunamis and hurricanes, saving lives and property.
3. **Technological Innovation:** Stimulates advancements in robotics and exploration technology.

Cons:

1. **High Initial Costs:** \$150 million over two years may compete with other scientific funding priorities.
2. **Complex Collaboration:** Requires cooperation with international organizations and private institutions.
3. **Operational Risks:** Deep-sea exploration involves safety risks and significant technical challenges.

A BILL TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Pros:

1. **Cleaner Environments:** Reduces plastic waste in ecosystems, improving habitats for wildlife and water quality.
2. **Sustainable Alternatives:** Encourages the use of compostable and biodegradable products, fostering eco-friendly consumption habits.
3. **Public Health Benefits:** Lowers human exposure to harmful microplastics, reducing associated health risks.

Cons:

1. **Implementation Costs:** \$10 billion over five years demands significant federal funding and planning.
2. **Compliance Challenges:** Enforcing bans and monitoring recycling programs require extensive resources.
3. **Economic Resistance:** Businesses reliant on plastic production may lobby against regulations.

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A BILL TO BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS

Pros:

1. **Improved Public Safety:** Reduces the availability of high-capacity firearms, decreasing the potential for mass shootings.
2. **Fewer Gun-Related Deaths:** Strict regulations lower the likelihood of firearm-related violence.
3. **Increased Community Confidence:** Demonstrates government action to protect citizens, building trust in public safety measures.

Cons:

1. **High Implementation Costs:** Voluntary buyback programs and registration enforcement may cost up to \$87 billion.
2. **Industry Pushback:** Gun manufacturers and lobbying groups may strongly oppose the measures.
3. **Enforcement Challenges:** Monitoring compliance across states requires significant resources and coordination.