



2017-2018 State Affairs Forum Topics

To the 2018 State Affairs Forum Delegates,

I want to thank you for your support in electing me your 2017-2018 State Affairs Chair. This opportunity has given me a greater appreciation for the power a single person's voice holds and I hope that leading you this year will give you a new sense of self. As an individual you are unique, and with that each of you hold intricate ideas and innovative thoughts that deserve to be shared. A single person can become the catalyst to a mountain of problems, and we as delegates have an entire room of engineers, motivators, creative thinkers, and catalysts. The change we can generate is up to us, and as your SAF Chair I will open the doors to your potential and allow you to take your ideas and thoughts and turn them into knowledge and reason.

I was elected with the promise of a heightened level of topics that introduced controversy and brought back the competitive nature of SAF. With that promise in mind, and through much collaboration I worked to put together topics which our youth and you delegates were passionate about voicing. There is something to be said about youth willing to become politically aware and take that awareness to the next step and debate about your selected topic. I encourage you to have an open mind when competing and realize that this is not simply a trial run- these proposals have become laws in years past and our voices continue to shape our future. We have the power to create change and you all have taken a huge step by participating in this event. State Affairs opens the door to teamwork, collaboration, research, debate, competition, and a look into real problems facing our government. Delegates, I hope you will love the program as much as I do and allow yourself to learn and grow with the program. I hope you will take advantage of the topics this year and come ready to compete with strong opinions and open minds. Finally I hope you will be able to reach out to me as your chair and know that I come with open arms.

Sincerely yours,
Kaitlan Lindquist



STATE AFFAIRS FORUM ISSUES LIST 2017-18

Education

1. Diversification of teaching
2. Using an "A-F" scale to grade schools grades K-12
3. The starting time for Texas secondary schools
4. Affirmative action in Texas universities
5. School-to-prison pipeline
6. Advocating for updated curriculum

Civil Liberties

7. Vaccination requirements
8. Texas is home to over 300,000 human trafficking victims
9. LGBTQ rights and community in Texas
10. Expanding resources to growing Texas homeless population

Technology

11. Technology in Texas secondary schools
12. Driver-less car regulations in Texas
13. Social media bullying
14. Artificial Intelligence regulations
15. Location tracking rights
16. Tech companies data mining personal information

Health

17. Texas has the highest rate of repeat teen pregnancy in the country
18. Texas clinics providing free contraceptives to low-income teens
19. GMO effects on health
20. Effects of legalizing medicinal marijuana in Texas
21. Cell and gene therapy for possible disabilities
22. Texas has the 10th highest obesity rate in the nation; 32.4% of adults
23. Providing mental health services to veterans

Economy

24. Transportation infrastructure in Texas
25. Allocating funds derived from toll road income
26. Limits regarding Texas job market

Environment

27. Texas honeybee population decreased by 30%
28. Less than 1% of animal cruelty cases are pursued in Texas
29. Houston petrochemical facilities violating clean air laws
30. Major budget cuts to EPA

National and Foreign Affairs

31. Policies surrounding ICE and border patrol
32. War on drugs
33. Converting to metric system
34. Require bilingual education
35. Using national monuments and protected lands for federal use