District	YMCA Branch	First Name	Last Name	Grade	Partner (If Applicable)	Topic	Committee	Proposal #
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Sophia	Brennan	6		Economy	A	1
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Emill	Chytil	6	Amber Giffin	Civil Liberties	B	26
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Marcel	Driver	7	Braden Grayson	Civil Liberties	C	42
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Sofia	Robles	6		Economy	B	29
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Madison	Young	7		Education	A	7
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Jacob	Baird	7	Mateo Sanchez	Health	C	48
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Annika	Singh	8	Zoe Moreno	Education	C	51
Austin	YMCA of Austin	Rory	Zuniga	6	Carcyn Reever	Civil Liberties	A	2
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Garrett	Arsenault	7		Education	A	8
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Jonathan	Brown	8	Parker Brown	Economy	C	43
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Ramsey	Bouhiyate	7	Sumit Kalaimani	Technology	B	21
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Cayla	Mokua	6	Isha Muppala	Civil Liberties	A	3
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Sujit	Pai	7	Siddhartha Talluri, Pranav Polisetti	Civil Liberties	C	49
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Anahita	Poongundran	8		Health	A	9
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Ali	Rehmetullah	8		Technology	A	12
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Tanvi	Soni	7	Misha Varma	National Foreign Affairs	B	30
Dallas	McKinney YMCA	Matthew	Wooton	8		Technology	C	52
Dallas	Oak Cliff YMCA	Naomi	Alexander	8	Haiti Course	Education	B	22
Dallas	Oak Cliff YMCA	Preston	Lee	8	Madisyn Jackson	Health	A	13
Dallas	Oak Cliff YMCA	Gabriela	Noriega	7		National Foreign Affairs	C	45
Dallas	Oak Cliff YMCA	Haleigh	Powell	6		?	B	31
Dallas	White Rock YMCA	Jasmine	John	8		Education	A	10
Dallas	White Rock YMCA	Lucas	Le	6	Zander Huynh	Economy	C	46
Dallas	White Rock YMCA	Milan	Le	8	Kacie Nguyen	Civil Liberties	B	32
Houston	Northeast Family YMCA	Maika	Rodriguez	8		Health	B	23
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Adela	Arias	7	Denise Martinez	Education	A	5
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Michelle	Cornwall	6		Education	C	41
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Karyme	Flores	7		Civil Liberties	A	4
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Jocelyn	Garcia	8		Civil Liberties	B	24
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Yarelsy	Gutierrez	6		Education	B	28
Houston	Northeast YMCA	lakayla	harrison	8		Education	C	47
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Archayla	Lee	7		Civil Liberties	C	50
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Olivia	Newsome Morris	8		National Foreign Affairs	A	11
Houston	Northeast YMCA	Madison	Tarver	8		Economy	A	6
Houston	YMCA of Southeast Texas	Kalan	Gardner	7		?	B	25

Author: Sophia Brennan
School: Bastrop intermediate
YMCA: Austin **City:** Bastrop

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose: GENDER PAY DISPARITY

Major Area to be Affected:

USA

Justification:

Gender pay disparity is important because when I am an adult and have a job, I probably will not get paid the same as a man who has the same job. Female, male, and non-binary employees working the same job are currently being paid differently just because of their gender. Female, male, and non-binary employees all over the world might have financial issues because they are different genders. In 1945, the U.S. Congress enacted the Women's Equal Pay Act but it failed to pass. There were campaigns by women, but little progress was made on pay equity during the 1950s. In 1960, women were paid less than two-thirds of what men were paid. Even today, women are paid 81.1 percent of what men are paid for working the same job.

Proposal for Action:

My proposal will call for women, men and non-binary to be paid equally and hopefully put a stop to gender pay disparity. A company that is found to be in violation of pay equality will face further action due to my proposal. Once the case has been settled in court, the company will face an additional penalty which includes a label that says "discriminatory". This label will follow the company for 2 years at which time it will be removed. The label will be added to a nationwide database where prospective employees can search employers who have this label. Companies with this label will also have to post it on the front page of their paper and electronic applications.

Results to be Expected:

I expect discrimination in the workplace to decline each year due to the added label of discrimation. Over time, discrimination will decline because companys do not want this label. Prospective employees will see this label and may decide to not apply to that company due to its discrimination. This problem will not go away immediately but my proposal will make an impact. Many times these lawsuits are hidden away from the public but my proposal will bring it to the forefront.

Author: Rory Zuniga and Carcyn Reever
YMCA: Austin

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Language for dress codes or uniforms should be addressed to students as a whole (not use female or male pronouns).

We are going into a different time and a better time , where all people can be recognized and treated equally, where we do not look at one another as different from ourselves because of a different gender or skin tone or because someone loves their own gender or has different beliefs than us.

I am Rory Zuniga and I am Carcyn Reever. We are from the Small Middle School delegation. We believe that schools' dress codes do not need to use the words male or female. Schools are a place of learning and inclusivity but some students may not feel included if they do not define themselves as a boy or a girl. Texas state schools dress codes should avoid sexist language. Girls in particular are targeted in current dress codes. Boys are less likely to get in trouble for similar styles of dress. "Some girls feel singled out and objectified because they are told their clothing is too provocative and is distracting to boys - instead of teaching boys to be focused, respectful, and have enough self control that they can take a test without being distracted by bare shoulders." (ashevillesacademy.com)

But remember we are not here to talk about the many injustices to females; we are here to make schools feel more inclusive to all people. Removing gendered language makes dress codes feel more fair to everyone.

So if this bill that you will vote on changes even one child's life we will know we have taken a step in the right direction. We can take actions that can help change children's lives.

Thank you for listening and taking this into consideration.
I am Carcyn Reever; my pronouns are she and her, and I'm Rory Zuniga and my pronouns are also she and her.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Cayla Mokua, Isha Muppala
School: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
YMCA: Enter YMCA. **City:** Mckinney

3

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Animal Cruelty and Rights

To inform citizens about animal cruelty and rights

Major Area to be Affected:

The state of Texas

Justification:

Animal cruelty starts out when an animal owner decides to take advantage of having control over a living species/animal, so that she/he could advance, whether it be for their occupation, entertainment or dire circumstances. Animal rights include no testing anything harmful on animals, not making animals do hard work that hurts their physical state and mental state, no breeding animals unless it benefits the animals, no hunting animals etc. . Animals are important to human survival therefore they should be treated with respect. There are more than 3,000 cases of cruelty each year in Texas. Mostly farmers hurt animals because of their advantage over animals. There are also not many laws protecting animals in Texas compared to Illinois, Oregon and Maine which were the states at the top of the list for making sustainable laws to protect animals. The most common victims include dogs at 64%, cats at 18% percent, and other animals also at 18%. The most frequent forms of animal cruelty are neglect/abandonment, hoarding, fighting, shooting and beating. Out of most animal cruelty cases, 10% of them are beating, 12% of them are fighting, 16% of them are shooting, 17% of them are hoarding and the last 25% is neglect/abandonment. The FBI found animal cruelty to be a problem resulting in them adding the act of cruelty towards animals as a category in the UCR (Uniform Crime Report). They are also trying to fix this issue of animal cruelty.

Proposal for Action:

We should talk to the people who make Texas laws and persuade them with background information to make more laws protecting animals and taking care of their welfare. In Texas, animal cruelty is a felony that is punishable for up to 10 years in prison and a fine up to $10,000. One of the laws should include the penalty for animal cruelty so it will influence and notify a person who is in the act or has been mistreating an animal, whether it is theirs, someone else's animal or a wild animal. The laws should also include animal rights and make them more firm and clear. They should include examples of animal cruelty so that people could identify situations where an animal or multiple animals are being harmed and if they were in the act of it or if someone else was commiting it. We should have a goal for making about 10 new laws protecting animals. People who have the authority or obligation should make an effort to make sure all animals in general (including wild animals) are not treated unfairly and maliciously. Animals need more effective laws that actually have an impact on the way animals are treated.

Results to be Expected:

Some outcomes to expect are that less animals will be harmed, more animals would be treated with respect, people would follow the animal rights and our animal environment would be better. The new laws that are made will be followed, animals would be protected from harsh behavior towards them and will not be forced to do something against their will. Animals who have been treated fairly by humans will become vulnerable (let their protective instinct guard down) and become more secure and open with people. Animals who have been victims to animal cruelty will be in better health and there will be less cases of animal deaths. The percentage of animal cruelty reports on Texas will decrease because of the new laws. Animals will no longer be selectively bred, used for hard labor, and they will not be used as test subjects for the testing of harmful experiments.

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

4

Author: Karyme Flores
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Animal Cruelty and Rights

Major Area to be Affected:

The major area to be affected are the animals themselves along with the people caring for them, such as their owners.

Justification:

A large amount of animals get treated badly. Animals are neglected, shot, made to fight against each other, thrown, etc. "They are conscious and aware of their existence.They live in such a way as to give themselves the best quality of life" as said in www.bbc.co . In CanineJounal.com it says,"Yet animal rights are still being violated because they don't have a choice, they are forced to give milk or to be experimented on and involuntarily killed." THIS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING! On average there are 250,000 victims of animal abuse as stated in petpedia.co.

Proposal for Action:

My proposal for action is animals stop getting treated as if they have no feelings. To prevent animals getting treated badly people can sign petitions and people can even join an organization called PETA. People should be held accountable for these actions against animals. They should be sentenced to multiple years in jail. They should also be fined more than just $1000 which is the fine for animal abuse.

Results to be Expected:

With the punishments more extreme, the results to be expected is that there would be much less to no harm to animals. Animals are conscious too and should be treated with respect.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

5

Author: Denise and Adela
School: Kipp Voyage Academy for girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston.Tx

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Changing lives for the foster care system one day at a time!

Major Area to be Affected:

Major Area Affected once we change it is the kids and teenagers that are suffering and wanting a different,better,and lovable Foster care system to help them thrive through their lives.

Justification:

While discussing this it can impact ways people look at the foster care system and we need to change it for the better for kids who are suffering.It can help kids who are in the foster care system having a better system by making them feel like they are safe while in the system.But the best way to change anything is to get involved and be the change.They are more and more kids going into the foster care system,until now there is 400,000 kids who are suffering.Those are a lot of kids suffering each years and more.So we need to help all of them each together!

Proposal for Action:

My plan to make this a reality is:

1. Making the family/people have a real relationship with the kids.
2. Making sure there is NO ABUSE to the kids staying there
3. Strengthen **Families** of Origin
4. Giving money to the foster families
5. Guide Children in Building Connections
6. Educate the Public.
7. Giving more money to the foster agents
8. A home that fits
9. No quitting parents
10. Focus on prevention.

Results to be Expected:

When my expectations and plan have reached the world, kids can have a home that's welcoming for them. Maintaining a good life long experience that's enjoyable. And now children in need can finally have the family they always wanted and home who they can love, trust, and care to.They can no longer suffer in the bad homes they were in.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

6

Author: Madison Tarver
School: Kipp Voyage Academy For Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City: Houston,Tx**

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose: The Best Solution For Maternity/Paternity Leave

Major Area to be Affected: The major area to be impacted by Maternity/Paternity Leave is Families. Also the companies they work for because they need them.

Justification: My proposal is necessary because people should be allowed to take leave if they are getting ready to have a baby. In fact, this can give the person the opportunity to spend time with their baby/family and relax so they can build their bond. Studies have shown that adequate maternity leave can lead to lower infant mortality rates and high health benefits for the mother. In addition,a higher female labor force participation. Furthermore, increased breastfeeding rates for the babies.

Proposal for Action: My plan to make Maternity/Paternity Leave a reality is to first, talk or write a letter to the person who made this possible and doesn't want them to automatically go on maternity/paternity leave. Second, set up a meeting between myself and the person to get their point of view. Third, I would give them my opinion on this topic because I believe people should be allowed to go on maternity/paternity leave when they are closer to their birth date. Then, I would give them pros and cons on maternity/ paternity leave so they can understand more. Lastly, I would ask a question like this: What will happen to jobs if we didn't have maternity/paternity leave? then you would be trying to give it to us because people would be miserable.

I want companies to give adequate maternity and paternity leave for all employees. This means that both the mother who has given birth and the father of the child born should be given time off so that they can share the responsibility of taking care of the newborn and bonding as a family. Companies will be required to give 12 weeks of maternity and paternity leave, or will be fined for not following protocol.

Results to be Expected: I think what would once my proposal is made a reality people that are pregnant don't have to worry about working or getting pay while they are off during maternity/paternity leave. The positive benefits of my proposal is women carrying a baby can reduce stress so they won't lose their baby. In addition, Scientists are investigating how carrying a baby can reduce a woman's risk of other cancers too. And the hormonal shifts that occur during pregnancy and breastfeeding also protect against ovarian and endometrial cancer, and the more full-term pregnancies you have the greater the benefit.

7

Author: Madison Young
School: Bastrop Middle School
YMCA: Austin **City:** Bastrop

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose: Sexual Assault on Campuses

Major Area to be Affected: Texas education institutions

Justification:

Sexual Assault changes a person's life. The experience of a sexual assault can change the way a person acts, the way they feel, and can make healthy relationships more difficult. Sexual assault on campus disproportionately impacts female students. According to statistics from the RAINN institute 26.4 % of female students and 6.8% of male students experience rape or sexual assault.

Proposal for Action:

My goal is to make sexual assault less likely in instututions of education. I propose that a health curriculum for Texas Public schools be implemented that explicitly teaches about sexual assault and gives students the tools they need to talk about the reality of sexual assault on campus, to prevent sexual assault from happening, and to respond to sexual assault with proven methods should they fall victim to sexual assault in the future. My goal is to create a community where acknowledging the reality of sexual assault is normal, and where students share a definition of sexual assault, and have means of preventing sexual assault from occurring. The curriculum would address the dangers of sexual assault, how to identify it, and how to avoid it. It would teach students to normalize talking about sexual assault as a means of prevention.

Results to be Expected:

We expect that the cases of sexual assault will go down. The more people know about the long-lasting effects of sexual assault, and means of preventing this action from happening, the better prepared they will be to prevent cases. This curriculum will help kids know how to react if they become victims of sexual assault. The aim of this curriculim is to make sexual assault less likely in instututions of education.

8

Author: Garrett Arsenault
School: Dowell Middle School
YMCA: McKinney **City:** McKinney

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

To build little free libraries outside of elementary schools and to give some to restaurants to put on their property

Major Area to be Affected:

Schools, restaurants, and the community

Justification:

We should build these small libraries and place them in high-traffic areas like restaurants and elementary schools because many families in Texas can't spend their money on books for their children and that shouldn't be restricting the kids that want to read. Parents wouldn't have to spend money on books anymore. Once a week a parent can drive their child to a little free library where they can easily trade their current book that they have already read for a different book that they will be able to read and then take back for trading when they are done. Also since you have the option of building a library, children in elementary schools could have the option to work with the teacher and other students during the art class to build these libraries which could be given to those restaurants such as family-style restaurants or even put outside of their schools. This would also hopefully encourage libraries to start putting them outside of their buildings as an add on of some sort.

Proposal for Action:

What would happen is every art class in elementary school from 3 to 5 grade would be given the option to build a little free library and then k to 2 grade can decorate them which then would be given to a library or a restaurant that doesn't mind getting this built or placed onto their property.

Results to be Expected:

Better community, more books being read, and helping close the achievement gap for lower socioeconomic students.

Author: Anahita Poongundran
School: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
YMCA: McKinney, YMCA **City:** McKinney, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Medicare for All in Texas

Major Area to be Affected:

Insurance companies and hospitals in Texas

Justification:

Medicare for all is a program that suggests a "one-size-fits-all" health insurance plan. This means that it will provide comprehensive health care to everyone in our country with reasonable expenses. It would allow Americans, regardless of their income, to get the health care they need when they need it. This could also be viewed as a supposedly 'free' healthcare for everyone. Affordable healthcare is a very important topic especially in our region. The US spends more money on healthcare than many other wealthy countries. Not only does this damage our economy, but we get worse results. Americans have 2.5 years of decreased lifetime when compared to the population in Germany. And when we narrow it down to Texas, it has been one of only nine states to record an increase in the uninsured rate with about 17.3% of uninsured people in 2017, and 17.7% in 2018.. According to the Texas Medical Association, as of 2018, around 18% (4,958) of the population (28,024) was uninsured. According to "The Impact of Uninsurance on Texas' Economy, if leaders don't acknowledge this problem, the number of uninsured Texans younger than 65 will increase from 4.8 million in 2016 to 6.1 million by 2040. Quoting Doug Curran "If Texans are not properly cared for and supported and empowered, then the people we really need to keep our business environment pristine will begin to drift away," Dr. Curran said. "It's going to hurt all of us."

Proposal for Action:

Not only people that are not being cured properly, have worsening preexisting conditions, or aren't able to play hospital bills will be affected. Medical workers, governments, our economy, and so much more will be negatively impacted if this issue stays unaddressed. This is why I propose we implement Medicare for all. The foreseen issue with this solution, seems to be that in order to provide Americans with a cumulative health insurance, personal taxes would have to be increased, and that around 2 million jobs would be lost (assumed to mainly consist of insurance and medical workers). However, if the United States were to minimize the resourcing of useless procedures, and narrow it down to foolproof methods, then the money spent would decrease drastically. When the whole government (whether it be state or country-wide) is working under one insurance plan, they are also forced to follow a budget. This means the use of unproductive processes will be put under restraint, not only saving money but also lives. Medical workers will still be expected to do their job and people will still have their personal doctors. Insurance workers will still help with the government run plan, and this system will also be boosting small business.

Results to be Expected:

As mentioned before, if we use Medicare for All, it is predicted that taxes would have to be increased to keep the economy upright. However, this is only because of administrative cost, prescription drugs, and an unreasonable amount of tests and procedures but not enough preventive medicines. If these factors are taken away it is estimated that around two to five trillion dollars would be saved over 10 years with Medicare for All. According to Publiccitizen.org it would guarantee health care for everyone, end medical debt and bankruptcies, promise coverage for hearing, dental, and vision services as well as reduce administrative waste by $500 billion per year. Medicare for all will also stop corporations from profiting off the sick. If planned right, this could give us a stronger economy, add about 2.5 years of lifetime to Texans and/ or Americans, and provide affordable healthcare for the people that require it. I believe this solution will help many people and give them the service they need when they need it.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

10

Author: Jasmine John **School:** Austin Academy. **YMCA:** White Rock. **City:** Garland

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Supplementing The Foster Care System

Major Area to be Affected:

Youths who age out of the foster care, Major cities, Transitional Residential Program

Justification:

Turning 18 typically means newfound independence. Most young adults eagerly await these milestone birthdays. But for almost 30,000 young adults in this Texas, turning 18 is not a celebratory event. Young adults in foster care "age out" of the system at either 18. Essentially, aging out is the process that occurs when youth must leave the foster care system because they were never adopted and are too old to stay in care. They are left to fend for themselves with no other help. The statistics for young people who age out of foster care are grim. One in five young people who age out of the system will become homeless. One in four will be involved in the justice system within two years of leaving foster care. And it's estimated that more than 40% of youth who age out won't complete high school. By age 26, only three to four percent of youth who aged out of foster care earn a college degree. Within 18 months of emancipation, 40-50% of foster youth become homeless. Only half will obtain employment by 24. The problems associated with aging out of foster care also affect the communities these youth live in. A 2013 study by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative showed that on average, for every young person who ages out of foster care, taxpayers and communities pay $300,000 in social costs like public assistance, incarceration, and lost wages to a community over that person's lifetime. The only way to combat the seemingly insurmountable problems foster youth face as they leave the child welfare system is a combination of programs and social support offered by families, churches, nonprofits, and the government. Only with an integrated approach can foster children get the support they need to transition to adulthood successfully.

Proposal for Action:

A program called the Transitional Residential Program (TRP) would be instituted to aid youths who age out of the foster care system. Those who choose to will be able to move to a state-run living facility in Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso, or Houston. (any additional locations can be added by the TRP) Youths can be in this program for up to 7 years from 18 until the age of 25. The living facilities will offer job opportunities, and courses that a person can take on various different topics. These courses will teach essential life skills and abilities that will be useful in the workforce. The TRP will partner with Texas technical schools to provide useful hands-on learning to the participants. All participants' basic necessities will be provided by the TRP, but any non-essential goods will need to be purchased by the participant with the paycheck they receive for working at the facility. All TRP facilities will be open to recreational use by the public, but participants will only work 4-hour shifts, devoting the rest of the workday to learning corporate skills in their chosen course. Job opportunities include cashiers, serving food, receptionists, instructing, etc. After facilities have closed to visitors, participants can engage in cooperative activities with their peers. The program also helps youths improve basic life and interpersonal skills, provides educational opportunities, assists with job preparation and attainment, and ensures the physical and mental health care needs are met.

Results to be Expected:

Currently, 30% of the homeless population spend time in foster care. This solution prevents this number from continuing to rise. Youths will get the proper support and experience that will allow them to become productive members of society. In addition, individuals age out of the foster care system with low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, PTSD, trust issues, and a high risk of developing clinical psychiatric disorders. These detrimental effects can be eased or even erased by the sense of community and security that the TRP facilities will provide. Youth who may have never had a permanent family will find themselves in a community of others in the same situation and people who truly care and want to help. The Texas government has a responsibility to these individuals and currently is not fulfilling its duty. The state of Texas must set an example to all other states and the country as a whole.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Olivia Newsome-Morris
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Report on the Hong Kong Crisis

Major Area to be Affected:

Hong kong citizens

Justification:

This all started in June against plans to allow extradition to mainland China. Some critics would include; undermine judicial independence and endanger dissidents, which in this case is very bad. It was until 1997 Hong Kong was ruled by the british as a colony. But soon after returned to China. According to BBC's text about the protests it states, " Protesters feared the bill could be revived, so demonstrations continued, calling for it to be withdrawn completely. By then clashes between police and protesters had become more frequent and violent." With the population of 7.1 million people and counting, this is not only concerning to the people in Hong Kong, but to the people here in the USA.

Proposal for Action:

There are many actions that we as the people can take. We could support the citizens as much as we can who are in Hong Kong. How you might ask, the answer is simple. We need to give them as much protection as possible. We could also make sure they are in good health since they were no longer allowed to where any protection from this virus.

Results to be Expected:

If all goes well, the people in Hong Kong should be in good health. Not only that but be safe. Hopefully we will be able to help the people that are suffering from this crisis. We could also make sure that they have essentials. You never know what they do and do not have in their home.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Venkatesh Arunachalam and Ali Rehmetullah
School: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
YMCA: McKinney **City:** McKinney

12

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Privacy issues concerning public cameras

Major Area to be Affected:

State of Texas

Justification:

People need to know when they are being recorded. The crime rate will also go down because criminals will be aware of more cameras so it will be harder to commit a crime so many will stop. It is illegal to record people in a place of expected privacy and this way the signs will notify people so they will be notified of being recorded. They will also think twice before they do something when they know they are being recorded. "In August 2003, when the cameras were installed in Humboldt Park, the area experienced a brief spike in crime, with nearly 500 reported incidents in a single month. The crime rate dropped 20 percent the next month and stayed low on average. To weed out other factors that affect crime trends, we compared Humboldt Park with a similar neighborhood (matched on historical crime rates, demographics, and land use) and determined that the cameras alone were likely responsible for a nearly 12 percent drop in the crime rate. Average monthly crime counts for drug-related offenses and robberies fell by nearly a third (or over 30 fewer drug-related offenses and three fewer robberies per month). Violent crime was down 20 percent, with six fewer incidents per month on average. The numbers suggest that the cameras did their job in controlling crime, with no signs that criminals moved elsewhere as a result." as stated by Urban Institute. In this instance, the people did not know that there were cameras and they got caught. If people did know that they were being recorded then they might not have done it since they know they could get caught. "Whenever you do a thing, act as if all the world were watching." as Thomas Jefferson said, people will act better when they are being watched. This is true because they want to show that they are good to impress the person watching. They also don't want to be caught doing something bad which will affect their reputation.

Proposal for Action:

We should put up signs that say "Cameras are here, you are being recorded. So, be careful in what you do." The signs should be put up everywhere there is a camera in public; it shall be put within 10 feet of the camera. The sign will not include where the camera is located if there are multiple cameras then the camera will be placed in the middle of the cameras. The sign will not mention how many cameras are nearby, just "cameras." The signs will be the same size as a speed limit sign. The text must be visible from 20 feet away from the sign. The size of the sign will be equal to that of a stop sign.

Results to be Expected:

The crime rate will go down. Signs will be placed with a diameter of 10 ft within each camera. People will actually be able to consent to be recorded. People will know that their privacy matters, and that will make the people respect the government more due to them knowing that the government cares for them.

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Preston Lee & Madisyn Jackson **School:** Kennemer Middle School
YMCA: Oak Cliff **City:** Dallas

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:
Medicare for All

Major Area to be Affected:
All Citizens

Justification:
"Without Medicare, lower payroll taxes and higher wages make future generations better off, with welfare increasing 2.1 percent in the first year of the reform and improving to 3.6 percent over 50 years. The authors measure the impact on consumers alive now by population, dollars and consumption" (Harrington & Clement par. 14 & 15)
"Medicare is an important public health insurance scheme for U.S. adults aged 65 years and over. As of 2019, approximately 18 percent of the U.S. population was covered by Medicare, a slight increase from the previous year. As of 2018, California, Florida, and Texas had the largest number of adults aged 65 years and older". (Statista Research Department par. 1)
"Nearly 45,000 annual deaths are associated with lack of health insurance". (Cecerce par.1)
"More than 26□260 Americans aged 25 to 64 died in 2006 because they lacked health insurance—more than twice as many as were murdered, Families USA said. In the seven years from 2000 to 2006 an estimated 162□700 Americans died because of lack of health insurance". (Hopkins-Tanne par. 2)
"More than 10 million young Americans are family caregivers, and their loved ones likely depend on Medicare for medical and financial security.[2] Furthermore, a full 69% of young Americans support a government-funded, Medicare for all healthcare system.[3] Given that the Medicare program already plays a critical role in the lives of families nationwide, many young Americans understand they are affected by Medicare long before they themselves reach old age"... "Without Medicare, many families would be unable to afford health care, doctor visits, or obtain their necessary prescription drugs". (Bush p. 3 & 4)

Proposal for Action:
For our first proposal for action we will go around in communities and take graphical type surveys of people who have medicare and those who don't and all the demographics and having community members sign petitions and social media marketing to get the word out and to get a goal of 100,00 signatures to provide medicare for all.
With those surveys and signatures leads into our second proposal for action which is taking all of the information and taking it to U.S Legislation offices to get a bill passed providing medicare for all.

Results to be Expected:
(A) Our first result to be expected is to have a lower number/percentage of death rates of those who've died without medicare
(B) Second result to be expected is for medicare to be more accessible to those who are in need of it.
(C) Third result to be expected is to have an increase of those who receive medicare.

Author: Ramsey Bouhiyate Sumit Kalamani
School: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
YMCA: McKinney **City:** Dallas

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Regulation Of Artificial Intelligence

Major Area to be Affected:

Entirety Of Texas

Justification:

What Is Artificial Intelligence? Furthermore, what is A.I regulation? According to Oxford Languages, A.I is the theory, and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that usually require human intelligence, and A.I regulation is the development of public sector policies and laws for promoting and regulating artificial intelligence. A.I can be anything, from facial recognition features on your phone, to being able to operate whole factories on their own. However, A.I can be too powerful, and can be exploited, which means that it needs to be regulated, so that it can't be used for malicious uses. Many companies, such as Facebook, and Apple have had many issues regarding their facial recognition features on their products. Many news websites had many methods to handle this issue. In the words of Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, "There is no question in my mind that artificial intelligence needs to be regulated. It is too important not too." Many states have attempted to regulate A.I, however most to no avail. California attempted to regulate A.I using their bot disclosure law. Aimed at preventing the spread of false information online, the 2018 law requires automated political and commercial accounts on social media to clearly disclose that they are bots. According to onezero.medium.com The law raises free speech concerns, in part by creating a scaffolding for censorship. However, it failed. Now, it is improved and is working, however not very well.

Proposal for Action:

Throughout the A.I community, according to forbes.com, people believe that it is time to create a statewide agency for the usage, and regulation of Artificial Intelligence. Every month, inspectors should visit different factories that take advantage of Artificial Intelligence. Throughout multiple uses, not one specific method. Inspectors will also visit offices for social media apps based in Texas, such as Facebook, and others ,as well as businesses that use A.I in web browsers, computers, ect. They will be looking at what those.These inspectors will be hired by doing a thorough background check, looking at previous jobs and positions, as well as academic record and resume. they will need to have had at least 7 years in the field as well as having a good record in their field. The reason we need to check these offices, and servers, is because they record browsing info, and other factors, that record usage info of the app, and/or the website. We will also have to monitor different search engines monthly, specifically servers, and offices, from companies such as Google, which has an office based in Austin, and servers based all over Texas. We will also have bots using these apps and/or websites, to test the exploitation of personal information.

Results to be Expected:

This agency will make things more safe for users of many different types of social programs, such as social media, and search engines.it will allow for safety and reassurance on online platforms. This will make sure that users are safe, and that there is no chance of any exploitation throughout these programs. Companies such as Facebook would have not many issues regarding malicious usage of personal information. Most companies' usage of A.I is revolutionary, however it is not regulated, so it can be used for bad things.But A.I. itself is not a bad thing. On the contrary, A.I. can do so much good if regulated property. with A.I. , the possibilities are endless. If we are able to regulate A.I, we have a chance of creating a new future. A future of A.I.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

22

Author: Naomi Alexander and Haiti Course
School: Kennemer Middle School.
YMCA: Oak Cliff **City:** Duncanville,Texas

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Metal Detectors in School

Major Area to be Affected:

Schools (Elementary - College)

Justification:

We need strong security measures. There isn't a distinct number that uses metal detectors in Texas but, in the U.S.A in total, about 2% of elementaries,7% of middle schools, and 10% of high schools use metal detectors.6.2 percent of administrators reported that metal detectors were used in their schools. Districts like Houston ISD, Grand Prairie ISD,Frisco ISD,Plano ISD, and Beaumont ISD are thinking about or using metal detectors.Courts in other states have also upheld the use of metal detectors as a reasonable method of promoting school safety. Metal detectors in schools are mainly found in wealthy schools, schools in cities with more crime rates, and schools that went through tragedies before. Metal detectors are a first defense mechanism for threats that may enter the school such as guns, knives, blades, bombs, and more dangerous things that are metal of that sort. Having metal detectors in schools could be helpful for detecting dangerous weapons before entering and endangering everyone there.

Proposal for Action:

1.We want to implement metal detectors in schools by putting metal detectors sensors in door frames at the main entrances students come through when entering the school in the mornings and at sporting events. If the metal detectors pick up anything unusual the student will be taken into suspicion and will be searched with hand metal detectors (they will be supplied to the main administration staff). If anything is picked up from the hand metal detectors then the staff is legally allowed to search the bag, contact the student's legal guardian, or(and) contact Law enforcement or school security. 2.For extra security measures all entrances that aren't being occupied for student entrances must be locked. All visitors must go through a metal detector when walking into the building and they must be identified as well. Metal detectors might pick up metal items, accessories, and metal school materials like scissors; So we ask students to make sure those things are visible when entering. If schools ever feel a need for backup, police or security that has social work training will be supplied for however long they need it. At least 1-2 teachers or staff must watch entrances that are being used to monitor students and detectors.

Results to be Expected:

By doing this we expect that staff and students will enter into a stress free environment without having to worry about dangerous threats entering the school. We also expect the number of future school shootings to be very low due to all the security measures we have set in place. Parents and legal guardians won't have to worry about sending their child into potential danger when they arrive. Placing laws protecting students from possible harm now is imperative for protecting the lives of future generations.

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TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

23

Author: Maika Rodriguez
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose: Women's Reproductive Rights

Major Area to be Affected: Women and their future will be impacted by my proposal because if she gets pregnant and does not want to keep the baby but fails to seek an abortion, her life can be changed. Most of them are negative changes due to them having to now take care of a child.

Justification: My proposal is necessary because women are being impacted and if they can not seek an abortion, their children are not raised in a good enviroment or their bodies are unstable to give birth. They can be either ill or too young. Among women who seek an abortion but are denied it, more than 90 percent choose to keep and raise the child rather than place it for adoption. Writing in jAMA Pediatrics, it was shown that children born to women who were denied to abortions fared worse. They were more likely to live in households where there wasn't enough money to pay for basic living expenses.

Proposal for Action: My plan for making my proposal a reality is to pass a law making abortions free and safe to all kind. What needs to happen first is making abortion legal worldwide. Right now Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Vatican City, Malta and much more has made abortion illegal according to the USA news. Not only does abortion need to be legal but it also has to be safe for all.

Results to be Expected: Once my proposal is made a reality, women won't have to fear losing their own life during pregnancy and/or having to deal with a difficult lifestyle with their unwanted baby. The positive benefits of my proposal is that women are able to have safe abortions without worrying much. The difference is that when abortion is illegal and unsafe, women will risk their lives as they take personal responsibility to end a pregnacy they have decided they cannot continue.

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TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

24

Author: Jocelyn Garcia
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose: Gun Law Reform

Gun Control, Gun Ownership, Justice, Policy, Prison, Social Issues, Violence

Major Area to be Affected:

The people that will be affected by my proposal will be gun stores and any other people who own guns.

Justification: The proposal I give is for the law the age limited to own a gun.

https://maps.everytownresearc.org

This proposal is necessary because there are many innocent kids out there dying in school shootings around every **year**, nearly 2,900 **children** and **teens** are shot and **killed** and nearly 15,600 more are shot and injured. In general the number of mass shootings in the USA during 2018 has recently risen above 300. 46% of americans in rural areas own a gun compared to 19% of urban residents. 75% of rural gun owners own more than one gun. There are people who believe that those who commit the school shootings are actually victims themselves, and have been bullied. Others may blame violent video games, bullying, the media, etc.

https://www.cbsnews.com

"March 2020 was apparently the first March in nearly two decades without a school shooting in the U.S. Schools across America have been shut down since early March as a prevention measure to slow the spread of coronavirus. Since then, kids of all ages have adjusted to homeschooling and online classes — a new normal that could extend through the rest of the school year."

Proposal for Action:

- The proposal I give you is to stop selling guns to 18 year old kids.
- Any type of gun should be sold by the age of 21 to anyone as long as you have any type of license.
- Having stricter gun laws could reduce the crime rate we have in the United States and the gun violence in not only schools and universities, but also in everyday life.

Results to be Expected:

If these changes are made then there would be confidence anywhere people wouldn't be scared to go out in general. Having stricter gun laws could reduce the crime rate we have in the United States and the gun violence in not only schools and universities, but also in everyday life.

Author: Emili Chytil, Amber Griffin
School: Bastrop Intermediate School
YMCA: Austin YMCA. **City:** Bastrop, TX.

STATE AFFAIR PROPOSALS

Title or Purpose:

LGBTQIA+ panic defense eradication.

Major Area to be Affected:

The LGBTQIA+ community in Texas

Justification:

The LGBTQIA+ Panic Defense is where the violent defendant pleads insanity or self-defense because the victim's gender identity or sexual orientation made them uncomfortable. These are crimes motivated by bias. This is a problem because not only has the victim been a victim of violent crimes, but the defendant is not facing the proper charges for the crime they have committed. For example, in 2015 Daniel Spencer was stabbed to death. The man who committed the crime stated (without any evidence) that Daniel made a sexual advance towards him. Even though there wasn't any evidence of the advance the court responded to the appeal to the LGBTQIA+ Panic Defense by reducing the defendant's charge from murder to criminally negligent manslaughter. Research shows that one out of five Queer people living in the United States experience a hate crime in their life and one out four transgender people will experience a hate crime during their life. Getting rid of this defense will protect a large number of the population.

Proposal for Action:

The Texas Penal Code (Tex. Penal Code Sec 12.47) states that punishments will be enhanced for crimes motivated by "bias". We propose that the following definitions should be added to the definition of bias found in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures Article 42.014. This article should include definitions for gender identity and sexual orientation. It should include these definitions so that the LGBTQIA+ Panic Defense can't be used as a justification for the defendants' crimes against their victims. Appealing to someone's gender identity or sexual orientation is biased and prejudiced. Inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation as identities protected from bias in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures Article 42.014 would make the LGBTQIA+ Panic Defense more difficult to use as a justification for violent crimes.

Results to be Expected:

The inclusion of sexual identity and gender orientation under the definition of "bias." will make the LGBTQIA+ Panic Defense an unviable justification for violent crimes. With the addition of these terms perpetrators of violent acts against the queer community will be more likely to face proper charges for the crimes they committed. Defendants use of the LGBTQIA+ Panic Defense in court will be more easily identified as a crime motivated by "bias" and the victim's family will more likely be able to receive justice.

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TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

28

Author: Yarelsy Gutierrez
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Sexual Assault on campus

Major Area to be Affected:

Minors,students,feeling unsafe and schools and colleges.

Justification:

To protect students from sexual assault. Each year in the United States, 6.1 out of 1,000 college students are sexually assaulted while on campus. This number may seem low, but it also does not factor in the victims who are afraid to come forward because they may not be taken seriously or receive the correct services from their college. Victims of sexually assault are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, and PTSD as a result of their experience, and therefore may struggle with attending classes and may end up dropping out.

Proposal for Action:

For there to be harsher punishments for cases such like these. After a case is reviewed and the assailant is proven guilty, they should be expelled from college. It has been proven that the assailant is a dangerous person, and the victim deserves justice and to feel safe while on campus.

Results to be Expected:

The results we can expect is for victims to feel more safe while on campus and for rapists and attackers to not be allowed at the college.

Author: Sofia Robles
School: Bastrop Independent School District
YMCA: Austin YMCA. **City:** Bastrop, Texas

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose: Addressing Poverty and Food Insecurity

Major Area to be Affected: Texas

Justification:

In my community, especially right now during the Coronavirus, a lot of families do not have the money to buy groceries for their family. This is a problem because we can only survive for so long without food. In my family, we are blessed to have enough money for me to eat all my favorite meals, but I know this is not the case for many kids my age. In the Bastrop Independent School District alone, 69.42% of students live in households that are economically disadvantaged. Therefore, the majority of my district struggles financially. When children do not have enough food or money for basic needs, they tend to misbehave and have issues with other people. For example, a classmate of mine was constantly in the principalś office because of mean behavior, but it turns out this student liked getting attention from the principal because he never gets to see his parents because they have two jobs. According to the US Census Bureau, Bastrop County has a 18.3% overall poverty rate. For example, my aunt's family is struggling financially right now, and she is sick. Because she lives in poverty, she is always talking about money, bills, food, and especially her medical bills. It is sad to listen to her worry and cry about this, but there are many ways for us to help her.

Proposal for Action:

As a community, there are ways we can address poverty rates and lower the food insecurity issue. I propose all children under 18 receive a food voucher each month. This voucher will electronically list all eligible children in Texas. The children will have to go to their local food pantry in order to receive their food for the month. They will receive fruit, vegetables, milk, rice, and beans. This is a small food voucher, but it can make a big change. Families with children will be able to save money because they will receive this voucher for free. They will be able to utilize their extra money on other bills and food. If a child chooses to not use their food voucher for the month, the food pantry will be able to give the voucher to other low income families without children. If families do not have children, but are struggling, I am hopeful that other members of their family or friends with children will help these people also. Other small issues will be addressed as they happen. It takes a community to change the world - specifically poverty and food insecurity.

Results to be Expected:

Big changes in communities will occur in 3-6 months with these food vouchers. Families will have more of their money available for necessities. After a couple of months, they will be able to help other people in their group, family or friends, with a little spare change or with basic food. The beauty of this plan is that no kid should feel embarrassed because all kids would get this voucher. If we all work together, the poverty rate will decrease and people will feel more secure about where and when they will get their next meal.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Tanvi Soni, Saijanani Sathivell, Misha Varma
School: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
YMCA: McKinney YMCA **City:** McKinney

30

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:
Addressing the Climate Crisis

Major Area to be Affected:
United States (Including Texas)

Justification:
Climate change is when global or regional climate patterns change over a long period of time such as an increase in temperature, sea level, and varying weather patterns. Climate change is caused by heat being trapped in the Earth's atmosphere. This is called the Greenhouse effect. Some of the main Greenhouse gases include Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Nitrous Oxide, and Water Vapor. Carbon Dioxide is one of the main gases that cause the Greenhouse effect. Since the Industrial Revolution, humans have increased the levels in the atmosphere by 47%. Methane is far more active than Carbon Dioxide but is less abundant in the atmosphere. People have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the air by 40 percent since the late 1700s. Since 1751, the United States has released more than 399.35 billion tons of Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere. It has contributed to 25.11% Carbon Dioxide emissions globally. This is almost 50% more than in the year 2000, with 24 billion tons and almost 3 times as much as 50 years ago. In the last few decades, the varying temperature increases across Texas ranging from 0.5°F in the Northeast. And 1.5°F in the Southwest. Each year, heat waves kill more people than hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, blizzards, and lightning combined (CDC). Temperatures throughout the Great Plains have increased by about 1.5°F since the 1960s. Exposure to excessive heat (temperatures 90 degrees or above) killed 150 people in 2011. In west Texas there were between 70-100 days over 90 degrees (NCA). All of the environmental changes observed in the last 150 years resulted in a 2-degree global temperature rise. Temperatures in the southern Great Plains are projected to increase another 3-9 degrees by 2100 (NCA). The southern Great Plains experience about seven days per year above 100 degrees. These high temperatures are likely to occur much more frequently in the future – as much as four times more frequently. The impacts of such increases in extreme heat could include increased evaporation from reservoirs, greater demand for air conditioning, and increases in the number of heat stress days (NCA). The sea level rose 8 inches on the Texas Coastline during the last century. Freeport is expecting a rise rate of 17 inches every 100 years. Rockport is expecting a rise rate of 22 inches every 100 years. Galveston is expecting a rise rate of 25 inches every 100 years. People have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the air by 40 percent since the late 1700s. A 2019 report found that 100 percent of the state's coal plants are leaking contaminants into groundwater at levels unsafe for human consumption.

Proposal for Action:
We will ease the Climate Crisis by reducing the amount of palm oil in products by 25%. We will reach out to Ferrero, Nestlé, Kraft, Heinz, Hershey, Kellogg's, L'Oréal, PepsiCo,
and Wilmar International. It will still be allowed in medicines because it helps treat Malaria, Brain Diseases, Cancer, and Dementia. Palm oil comes from the fruit of palm trees. These trees are native to Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand and Brazil. The majority of Palm Trees in Texas grow in the North. About 50% of the products we use daily in the U.S. contain palm oil. In 2020, the U.S. consumed 1,648 tons of palm oil. Palm oil has been and continues to be a major cause of deforestation of some of the world's most biodiverse forests, destroying the habitat of already endangered species like the Orangutan, Pygmy Elephant and Sumatran Rhino. Trees produce oxygen, and without these trees taking in carbon dioxide then the greenhouse gas will be more abundant in our atmosphere. Consuming palm oil is also not good for your health because it is high in trans-fat and saturated fat. This can cause heart problems/diseases like heart attacks, heart failure, and stroke.

Results to be Expected:
If companies cut down on the use of palm oil, climate change will slow down because of less deforestation. The rising sea levels, storms, droughts, floods, and species becoming extinct will be less likely to occur. Rockport, Freeport, and Galveston will not be in danger of rising sea levels anymore. People who live on the eastern seaboard as well will be safer. Carbon Dioxide levels in the atmosphere will reduce in the next few decades. Fewer people will have heart problems/diseases and other illnesses.

Author: Milan Le and Kacie Nguyen
School: Austin Academy for Excellence
YMCA: White Rock YMCA **City:** Garland

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Death Penalty

Major Area to be Affected:

Prisoners on Death Row (Section Separated for Prisoners Sentenced to Death)
Patients in Need of Organ Transplants

Justification:

Felons convicted with serious crimes, such as murder of an individual under ten years of age or murder during escape or attempted escape from a penal institution, are given the Death Penalty and are put on Death Row. Currently, there are about 214 inmates on Death Row in Texas. Methods of execution for those on Death Row include lethal injection, electrocution, lethal gas, hanging, and firing squad according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, but Texas only uses lethal injection. There are about 109,000 patients on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. A new name is added to the national transplant waiting list every nine minutes and an average of twenty people die everyday from the lack of available organs for transplant, as reported by the American Transplant Association. There were approximately 19,267 organ donors in 2019, 11,870 deceased, 36% of the deceased donors were over the age of 50, stated by OrganDonor.gov. A deceased organ donor can donate the heart, liver, kidneys (2), lungs (2), pancreas, intestines, and tissue. Tissues include corneas, skin, veins, heart valves, tendons, ligaments, and bones. A single donor has the capability of saving numerous lives. As of right now, no state allows death row prisoners to donate their organs, nor does the Federal Bureau of Prisons, they only consider general prisoners to be living donors.

Proposal for Action:

Our proposal for action is, we will allow Death Row Inmates to donate their organs upon death. Lethal injection would cause the inmate to become brain dead, in which surgeons would be able to remove their organs. We would also create an incentive program called the Texas Inmate Organ Donation Program (TIODP), where a separate wing will be constructed in the prison (one in the women's prison and another in the men's prison), for those deciding to donate their organs. They would stay in the new wing 10 days prior to their execution date, where they shall receive better quality food, increased visitation rights, better holding cell conditions, and 2 hours of recreational time. The execution(s) will take place at the Walls Unit in Huntsville, Texas. A surgical operating room and all necessary surgical equipment will be added to this prison unit to be used when the organ harvesting will take place. There will be surgeons from different specialties to come harvest and collect the organs for their patients (the organ recipients).

Results to be Expected:

We expect that the incentive program will persuade the Death Row prisoners to donate their organs. In addition to the incentive program, they would get a chance to redeem themselves for their past crimes. Their redemption would make them feel as though their life is more meaningful. Also, the most important result is that their organs would not go to waste, but save countless lives.

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TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

41

Author :Michelle Cornwall
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose: Free speech on campuses

Major Area to be Affected: The way this proposal is affected towards students mostly on campuses but it can also be affected towards professors.This can affect students by giving them a change to speak out and say their opinion so they can get a change by being able to have freedom of speech and being able to get their opinion in a way that they best believe that it'll be heard.This can also affect professors but not in such a big way ,most likely because they're older and they work with the campus so if there is a problem it's easier for their voices to be heard.

Justification: My proposal is that any opinion on a campus can be voiced and evaluated, which is also associated with the right to protest peacefully. Students on campuses will have the right to be able to speak out on their opinions for them to be heard such as peacefully protesting or gathering signatures for what they believe in. This proposal is needed because students' voices should be heard and will be heard , students don't want their voices to be heard for no reason. Students want their voices heard for a change- the change could help or affect them in a positive way including others. This proposal is also needed because students are supposed to feel comfortable at campus or feel welcomed so if something they feel that is affecting them they should have the right to have free speech, they should be able to have a say.

Proposal for Action: I plan to make this change by getting opinions from other students or people, then make a petition or get signatures for all colleges or campuses to allow all students to have free speech. Once I am able to get all the signatures I need I will slowly get the word out to all campuses for students to have free speech. Colleges might not want to give students free speech for example, students could use their right of free speech for the wrong things. So I plan to make my proposal plan with benefits , students should not be able to attend protests with more than 2 absences in a week . If a student uses free speech when their college did not allow it, they should not be suspended because it is a way for their voice to be heard and there is nothing wrong with that.

Results to be Expected: Once my proposal is a reality, thousands of students will have a chance to speak out on their opinion and get a change without getting in trouble.The positive benefits are: providing the students to hear new arguments that can give them new beliefs, debating on different controversial ideas can let students use their free time wisely. Many students will be able to hear each other's opinions in a fun way such as a fundraiser, while getting a change. I believe that many students will be more comfortable now that they know that their voice can be heard and they know there will be a positive change.

42

Author: Braden Grayson, Marcel Driver
School: Bastrop Middle School
YMCA: Austin **City:** Bastrop

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:Stopping puppy mills

Major Area to be Affected: Texas

Justification:

A puppy mill is an inhumane, commercial dog breeding facility in which the health of the dogs is disregarded in order to maintain a low overhead and maximize profits. Statistics from the Humane Society show that around 118 puppy mills are currently active in Texas. In Texas, over 13,806 dogs are kept just for breeding. In Texas alone 82,836+ dogs are sold from puppy mills. Puppy mills on average make $250,000 per year, which shows us that people are getting rich from the inhumane act of breeding puppies in poor conditions. This has to change humans should not profit off animals' suffering.

Proposal for Action:

We propose the following be added to Sec. 802.201. of the Texas Dog or Cat Breeders Occupations Code:

Inspections of the accommodation for dogs and puppies should be a mandatory part of licensing for breeding companies. Inspectors will monitor the number of dogs on the site, health of dogs on the premises, enough space inside of kennels for dogs to move freely, and regular access to the outdoors outside of their kennels (2 hours minimum). After gaining a license, breeding companies will be subject to two random inspection visits per year to ensure that the standard of living is maintained.

Breeding operations that do not qualify for licenses must be shut down. Breeding operations are required to put a percentage of their profit towards things like bigger cages, sanation, pest control, and food and water in order to ensure the health of their dogs.

Results to be Expected:

If this proposal is passed, over 13,806 Texas dogs will be happier because they get more time outside, bigger cages and a better living environment.

Author: Jonathan Brown,Parker Brown **YMCA Delegation**: Dowell Middle School **YMCA**: Mckinney **City**: Mckinney,Texas

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. Title or Purpose:
2. Increase the minimum wage in Texas
3.
4.
5.
6.
7. Major Area(s) to be Affected:
8. Texas
9.
10.
11. Justification:
12. -Minimum wage is the lowest remuneration or compensation that employers can legally 13. pay their workers
14. -Federal government minimum wage is $7.25 per hour
15. -State and local governments have the ability to have their minimum wage lower than,
16. equal to, or higher than the federal government's minimum wage
17. -Texas minimum wage is $7.25 per hour
18. -Texas minimum wage a year is $15,080
19. -24 states have increased their minimum wage in the past year, not including Texas
20. -Three states have increased their minimum wage to $15 in the past
21. year(Illinois,Maryland, New Jersey)
22. -Washington D.C. has one of the highest minimum wages; being $15 per hour
23. -Employees must be paid no less than $4.25 if they are under the age of 16
24. -Employees must pay a wage of $2.13 per hour if they want to have tip credit like
25. waiters and waitresses
26. -Houston minimum wage is $7.25 an hour
27. -Houston employed workers would have to be paid $21.23 per hour to afford a
28. 2-bedroom apartment with fair market rent
29. -Houston employed workers would have to work 91 hours a week(with minimum wage) 30. for a one bedroom apartment and 112 hours a week(with minimum wage) for a two
31. bedroom apartment
32. -Texas is one of the states that didn't raise its minimum wage within the past decade 33. -The average house cost in Texas is $117,000
34. -The average home mortgage payment a year in Texas is $88,000
35. -The average homeowner insurance cost in Texas is $3,429 a year
36. -The average rental apartment payment for one bedroom is $900 per month, while for 37. two or more it is $1,000 per month
38. -The average water bill per month in Texas is $288.43
39. -The average electricity bill per month in Texas is $140.88
40. -The average internet bill per month in Texas is $60 per month
41. -The average cable plans per month in Texas is $55-$60
42. -The average child care payment in Texas is $777 per month, $9,324 a year
43. -The average health insurance payment in Texas is $444 per month
44. -The average public transportation cost a month is $90
45. -The average cost of a car is $8,469
46. -The average car insurance cost in Texas is $1,810 a year
47. -The average liability insurance cost in Texas is $782 a year
48. -The average cost for gas in Texas is $72.10 per month
49. -The average cost for clothing in Texas is $161 per month
50. -The average cost for food in Texas is $2,641 per month
51. -Texas doesn't make you pay income tax, but property taxes and sales taxes
52. -Texas is the highest in sales and property taxes in the U.S.
53. -Texas annual property tax is 1.83%
54. -Texas annual sales tax is 6.25%
55. Proposal for Action:
56. We propose to create a program that is made of financial investors that would offer
57. local businesses financial support, with agreement of businesses paying their
58. employees the minimum wage of $15. We plan to provide incentives to our investors
59. to invest in our upcoming program. Our local businesses would be granted with
60. financial incentives from our investors, who will continually support them. This program 61. will start at local level and there would be requirements for businesses to follow in
62. order to be invested in. A threshold would be placed that allows businesses under
63. 150 employees to join our program. The minimum employment would be 10 employees

64. and employees under the age of 19 would be paid $10.50 for the first 90 days of work. 65. For tipped businesses, employees wouldn't be required to pay tip credit to earn tips. If 66. businesses don't have the ability to pay their employees with the minimum wage of
67. $15, we will not hold them accountable and we will give them an extension of time to 68. qualify for our program. Since many businesses struggle with financial issues at some 69. point, we hope to provide our businesses with some exemptions, such as helping them 70. with property tax, legal zoning ordinance loopholes, and having investors help fund the 71. capital for them. We anticipate that this will aid businesses with finances and keep
72. them loyal to our program.
73. Results to be Expected:
74. Although our proposed minimum wage may not be enough for an employee to live on 75. with just an average apartment, we believe that our program will positively impact our
76. economic community. We hope that our program will create a economic ripple effect
77. with our businesses flourishing, leading to an increase in our communal revenue and an 78. increase of job employment.

Author: Gabriela Noriega
School: Kennemer Middle school
YMCA: Oak Cliff **City:**Duncanville

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:
Climate Change\Forest fire in Texas
Major Area to be Affected:
Campsite around the area, San Antonio,
Dallas,Austin,Huston,and Bastrop

Justification:
There has been 3,330 fires and dropping of 1,517,151 gallons of water and retardant On Texas wildfire this year.Destroying homes of animals and people.About 384,942 acres in Texas have burned in 2019.The 2018 civilian fire death toll of 3,655 is over 7% higher than the 3,400 in 2017.And the percent could go higher this year.A professor of University of Sydney found the estimate of 480 million animals are affected by fires.

Proposal for Action:
My proposal for action is to have more awareness about wildfires in texas in schools,media,and work places.And to have different plans on how to stop wildfires in texas.To spread awareness is to have more ads on tv and phone and tech how wildfires start and how it affects animals and people in schools and workplaces.One plan on how to stop wildfires in Texas is to always have park ranger or volunteers to check for lit matches,cigarettes,input fires in the trails that causes fires in forest. Another way wilde fiers start is by lighting that hit dry or light abel trees or wood that start fires how to stop this from happening is that resorcher the research about wildfires will find out when trees start to decay and volunteers or servicing exports to chop down the decaying trees and also replace it or spread fertiliser that comes from the neer towns and city tomake the forest more clean and safer form people and animals.

Results to be Expected:
I would like for the proposal to start in the spring, summer,or winters to look and research and find the people we need to help with this proposal idea so that would may be take about 5 to 8 months to get everything and getting the susplays from the people that donate and support this proposal and find the right scientist and researcher and volunteers that will help this plan.

Author: Lucas Le and Zander Huynh
School: Austin Academy For Excellence
YMCA: White Rock YMCA **City:** Garland

46

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Minimum Wage Reform

Major Area to be Affected:

Employers in the State of Texas
Employees receiving minimum wage in Texas

Justification:

There are about 6.3 million employed citizens in the State of Texas that are paid an hourly wage. Roughly 200,000 of these employees are paid minimum wage and would be better equipped to support themselves and their families if the minimum wage is increased. The minimum wage in Texas is currently among the 21 lowest in the United States at $7.25, only $1.25 above the poverty wage. According to the living wage calculator created by Dr. Amy Glasmeier, Professor of Economic Geography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (mit.edu), a single adult must make $11.74 per hour in order to afford basic food, childcare, health insurance, housing, transportation, and other basic necessities.

Proposal for Action:

Our proposal for action is to amend the Texas Minimum Wage Act, enforced and overseen by the Texas Workforce Commision, to increase the minimum wage to $11.75 by January 1, 2025. The increase will occur gradually, so that it is increased by $0.90 on January 1st of each year 2021-2025. Other current Texas Minimum Wage Act exemptions will remain in effect:

- Employment in, of or by religious, educational, charitable or nonprofit organizations
- Professionals, salespersons or public officials
- Domestics
- Certain youths and students
- Inmates
- Family members
- Amusement and recreational establishments
- Non-agricultural employers not liable for state unemployment contributions
- Dairying and production of livestock
- Sheltered workshops

Results to be Expected:

Increasing the minimum wage to $11.74 will improve the overall standard of living for minimum wage workers, lift thousands of Texans out of poverty, reduce the need for state government financial aid, improve employee morale and retention, and boost consumer spending and the economy.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

47

Author: Lakayla Harrison
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

End sexual assault on college campuses

Major Area to be Affected:

College students would be affected,college campuses would be affected, and future college students

Justification:

Ending sexual assault on college campuses would ensure college students would feel more congenial about being at college. College campuses would be affected because if the sexual assault rates increase, then the number of applicants would decrease. Future college students would be affected because the students may see all the sexual assault victims at the college. Which would result in the students going to a different college, even though the college may be really beneficial to their future career. Each year there are 6.1 sexual assaults per 1,000 students per year. To be more specific, women of color are more likely to be targets, because of the stereotype that women of color are seen as "weak" and "it may have been what they were wearing" This being said ending sexual assault on campuses would reduce the the degrading of the women assault victims,college campuses reviews,and assault victims would be reconigzed and supported.

Proposal for Action:

My Proposal for ending sexual assault on campuses is to hold different programs, in which all victims would be able to vent and find starting powerpoint in there healing process. On the college campuses, there can help centers where assault victims can go and talk to counselors individually or in a group. To be more specific, the program would be free of charge. The students are able to decide if they would want a counselor to talk to or express themselves amongst others in a group. Talking to a counselor individually would look like,being able to vent to a counselor one on one, without anyone being judgemental.On the other hand,choosing to be in a group would look like,there being a group of people, who have encountered similar sexual assault scenarios, explaing their stories. This would help each assault victim find some sort of comfort, knowing that there are other survivors, who understand what the individual is going through.

Results to be Expected:

I believe that if there are programs being held, then more survivors would be more comfortable continuing to continue college. Without the fear of the chance of getting sexually assaulted again. If the programs help, then college campuses may receive good reviews from the students that the program worked well for, which would lead to more applicants choosing that particular college.The positive benefits of my proposal is all sexual assault victims would be put at ease and would be more open to the different experience the students endured.

Author: Jacob Baird and Mateo Sanchez
School: Clint Small Middle School
YMCA: YMCA of Austin **City:** Austin

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Help The Helpers!

Major Area to be Affected:

All hospitals and schools.

Justification:

This bill is important because it will be giving people who are risking their health to give us our education and make sure our health is always at the highest point it can be, and it will be helping people to get better healthcare.

Proposal for Action:

50 days after this bill comes to action, all schools will be given money from the government to give teachers a raise. The same thing will happen with hospitals. Also, teachers and hospital workers will be able to afford better healthcare because the government will pay for their healthcare. Every week after non compliance of this bill by any school or hospital will result in a fine from the main manager of the hospital or school of $5,000 dollars.

Results to be Expected:

The people who are risking their lives for us will be given better pay and better healthcare.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Sujit Pai, Siddhartha Talluri, Pranav Polisetti
School: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
YMCA: McKinney YMCA **City:** McKinney, Texas

49

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Animal Cruelty and Rights

Major Area to be Affected:

Shelters, Zoos, and Wildlife Conservation Centers in Texas

Justification:

"The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man."
- Charles Darwin

Animal cruelty is a problem that needs to be solved in Texas. Animal cruelty is defined as acting in such a way to cause animals harm. Animal rights is defined as the belief for animals to live free from human usage. In the U.S., about 70 million dogs and 74.1 million cats are assaulted every year. According to the Texas Penal Code, animal cruelty is illegal and can be fined with up to $10,000 and up to 10 years in prison. Despite this, people continue to harm animals purposefully. This is due to many animal cruelty cases not reaching the police. Poaching or the hunting of endangered species is a form of animal cruelty. Although illegal in the U.S., thousands of poachers are caught every year. However, according to experts, that only represents about 1 - 5% of poachers. Animals also undergo the process of euthanization when a shelter wants to get rid of animals it can no longer support. The process of euthanization is when animals are killed through humane methods. In 2018, Texas had 114,000 animals that were euthanized, the most of any state that year. Overcrowding or a shelter having more animals than it can support is a cause for animals being euthanized.

Proposal for Action:

Every animal shelter in Texas will be required to use a special type of collar in place for a regular collar. Pet owners in Texas can buy this collar if they choose to. This collar will incorporate a wind sensor to determine how fast and from what direction the wind is coming. In addition to this, the collar will feature a built in $20 waterproof camera that activates if and when the wind sensor detects speeds greater than 10 mph. The camera will feature pattern recognition technology, which will give it the ability to differentiate between actions such as petting an animal and hitting an animal. In the case that the camera is able to identify an instance of animal cruelty, the camera will start recording, an immediate notification along with a copy of the recorded footage will be sent to the local police. Animal shelters, zoos, and wildlife conservation centers will require proof of the land size and/or building area, and will only be allowed to support enough animals to their size. Animals that are rescued in Texas will be sent to animal shelters all over the state to ensure that any one shelter will not exceed its carrying capacity. Shelters and zoos will also have $1000 to $1500 virtual fences in addition to whatever boundary they may already have. This virtual fence will alert the shelter/zoo management staff if an animal were to leave. Advanced security cameras costing around $200 that have the ability to distinguish the object that is moving will be placed in wildlife conservation centers. Through these cameras, objects will be distinguished as either humans or animals. When detecting a human presence, the cameras will alert the guards, who will then monitor the situation and take the necessary precautions. This way, officials will not have to be monitoring the cameras for the entire day. There will also be more security guards to prevent people other than the staff from entering.

Results to be Expected:

This product can reduce the percentage of harm done to animals by 50% and possibly more. This translates to millions of less animals getting assaulted every year. Virtual fences, advanced security cameras, and increased security guards in wildlife preserves can decrease the rate of poaching. Less animals will be euthanized with this proposal.

the YMCA

TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Archayla lee
School: KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls
YMCA: Northeast Family YMCA **City:** Houston, TX

50

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Should we defund Police departments?

Major Area to be Affected:

The people who will be impacte are the police officers, families, companies, and other citizens.

Justification:

We need to defund the police because the money that is going to the police department is not an effective use of funds that could be going elsewhere. The police are not properly equipped or trained to handle issues that social services could better support. Defunding the departments can help out social services because it provides the employees to get paid more to provide for their families. Defunding the police and giving money to social services can help the service hire more people so that if the person needs triple the help they can get. It can also provide families with more opportunities.

Proposal for Action:

I propose that we allocate funds originally granted to the police department should be redistributed to the social service organizations such as CPS, the foster care system, women's shelters, and other groups. This money would go towards building up these organizations so that they are more equipped to intervene during a crisis and have the infrastructure to support those in need.

Results to be Expected:

The results that can be expected is that police brutality situations may go down since the police will not be the main ones intervening in a health or social crisis. Additionally, we can expect to see citizens having more support when they need to rely on social services.

Author: Zoe Moreno_Annika Singh
School: Small Middle School
YMCA: YMCA of Austin **City:** Austin

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Mandating Sexual Education from grade 6

Major Area to be Affected:

Majority of Texas, especially more conservative areas

Justification:

Not being knowledgeable of sexual health can be life threatening. Students and teenagers are most at risk for the dangers of sex seeing as that our bodies and hormones are at their peek of complication. 1 in 4 teens contract a sexually transmitted disease every year from not knowing how to properly put on a condom or just not being aware of STD's in the first place. Women that contract STD's also have a lower chance of being fertile in the future. Sex is a natural, humane milestone that shouldn't have stigma that leads to illness. Sexual Education is highly important to students' health. 58.3% of Texas public schools teach Abstinence-only curriculum. 16.6% of Texas public schools teach Abstinence-plus curriculum. 25.1% of Texas public schools teach no sex education at all. Teen pregnancy rates are highest in Mississippi, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Arizona. All of those states either require abstinence only education to be heavily stressed, simply don't mandate any sex ed, or mandate abstinence only education.

Proposal for Action:

We propose to mandate comprehensive sexual education for middle school and high school students across Texas. Our proposal includes that it will be taught in 6th grade year, considering that's when puberty commences on average. Over time, more simple lessons will be taught at least once a year for mnemonic purposes. Comprehensive sexual education is abstinence education, but it includes knowledge on condoms, birth control, and HIV. It teaches you to, one, not have sex, and two, if you do have sex, this is how you do it without causing disease or tragedy. An extensive document on the curriculum being taught to students will be sent to parents/legal guardians.

Results to be expected:

Teen pregnancy rates will drop, due to the fact that teens will know how to do what they're doing without risk and potential abortion. STD rates among teens would be expected to drop as well. The rate of abortions among teenagers will also decrease.

Author: Matthew Wooton
School: Imagine International Middle School
YMCA: McKinney YMCA **City: Dallas**

52

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Media Reform

Major Area to be Affected:

Media Outlets Serving Texans

Justification:

The idea of Media Reform is to make sure news outlets report non-biased facts. In this age of Internet, where one viral post can spread an article full of misinformation and biased facts, this proposal is important Mainstream, large, media outlets are writing biased articles that don't reflect the true nature of the event. Walter Lippmann, a famous journalist, and the person who created the phrase "Stereotype," wrote a book saying that media is the outlet between world events and the public eye and can influence public views. This is called the "Agenda-Setting Theory," which explains the large, influential impact media has on people. This issue is very prominent in this current age, with the ever-expanding access to the internet that empowers anyone to pass articles as facts.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal is to hold media accountable for misinformation and bias. This proposal is to form a nonpartisan team of people to detect misinformation and bias in articles. Articles written by mainstream media corporations will be labeled as misinformation if it contains biased and invalid information. If there is a constant record of articles that contain misinformation the media company in concern will be fined. For small articles posted, companies that own the sites that the articles are posted on will be mandated to put misinformation labels on the articles, but bias labels will not be required. Multiple infractions of widely spread articles will end in consequence for the company. This will not impede on Free Speech laws, as the articles are still allowed to be written and viewed by the public, but with the "Misinformation" label.

Results to be Expected:

The results this proposal will bring is media reporting true and unbiased facts. More of the public will know the truth on events occurring in the world.

Author: Suyash Joshua Katarapu
School: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
YMCA: McKinney **City:** McKinney

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Death penalty

Major Area to be Affected

Texas

Justification:

Murder is a grave crime so you must pay with a grave punishment. Taking a life cannot be forgiven so easily. You must go through the Death Penalty. Death penalty is mostly used after a murderer is caught. As a family, if your son, daughter, mom, (e.c.t) dies you would want closure and justice. This is the reason for Death penalty also helps jails not overflow with criminals but in the modern world only 29 out of 50 states in the USA have Death penalty. Texas is one of the 29 states that allow Death penalty. So Death penalty is legal in Texas but Texas has rules like you have to be 17 and above to get Death penalty. Death penalty isn't always the punishment sometimes depending on the case a first-degree murder can result in jail time. When Texas agreed to allow Death penalty they only allowed it one way and that was an injection. This injection is made of drugs used consist of pandemonium bromide (paralyzing substance), potassium chloride (stops cardiac activity), and sodium thiopental (anesthetic). This injection will stop your cardiovascular system and paralyze you in about seven minutes.

Proposal for Action:

I propose that every person that commits a 3rd-degree crime should be monitored and put under custody for 1 month and then have an ankle tracker that record their everyday movements and send them every day to law authority and it will also have a secret camera to pick up what they're saying but if the criminal stop his criminal record for 5 years then he gets his ankle tracker off but if he restarts his criminal activity again he will immediately have a death penalty no question asked.

Results to be Expected:

Our results to be expected are a decrease in the violent crime rate by 2% this will help neighborhoods and communities in texas stay safe. While the crime rate will decrease the death penalty rate will go up in the first 5-months and then slowly start to reduce. I Support my proposal largely because it can help kids start to understand that if you start life-threatening choices you may have a death penalty.