



TOBBMUN^{'26}

TURKIYE ODALAR VE BORSALAR BIRLIGI SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

US-SENATE

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL:

EMRE YILMAZ

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT:

DERIN AKYÜREK

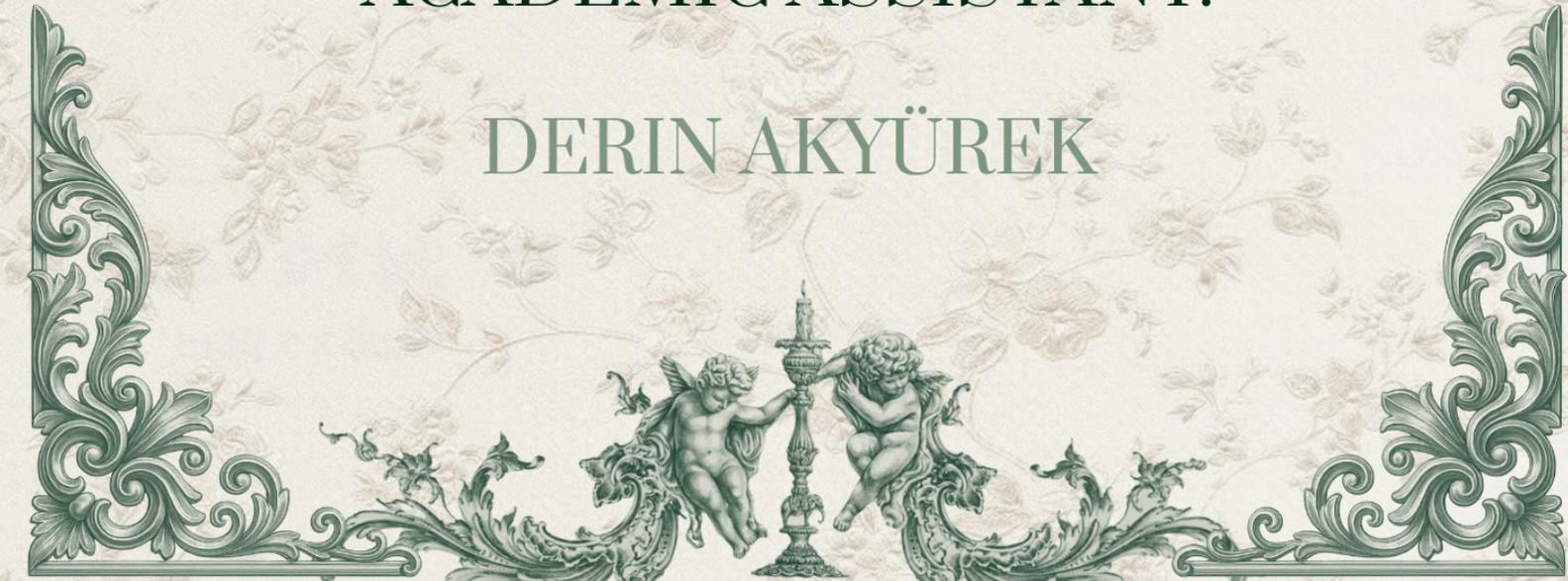


Table of Contents

- 1. Letter from the Secretariat**
- 2. Letter from the Academia**
- 3. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General**
- 4. Letter from the Academic Assistant**
- 5. Introduction of the Senate**
- 6. Rules and Procedure**
- 7. 5.1 Bill 101**
- 8. Committee Dynamic and Subtleties**
- 9. Key National Problems**
 - 7.1 Fiscal Instability**
 - 7.1.1 The \$36 Trillion National Debt**
 - 7.1.2 The Lack of Money in Social Security and Medicare**
 - 7.1.3 Government Shutdown Costs**
 - 7.2 Infrastructure**
 - 7.3 LGBTQ Rights Under Pressure**
 - 7.4 Immigration Policies and Birthright Citizenship Debate**
 - 7.5 Abortion**
- 10. Bibliography**

- 1. Letter From the Secretariat**

Honourable participants of TOBBMUN'26,

As the Secretaries-General of TOBBMUN'26, taking place from January 17th to January 20th, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to all participants of this prestigious conference.

With its first official edition, and this year's first conference in Antalya, of TOBBMUN, we are proudly bringing together enthusiastic and passionate individuals eager to experience, witness the best instance of diplomacy, collaboration, and intellectual exchange at its finest. As the years and institutions first conference in Antalya, we are confident that we will not only achieve but we will even surpass our motto.

Throughout the path we took in the MUN circuit, we have worked hard and tirelessly to build this conference upon the foundation of experience, dedication, and innovation. With the knowledge and expertise we have gained, we want to shed light on your experience as well and help you feel the same joy we did while creating and attending such committees.

With a blend of experienced and new generation of academic members, we strongly believe that TOBBMUN'26 will provide an unparalleled MUN experience for all of its participants. The seasoned members of our academic team contribute their deep knowledge and insight, while the newer members bring forward creativity and fresh perspectives.

We hope and believe that this conference will grant all participants a platform and an opportunity for all attendees to develop and acquire skills, learn how the dynamics of different specialized committees work, and engage in a constructive way. By organizing TOBBMUN'26, we are not only trying to create something remarkable but also to inspire and contribute to the growth of new members and delegates within the MUN community.

To achieve this, we have brought an academic team of unparalleled intellect and proven capability, supported by an organization team marked by its commitment and strength. When you attend TOBBMUN'26, you will start your MUN year at the very peak of excellence and in the rest of the year, you will continue striving to reach even higher summits.

Welcome to TOBBMUN'26,

With our warmest regards,

Secretaries – Generals of TOBBMUN'26,

Kuzey Karlık & Mustafa Aslan.

2. Letter From the Under Secretary General

Distinguished Delegates,

As your Under-Secretary-General, Emre Yılmaz, I welcome you to TOBBMUN'26 United States Senate.

The idea of creating this committee came from my precious Academic Assistant Derin –which she made sure this guide which consist the needed information for a delegate to get a better perspective on the situation the United States Government is in, encouraging collaborative efforts to ensure sustainable and responsible nation-wide activities– so I would like to thank her for that. While doing so, we wanted to provide you with comprehensive knowledge of the economic, socio-political and infrastructural status of the state to give you a better understanding of the committee. We wanted to enhance your comprehension of current national affairs and improve your ability to analyze and address global problems –which we hope reaches the leaders of our generation, creating awareness about our todays and tomorrows– and also help you develop critical thinking and diplomatic skills.

This committee was genuinely was a hard one to make, given its dense context; but I am happy to see it turned out like me and Derin wanted it to be, and we hope that it will reach to you too and maybe light a spark in your mind, leading you to think about the aspect of these in our own lives.

So, if you want to ask anything about the committee, do not hesitate to contact me through my personal number or e-mail which is dremreyilmaz0707@gmail.com.

And as always, Good Luck.

Emre Yılmaz

3. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Esteemed Senators and Honourable Participants,

As the Academic assistants of this committee I am more than pleased to welcome you all to one of the most challenging committees, the United States Senate. We created this committee with my dear Under Secretary General Emre Yılmaz, so firstly I would like to thank him for bringing this committee to life with me. To be honest, the US Senate is the most memorable committee that I have attended of all time when I was a delegate. So I hope you all find this committee memorable and keep its spirit. We have worked so hard to make this committee possible with my Under Secretary General so while preparing for the committee please make sure to really read through the study guide.

You will be experiencing a really unique committee and we want to assure you that this committee will be one of the best experiences you will ever have. Throughout these 4 days you will be debating numerous issues, trying to pass the bills that you have worked on. Political committees, especially the United States Senate have a special place in my heart since you can both experience the process of writing and trying to pass legislation, battling the other side for superiority and trying to flip seats.

If you have any questions please reach me via my e-mail derin.akyurekk@gmail.com

Thank you,
Derin Akyürek

NOTE FROM ACADEMIA:

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT BILLS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE GOOGLE FORMS LINK. SUBMITTING A BILL WILL HIGHLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE AWARD CRITERIA.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKLULuPUmDdc2gzi9cTEETHg5XSzW-aTWyw_pOcxL4TuLeiA/viewform?usp=dialog

4. Introduction of the Senate

At the federal convention of 1787, now known as the constitutional convention, the framers of the United States Constitutional Convention established in Article I the structure and powers of the congress. During the Convention delegates from all around the United States of America revised the previous government and that being said the fundamental law of the United States government was framed.

The delegates who gathered in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787, first to revise the existing form of government and then to frame a new Constitution, debated the idea of a Congress made up of two houses. One house would be, in the words of Virginia's George Mason, the "grand depository of the democratic principle of government." To counter this popular influence in the national government, James Madison of Virginia proposed another house that would be small, deliberative, and independent from the larger, more democratic house. That later became the Senate. The United States constitution has come into force since 1789, making this constitution the longest-surviving government charter due to the fact that its framers have separated and balanced the governmental powers in order to protect the rights of the United States citizens. The government of the United States exists solely to serve its citizens which is why the constitution starts with the words "We, the People of the United States,". Article I of the constitution of the United States of America establishes the legislative branch of the government, the United States Congress. Under the article one United States Congress is divided into 2 chambers: House of Representatives and the United States Senate. Article I grants the United States Congress the ability to pass laws. Article one also establishes the separation of powers among the three branches of the federal government.

The Senate has exclusive power to confirm U.S. presidential appointments, to approve or reject treaties and to convict or discharge impeachment cases brought by the house

The House of Representatives currently consists of 435 elected representatives from all around the US. The number of representatives from each state is determined by its population, and they each represent their district.

The United States Senate on the other hand consists of 53 senators from the majority party (Republicans), 45 senators from the minority party (Democrats) and 2 independent senators. 100 elected senators, 2 senators representing each state regardless of the population.

5. Rules of Procedure

First Session of the United States Senate

A Party Caucus has to be taken at the start of the senate. A party Caucus can either be taken by sending a message paper to the chairpersons requesting a Party Caucus with the Majority or Minority Leaders signs or by a message paper requesting a Party Caucus with the signatures of 5 people from the same party. President Pro Tempore has the right to reject any request. If A Party Caucus is adapted it can not exceed 20 minutes and both parties are considered to be in the Party Caucus. In the Party Caucus Senators can vote for a new party leader or a whip. A Party Caucus can not be extended.

Senate Legislation Procedure

The legislation procedure of the United States Senate has at least five and at most seven legislative stages. It is applied for lawmaking and constitutional amendments. The mandatory legislative stages are; 1) First Reading, 2) First Division, 3) Second Reading, 4) Second Division and 5) Final Voting.

Amendment proposals to the proposed legislation, extends to seven stages and the process extends with addition of Third Reading and Third Division. Final Voting is always mandatory and always holds as the last step. In order to start the legislative procedure at least has to propose a bill to the Senate Floor with proper requirements. In order to legislate, the Senate has to adopt a certain agenda primarily.

Senate Lawmaking Procedure

Every Senate lawmaking procedure starts with bill proposals form at least one Senator of the United States Senate. The proposed bill has to have these items as in order;

- A Title that starts with “*An Act to...*” ,

- List of Senators that are sponsors of the bill. Main sponsor has to be declared separately on the proposal,
- A preamble that explains the proposal.
- Section for short title,
- At least four sections or article besides short title, appropriation and enforcement section,
- A final section for the enactment or enforcement date.

The proposal has to have an appropriation clause if the proposal requires funding. The proposal can include or have more than listed requirements

An amendment to the proposed legislation has to have these items as in order; - A Title that starts with “*An amendment to Proposed Act*”,

- List of Senators that are sponsors of the amendment. Main sponsor has to be declared separately on the proposal,
- Detailed explanation on how to amend the which section of the proposed legislation or explaining the new section added with this amendment. The bill and amendments have to be drafted and submitted by the Senators in the Conference premises as digitally and not on paper

First Reading

The First Reading is a debate about the preamble of the proposed legislation. The Sections of the proposed legislation cannot be debated or voted in the First Reading. President Pro Tempore introduces proposals when the required quorum is met, Senate Speakers List has been exhausted and the agenda has been set to Senate Lawmaking Procedure by the Senate. The Senate can set an agenda when President Pro Tempore commences the session with reaching required quorum, entertaining Speakers List members and taking agenda proposals verbally. Then entertains any agenda proposal of his liking and puts it into a vote by voice. If the proposal passes, the Senate adopts the agenda. Agenda can be proposed by any Senator. President Pro Tempore has to follow the order of the Legislation Calendar for proposals. President Pro Tempore introduces the proposed legislation by only reading the title, sponsors and preamble to the Senate floor out loud. This is considered as the First Reading commenced. President Pro Tempore recognizes the main sponsor and invites to the Senate Floor for five minutes after the introduction.

The Main Sponsor who is invited has to take the floor and defend the proposed legislation for five minutes. The Main Sponsor has to open him or herself to the questionnaire immediately after his defense speech is concluded.

Senators can question the Main Sponsor by getting recognized by President Pro Tempore. Senators can only direct questions about the preamble of the proposal. President Pro Tempore can only recognize twelve Senators for a questionnaire and the answer time limit can be determined by the President Pro Tempore. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Senatorial Debate after the questionnaire has been concluded. President Pro Tempore has to express the move to Senatorial Debate with extraordinary behavior of his liking.

In the Senatorial Debate Senators express assent or dissent for proposed legislation via recognition from President Pro Tempore. Exit from the Senate floor is prohibited during the Senatorial Debate. This includes break times designated by the Conference Schedule.

In the Senatorial Debate, in order to discipline and exchange ideas within the party, Party Whips can roam around the Senate floor and enter dialogue with their party members. Party Whip can only interact with their party members and this privilege applies only when the Senate is in Senatorial Debate.

There is no total debate time and individual speaker time is limited to three minutes. Senatorial Debate can only be concluded by Closure of Debate vote which has to be proposed by five Senators verbally and somatically.

President Pro Tempore recognizes Majority and Minority Leaders primarily for Senatorial Debate. After the leaders conclude their speeches, President Pro Tempore recognizes any Senator of his liking.

Senatorial Debate continues until five Senators propose Closure of Debate verbally and somatically.

President Pro Tempore immediately takes a vote for the Closure of Debate proposal. Three-Fifth Senators majority is required to adopt Closure of Debate and close the Senatorial Debate.

President Pro Tempore declares that Debate has been concluded with extraordinary behavior of his liking when the Closure of Debate motion is adopted and moves the Senate to adoption vote.

The adoption vote is for whether the Senate considers the proposal as serious and decides whether the proposal does need a Second Reading.

The Adoption Vote is conducted by President Pro Tempore and requires a one-third majority of the Senators. The proposal is considered serious if it survives the adoption vote. If the proposal does not survive from the adoption vote, the Senate considers the proposal as failed.

President Pro Tempore declares the result of the vote and moves the Senate to First Division in the event the proposal is adopted.

First Division

Declaration of the First Division by the President Pro Tempore, grants political parties to convene, debate and conclude agendas or events privately and within their respective caucus. The Senate behaves as in an unmoderated caucus.

Leadership of the respective political parties became in charge of their Senators. Total time for the First Division is allocated as twenty minutes but can be extended by the discretion of the President Pro Tempore for an additional fifteen minutes. All Senators have to be present in the Senate when First Division time has lapsed. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Second Reading after the time has lapsed

Second Reading

The Second Reading is about the sections and articles of the proposed

legislation. The preamble of the proposal cannot be debated or voted in the Second Reading. President Pro Tempore commences the Second Reading when the required quorum is met and First Division has ended. In Second Reading, President pro Tempore only reads sections and articles of the proposal and that is considered as Second Reading is commenced. Senators can only question the Main Sponsor about sections and articles of the proposal. President Pro Tempore declares that Debate has been concluded with extraordinary behavior of his liking when the Closure of Debate motion is adopted and moves the Senate to Second Division without any vote.

Second Division

President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Second Division after the Closure of Debate motion is adopted. The Second Division is regulated as the First Division. President Pro Tempore recognizes Majority and Minority Leaders and grants them speaker time. Within their individual speaker time, Leaders have to express whether or not they have amendment proposals to the relevant proposed legislation. If the Leadership does not have an amendment proposal, President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Final Voting. If the Leadership does have amendment proposals, President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Third Reading. Party Leaders can submit their amendment proposals within the Second Division but they have to declare them after the Division is concluded.

Third Reading

Third Reading is about proposed amendments and sections that are targeted by proposed amendments.

President Pro Tempore declares the Second Division has been concluded and takes a quorum. When the quorum is reached, President Pro Tempore

commences Third Reading.

President Pro Tempore gathers amendment proposals from Senators within ten minutes after the quorum has been taken. The proposals submitted after ten minutes become invalid. President Pro Tempore receives the amendments proposals and lists them in order of submission time and introduces them in the order of submission time. When the time allocated for amendment proposal submissions has been concluded, President Pro Tempore introduces the proposed amendment to the Senate outloud. This is considered as Third Reading is commenced. President Pro Tempore recognizes the main sponsor and invites to the Senate Floor for five minutes after the introduction.

The Main Sponsor who is invited has to take the floor and defend the proposed legislation for five minutes. The Main Sponsor has to open him or herself to the questionnaire immediately after his defense speech is concluded. Senators can question the Main Sponsor by getting recognized by President Pro Tempore.

President Pro Tempore can only recognize twelve Senators for a questionnaire and the answer time limit can be determined by the President Pro Tempore. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Senatorial Debate after the questionnaire has been concluded. President Pro Tempore has to express the move to Senatorial Debate with extraordinary behavior of his liking. Exit from the Senate floor is prohibited during the Senatorial Debate. This includes break times designated by the Conference Schedule.

In the Senatorial Debate, in order to discipline and exchange ideas within the party, Party Whips can roam around the Senate floor and enter dialogue with their party members. Party Whip can only interact with their party members and this privilege applies only when the Senate is in Senatorial Debate.

There is no total debate time and individual speaker time is limited to three minutes. Senatorial Debate can only be concluded by Closure of Debate vote which has to be proposed by five Senators verbally and somatically.

Senatorial Debate continues until five Senators propose Closure of Debate verbally and somatically.

President Pro Tempore immediately takes a vote for the Closure of Debate

proposal. Three-Fifth Senators majority is required to adopt Closure of Debate and close the Senatorial Debate.

President Pro Tempore declares that Debate has been concluded with extraordinary behavior of his liking when the Closure of Debate motion is adopted and moves the Senate to Amendment Vote.

Amendment Vote for whether or not the Senate adopts a proposed amendment to the proposed legislation.

Amendment Vote is conducted by President Pro Tempore and requires a simple majority of the Senators. If the amendment is adopted, proposed legislation becomes altered as proposed amendment. If it is not adopted, the amendment proposal is considered as dead.

At the end when all amendment proposals are debated and voted, President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to the Third Division.

Third Division

The Third Division follows the same Standing Rules as other divisions. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Final Vote when the allocated time has been lapsed.

Final Vote

President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to the Final Vote after the Second or Third Division according to the Standing Rules.

Final Vote is about voting for enshrining the proposed legislation to Senate annuls and sending the legislation to the House of Representatives.

President Pro Tempore announces to the Senate that the Final Vote procedure will be commenced.

President Pro Tempore invites all Senators' attention and orders Sergeant At Arms to secure the Senate Floor. No one but the President or Vice President can enter or exit the Senate on the Final Vote.

President Pro Tempore reads the proposed legislation in entirety and without any interruption.

Immediately after the final reading of the proposal by President Pro Tempore, President Pro Tempore takes the Final Vote. Proposed legislation requires a simple majority of Senator votes in order to be adopted by the Final Vote. If it does not reach a simple majority, the Senate rejects the proposal and the proposal cannot be proposed to the Senate Floor.

The Senate votes first for each section or article of the proposal and then votes for the entirety of the proposal. A Section which does not reach a simple majority, automatically considered stricken out from the proposal.

With the conclusion of the Final Vote. President Pro Tempore announces the result of the vote out loud and the Senate automatically lapses their agenda and adopted legislation is sent to the House of Representatives.

Senate Constitutional Amendment Procedure

The United States Senate can propose Amendments to the United States Constitution.

Constitutional Amendment procedure follows the same rules for Senate Lawmaking procedure but Constitutional Amendment requires setting agenda to Senate Constitutional Amendment Procedure and simple majority for Adoption Vote and two-third majority for Final Vote.

Constitutional Amendment Procedure cannot have a Third Reading or Third Division.

Constitutional Amendment Proposals has to have these items as in order; - A Title that states "*An Amendment to the Constitution*",

- Constitutional Amendment that written as in paragraph

- Mention of the Regulatory Act within the paragraph if needed.

Constitutional Amendments cannot have ratification, appropriation or enforcement clauses since these are all regulated within the Constitution.

When the Constitutional Amendment is adopted and passed according to the Standing Rules of the Senate, regulatory acts can be proposed if the amendment does need it and has to be passed immediately. Regulatory Act has to be adopted and passed as the same procedure as Senate Lawmaking Procedure.

There can be no amendment to the Constitutional Amendment and relevant Regulatory Act.

5.1 Bill 101

Anyone, such as the President, lobbyist, citizens, etc. can write up or draft a bill but only a member of Congress can introduce it. There are several types of legislation in the federal government, each of which has a specific purpose. Congress considers a bill, resolutions, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and private bills. Many laws are already in existence, but these laws can be amended for further improvement. Your idea for a bill must be for either a law that does not yet exist, or an amendment to an existing law. You will need to do some research.

Topics suggested by the Academia are:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Income Taxes
- Defense\Security
- Equality\Civil Rights
- Immigration
- National Debt\ Budget

Budget Process

The president submits a budget to Congress by the first Monday in February every year. The budget contains estimates of federal government income and spending for the upcoming fiscal year and also recommends funding levels for the federal government. Congress then must pass appropriations bills based on the president's recommendations and Congressional priorities. If Congress does not pass all appropriations measures by the start of the fiscal year (October 1), it has to enact a continuing resolution to keep the government running.

Note from the Academic Assistant: Budget process is one of the most important topics of your bills, please write the budgeting section of your bills accordingly.

Title

“A Bill For An Act Relating To Income Tax” ... The “bill for an act” phrase means that if the bill passes the Legislature and becomes law, it becomes an “act” of law and receives an “act number.” In fact, the Constitution of the State of Hawaii specifies that every law enacted must be introduced in the Legislature in the form of a bill (Article III, Section 14). The title of the bill must encompass the entire subject matter contained in the bill and is not changed or amended as the bill moves forward. The title is often intentionally broad to allow leeway for changes in the bill’s content during the course of the session.

Sections

Bills are divided into sections. The first section may be a purpose section, which states the purpose of the bill and may describe the situation or problem that gives rise to the measure or describe the need for and intent of the legislation. Sections may specify the action mandated by the legislation, including clear instructions for changes to the Hawaii Revised Statutes, our State’s codified law. They may also provide definitions of terms, provide remedies and penalties, and specify how long the legislation will be in effect. Some bills will contain a “severability clause,” which instructs the court that if one section of the act

is found unconstitutional, the remainder of the act will remain intact, or a “savings clause,” which states that the bill is not retroactive.

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

Second to the Last Section

If the bill provides for changes in statutory or constitutional material, the second to the last section typically will be the Ramseyer provision. This section explains that in the previous sections of the bill, all statutory material that is to be added is underscored, and all statutory material that is to be repealed is bracketed and stricken [~~like this~~]. (This ensures that if the bill is enacted there will be no confusion as to how the Hawaii Revised Statutes or State Constitution is amended.)

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

Last Section

The last section of the bill will provide the effective date – i.e., the date the law will take effect. This may be a specific date or may read, “This Act shall take effect upon its

approval.” In some cases, more than one effective date may be provided – for example, the act will take effect on one date, provided that section 3 will take effect on another date. (Sometimes during session, bills are amended to have far-in-the-future effective dates, such as 2050. While not invalid if enacted, such “defective dates” are inserted to ensure further discussion. Typically, such changes ensure the bill will have to go to conference committee if successful.)

U.S. SENATE

_____ (Full title of your bill goes here) _____

In the United States Senate

An Act to

_____ (The summary of your bill goes here) (Preamble)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America Congress assembled.

SEC. 1. 4 Short Title: Your bill will have an official title, but this is where you put the title you 5 actually want your bill to be called (i.e. JOBS Act, PATRIOT Act, etc.)

SEC. 2. 7 (a) Explanation of terminology- Which terms need to be defined in order to understand the bill?

(b) Not all terms will need to be defined. In fact, you may not need to define any terms.

SEC. 3. 11 What is the act going to do? Who is going to be involved / impacted / affected by the act?

SEC. 4. How is the act going to be funded? Who is going to enforce / administer this act? (Which government agencies will oversee the bill and its duties?).

SEC. 5. Penalties (if any) for non-compliance (not following the rules) of the act

SEC. 6. 18 Enactment Date: When will the law go into effect?

SAMPLE BILL

An Act to

Preamble,

Protect the constitutional Right to access abortion services, ensure reproductive freedom and safeguard the first amendment rights of the United States citizens by legalizing abortion.

Main Sponsor: Patty Murray

Co-Sponsors (Not necessary) :.....

SECTION 1: This act can shortly be referred as the “SAFE” Act (Securing Abortion and Freedom by Enforcement)

SECTION 2: Any individual or group that engages in violent behaviour, hate speech and hostile actions against individuals advocating for abortion rights

and women who are seeking abortion shall be subject to legal penalties, including fines or imprisonment, as determined appropriate by the judiciary.

SECTION 3: Having an abortion shall be left under the woman's decision. Abortion can be made by pills up to 9 weeks into pregnancy and can be made by surgical assistance up to 27 weeks of pregnancy. Any abortion after the 27th week of pregnancy shall not be allowed unless there are any health threats present.

SECTION 4: A minor seeking an abortion shall be required to obtain consent from a parent or legal guardian. However, in cases where obtaining such consent poses a risk to the minor's mental or physical well-being, or where the minor believes they may face harm due to ideological or personal differences, the minor shall have the right to request a psychological consultation with a licensed mental health professional. If, after consultation, the professional determines that involving the guardian may negatively impact the minor's health, the case will proceed by a judicial bypass process, allowing the minor to have legal abortion with court approval.

SECTION 5: Licenced, confidential counseling shall be made available at no cost to individuals considering or recovering from abortion. Participation shall be voluntarily intended to support mental and physical well being.

SECTION 6: All high schools shall provide mandatory, comprehensive sex education. The curriculum shall include instruction on, consent, and unwanted pregnancy prevention.

SECTION 7: The right of individuals to access and utilize condoms, birth control pills, and other FDA-approved contraceptive methods shall be fully protected under federal law. No individual, organization, or authority may restrict or deny access to these resources. Educational and healthcare institutions shall be motivated to provide affordable access to these sources while still keeping the patient's privacy.

SECTION 8: A department shall be established under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to focus and work on this topic and an amount of \$3 000 000 (three million United States Dollars) shall be provided by the Department of Health and Human Services to fund this department. The new established department shall be called “ASD(Abortion Seeking Department)”. And this bill shall be funded by this newly established department.

SECTION 9: This bill will be enacted 91 days after its passage.

SAMPLE AMENDMENT,

Main Sponsor : Pete Aguilar

Co sponsors: Patty Murray, Jon Ossoff

An amendment to the 4th section of the bill to change the word “minor” to “anyone under the legal age which is 18”.

Impeachment

The United States Constitution provides that the House of Representatives

“Shall have the sole power of Impeachment” and “the Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments, no person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present” (Article 1, Section 3). The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States are subject to impeachment.

All impeachment trials have to occur and be held at the senate floor. Impeachment proceedings begin in the House of Representatives where articles of impeachment are approved by a simple majority vote. Once the articles are transmitted, the Senate assumes the role of a High Court of Impeachment, where it reviews evidence and votes on whether to acquit or convict. Which can result in the officials’ removal from the office.

Treaties

The Senate does not ratify treaties. Following consideration by the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Senate either approves or rejects a resolution of ratification. If the resolution passes with a majority then ratification takes place when the instruments of ratification are formally exchanged between the United States and the foreign powe(s). The Senate has the power to make amendments to a treaty.

Filibuster

Whether celebrated as a safeguard for political minorities against majority rule or criticized as a partisan obstructionist tool, the Senate's right to unlimited debate, including the filibuster, has been a distinctive element of its role within the American political system.

The use of long speeches to delay legislative action emerged during the Senate’s first session. On September 22 1789, Senator William Maclay of Pennsylvania recorded in his diary that the “ Virginians intended to talk away the time, preventing the bill’s passage.” As the use of filibusters increased during the 19th century, the senate had no formal mechanism for a majority to end debate and compel a vote on legislation nominations.

While the practice of using extended debate was relatively rare before the 1830s, by mid century, it had become common enough to earn the name “filibuster”. The term originally derived from the Dutch word for “freebooter” and the Spanish word “filibusteros” (referring to the pirates raiding Caribbean Islands), began to appear in the Senate by the 1850s.

Filibusters became more frequent in the late 19th century and the 20th century which led to serious debate about changing the senate rules to “curtail the practice”. At that point the senate had become larger and busier and the sheer amount of work to be done in each session meant that a filibustering senator could disrupt the progress of the body and gain concessions from senators who wanted to get their bills passed.

In 1917 with frustration mounting and at the urging of President Woodrow Wilson, Senators adopted a rule (Senate Rule 22) that allowed the Senate to invoke cloture and limit debate with a two thirds majority vote. This rule was first put to test in 1919 when the Senate invoked cloture to end a filibuster against the Treaty of Versailles.

Even with the new cloture rule however filibusters remained an effective means to block legislation including anti lynching bills. Not until 1964 did the Senate successfully overcome a filibuster to pass a major civil rights bill.

Nevertheless, a growing group of senators continued to be frustrated with the filibuster and pushed to change the cloture threshold.

In 1975, the senate reduced the number of votes required for cloture from two thirds of senators voting to three fifths of all senators duly chosen and sworn, or 60 of the current 100 senators. Today filibusters remain a part of Senate Practice although only on legislation. The senate adopted new proceedings in the 2010s to allow a simple majority to end a debate on nominations.

Today in the confirmation of the federal judicial appointments the filibuster cannot be used and in order to overcome a filibuster 60 senators voting to close the debate is necessary.

6. Committee Dynamic and Subtleties

The Senate will mostly consist of a debate-sided procedure, encouraging parties to discuss upon and act throughout today's problems. The bipartisan conversation mechanism of the Senate will be used to create an equal interpolitical platform.

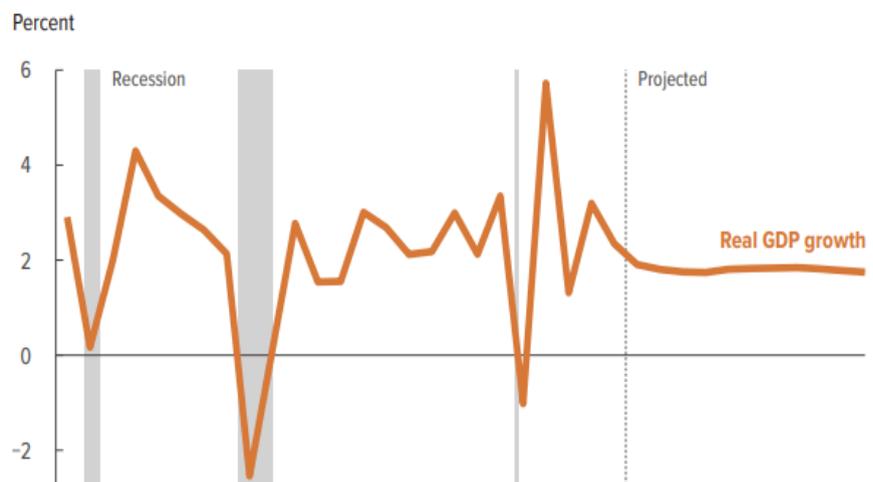
The main process of the committee will not include a crisis procedure and will mostly be focused on debates and bills. However, if needed, updates may be given throughout the committee.

7. Fiscal Instability

In the 2024-2025 period, The United States federal budget faced structural imbalances, with the revenues which are in the %19 of the gross domestic products(GDP) increasing to around %23.5 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2025. This leads to a 1.8 trillion dollar deficit, which ends in debt growth. It was \$0.1 trillion (4 percent) less than the \$1.94 trillion deficit that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated in 2024.

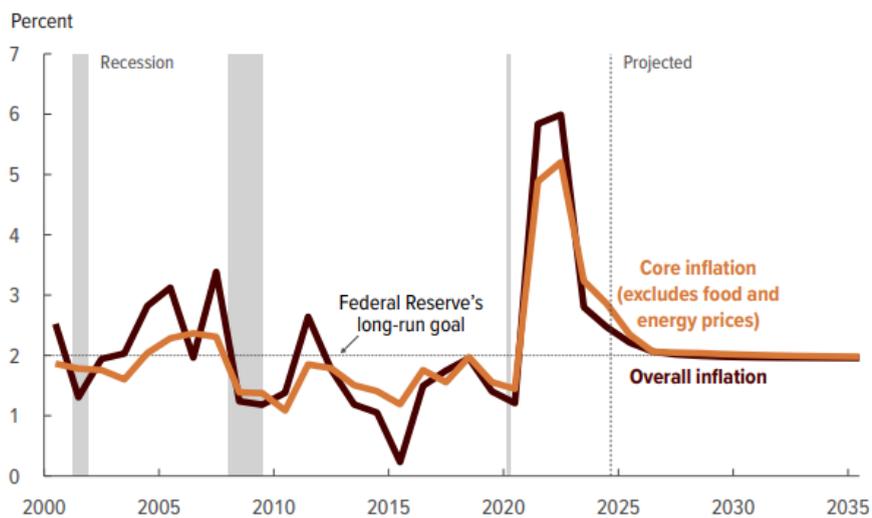
Growth of Real GDP

The growth of a state's economic output, as measured by the nation's GDP, is expected to moderate in 2025, leading to a slower growth in consumer and governmental spending. The agency expects a continuation in economic growth in 2026.



Outlook for **Economic Growth**

Real GDP grows
by **1.9%** in 2025
and **1.8%** in 2026.



Inflation

CBO expects the growth of overall prices to slow in the upcoming months of 2025, to a rate which is close to the Federal Reserve's main goal of 2 percent. In the projections of the

agency, inflation which is measured with the PCE price index(The Federal Reserve's preferred measure) decreases by 0.3 percent in the 2024-2025 period, reflecting the demand for labor and slower growth in housing prices. The Inflation is expected to drop to 2.1 percent by 2026, and averaging at 2.0 percent from 2027 to 2035.

7.1.1 The \$36 Trillion National Debt

Understanding the National Debt

The national debt is a money amount that the government borrows for covering the expenses that occur in a period of time. In a fiscal year, when the spending exceeds revenue, a budget deficit occurs. In order to counter the deficit in the economy, the federal government borrows money by selling marketable securities such as Treasury bonds(pays interest every six months to the buyer), bills(short term government securities with maturities that range from several days to a year) and notes(long term securities). When these purchased securities accumulate with its short or long term interests, national debt emerges.

This system can be simplified as a person using a credit card for purchases and not paying off the full balance each month. The cost of purchases exceeding the amount paid off represents the deficit, while accumulated deficits over time represents the person's overall debt.

Comparing a country's debt to its GDP reveals the country's ability to pay down its debt. In 2013, the Debt-to-GDP ratio surpassed 100% when both debt and GDP were about 16.7 trillion.

The debt is categorized as several types of debt, similar to the individual's debt that consists of a mortgage, car loan ect. The national debt can be broken down by whether it is non-marketable or marketable and whether it is debt that is held by the public or debt held by the government (known as intragovernmental). The debt does not include debt carried by the state and local governments, such as debt used to pay statue funded programs; nor does it include debts that were carried by the individuals, as personal credit card debt or mortgages.

Between 2015 and 2025, the public debt and intragovernmental debt combined to make up the national debt, increased by different amounts in the several years. One of the main causes of the jump in public debt can be attributed to increased funding of programs and services during COVID-19 pandemic.

Projections about the Ongoing National Debt

The CBO projects if the spending and the current laws governing revenues remained unbalanced, the anticipated deficit for the 2025-2034 period would be \$21 trillion. The main factor contributing to a smaller projected cumulative deficit over the period is in projected individual income tax receipts which are driven by the greater projections of taxable income in CBO'S economic forecast.

In current expectations, the debt that is held by the public will reach an amount of \$49.6 trillion at the end of mid 2030's, 1 trillion less than the one projected in June 2024. Also, because of the upward revisions to data about the size of the economy, it's expected to be nearly 3 percent larger in 2034.

The federal government is charged with interest for the use of lenders' money, in the same way that lenders charge an individual interest for a car loan or mortgage. How much the government pays in interest depends on the total national debt and various securities' interest rates.

Why can't the government just print more money?

Monetary policy involves controlling supply of money and cost of borrowing. The federal Reserve uses monetary policy to promote maximum employment, stable prices and moderate long term interest rates on behalf of Congress. The federal government uses fiscal policy, or the control of taxation and government spending, in order to promote economic activity.

Debt Limit

The debt limit is a restriction imposed by the Congress on the amount of understanding national debt that the federal government can have. The debt ceiling is

the amount that the Treasury can borrow to pay the bills that have become due and pay for future investments. Once the debt limit is reached, the federal government can't increase the amount of outstanding debt, losing the ability to pay bills and fund programs and services. However, the Treasury can use extraordinary measures authorized by Congress to temporarily suspend certain intragovernmental debt allowing it to borrow to fund programs or services for a limited amount of time after it has reached the ceiling.

Note from USG: Government shutdowns occur when annual funding for ongoing federal government operations expires and Congress cannot renew it in time. This separates the debt limit from a governmental shutdown.

7.1.2 The Lack of Money in Medicare and Social Security

The United States faces significant funding challenges with Social Security and Medicare, primarily due to demographic shifts like aging population, longer lifespans, and lower workforce growth. These issues are well-documented in annual reports and analyses from nonpartisan organizations. The 2025 Social Trustees Report shows that under intermediate assumptions, the Old age and Survivors Insurance(OASI) is expected to deplete in 2033, while the combined OASI Disability Insurance(DI) funds would last until 2034. Social Security's total cost is projected to be higher than its total income in 2025 and beyond. The reserves of combined OASI and DI trust are projected to become depleted in 2034.

The Hospital Insurance trust fund is projected to deplete in 2033(three years earlier than 2024 report). Post-depletion, dedicated revenues would cover only about 90% of scheduled expenditures. Overall Medicare costs are expected to rise from around 4% of GDP to 6% of GDP in 2050, driven by population aging, increased enrollment and per-capita healthcare cost growth exceeding economy-wide productivity gains.

The combined cost of Social Security and Medicare is projected to increase from 9.2% of GDP to 12.1% of GDP in 2049, with the majority of the long term growth attributable to Medicare.

These projections, based on the intermediate set of assumptions, indicate that both programs confront substantial actuarial imbalances driven primarily by demographic shifts and rising costs.

An increase in the ratio of an aging population resulting from the retirement of the baby boomer generation, longer life expectancies and lower fertility rates, which reduce the worker-to-beneficiary ratio; a slower labour force growth due to demographic trends; and the growth in health care cost outpacing general economic growth, particularly in Medicare, where per-beneficiary expenditures continue to rise significantly are the primary drivers of the imbalances.

Implications of Inaction

Failure to enact reforms prior to trust fund depletion would trigger several automatic adjustments under current law. Social Security beneficiaries would face an immediate and across the board reduction in benefits and Medicare payments would be reduced with the shortfall potentially widening and risking access to care for beneficiaries.

The potential reductions would impose significant hardship on the people who currently retired and are near to retiring, many of whom rely on these programs for income and health security. Afterwards, the growing reliance on general revenues to finance Medicare would exert increasing pressure on the federal budget, potentially crowding out other priorities such as infrastructure, education or defence.

Possible Paths

Historical resources demonstrate that the Congress has successfully addressed similar shortfalls in the past. Delaying action until the point of depletion would necessitate far more and severe measures, amplifying economic and social consequences.

7.1.3 Government Shutdown Costs

A government shutdown in the United States takes place when Congress does not manage to pass the necessary funding bills or continuing resolutions before the deadline. As a result, non-essential federal activities are suspended, leading to the furlough of large numbers of federal employees, interruption of public services and clear negative effects on the economy. These effects can be measured in terms of lost productivity, slower GDP growth and output that is never recovered.

In the United States, government shutdowns continue to be a highly controversial political issue, frequently used as a bargaining tool during budget negotiations between the two main parties. Throughout 2025 and into 2026, the risk of shutdowns has remained a serious concern. It significantly increased economic damage at a time when political disagreements over federal spending priorities were particularly sharp.

At the federal level, Congress eventually passed temporary funding measures, such as continuing resolutions, to bring the 2025 shutdown to an end. Intense disputes over specific appropriations bills clearly showed how deep the divisions still are.

Government shutdowns are among the most costly fiscal events in the American political system. Reliable estimates suggest that the 2025 shutdown caused economic losses of between \$7 billion and \$16 billion per week. In total, prolonged shutdowns can reduce quarterly GDP growth by 1 to 2 percentage points, while permanent losses are usually estimated to range from \$7 billion to \$14 billion, depending on how long the shutdown lasts.

The process itself involves sending home non-essential federal workers and suspending many government services. The length and severity of each shutdown depend on the outcome of political negotiations and the willingness of both sides to compromise.

7.2 Infrastructure

The \$25 trillion U.S. economy relies on the infrastructural system that was built decades ago, consisting of railways, roads and internet providers that is now struggling to catch on to newer generations. Economists point out the tardiness of the expected growth in the economy is caused by the inadequacy of the state infrastructural planning and implementation.

In 2021, Congress decided on the act of creating an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act(IIJA). The IIJA is aimed to fund the incapable infrastructure that is highly needed. This bill is the largest commitment to U.S. infrastructure over 100 years.

The IIJA includes \$500 billion allocated for surface transportation systems, \$73 billion to update the electric grid, \$55 billion to improve countrywide water quality and \$50 billion to support community resilience in the face of climate change, cyberattacks and more.

The US infrastructure is based on seven main sectors; those being bridges, roads, the rail network, aviation, drinking water, wastewater and energy.

Note from the USG: Since the US infrastructure is one of the main factors that cause a regression on the economy, it is a crucial topic for the delegates of the senate to discuss upon. All delegates need to be aware that the national problems that are being faced today, are caused by the insufficiency or the lag of the past regulations; while being connected to each other, with one affecting the other. For the infrastructural part, secretariat advises for the discussion of the topics of rail network, bridges and energy.

Rail Network

In the United States, most of the rail network is owned by private corporations, with these corporations investing an annual average of \$23 billion in privately owned networks. This is six times more than the national average and supports modernization, increases safety and reduces emissions.

However, rail infrastructure has an uphill battle in terms of challenges ahead, especially when it comes to passenger railways. Throughout the nation, locomotive infrastructure is aging quickly and restoration projects remain underfunded.

Bridges

According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, 1 in 3 bridges in the US require replacement or repair. Considering the estimated backlog for the bridge repairs is \$125 billion, a systematic preservation program that prioritizes preventative maintenance is needed to address this issue.

Energy

The US energy infrastructure sector is in need of an overhaul. Most of the electrical transmission and distribution lines were built during the mid 50', so it's safe to say that these older lines need an upgrade. The current energy infrastructure is a combination of modern and outdated technology that can be unreliable. Upgrading grid infrastructure will help meet energy needs and protect it from future issues.

Regardless of each state's ranking, more renewable energy sources are necessary to address climate change and aging in United States infrastructure.

“Renewable energy sources are the fastest growing sources of electricity in the US, but they only make up about 20% of total energy use in the country.”

Public opinion in the United States by Years



7.3 LGBTQ Rights Under Pressure

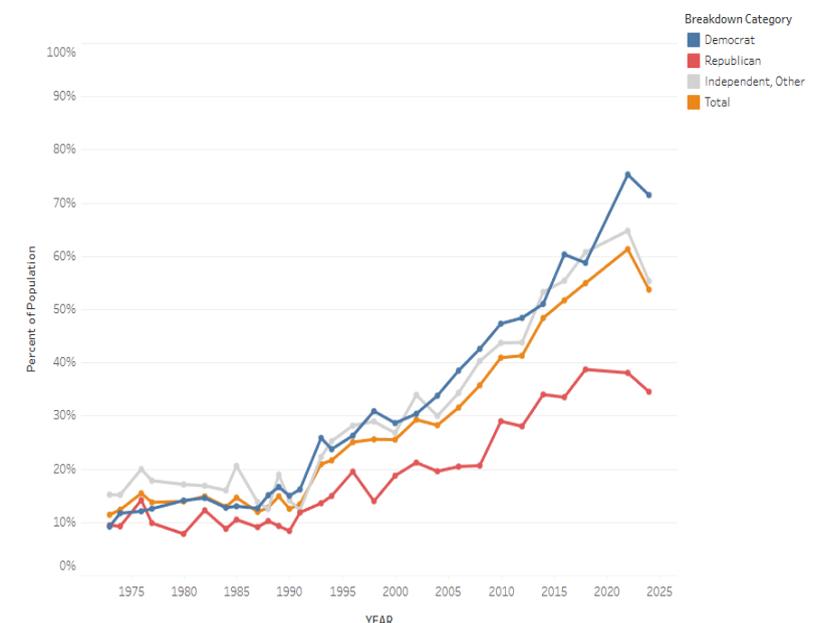
In recent years the LGBTQ community has faced intense social and political pressure in the United States of America. The pressure

increased especially with the election of Donald J. Trump as the president and the republicans getting the majority in both the senate and house of representatives.

On the first Day of his second term President Trump signed several executive orders while also repealing the orders that the previous president Joe Biden had signed. Among these orders are several that addressed LGBTQ equity. “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation” and “ Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Individuals.

Percentage of Americans Who Consider Homosexuality “Not Wrong At All”

As of April 2025, 876 bills have been introduced that target the LGBTQ community which was a peak point. 112 of these bills main purpose is to ban gender-affirming care for transgender individuals. 77 aim to ban transgender people from certain bathrooms. 73 bills seek to entirely



eliminate the recognition of transgender people as individuals legally. Several target drag (a type of stylized performance). Republicans have particularly focused on the inclusivity of transgender individuals. Exemplary Texas Republicans have proposed 32 anti transgender bills on the first day of prefilng for 2025. Democrats on the other

hand have focused on community protections and supporting youth by introducing bills such as Senate Bill 5577, House Bill 1971, House Bill 1129.

As of now the end of 2025 a total of 1020 anti trans bills have been considered and 125 have passed. With the most active states being: Texas 139 bills, Missouri 67, Iowa 35.

During the last years the pressure on the LGBTQ community has immensely increased, In scope and intensity 2025 has become one of the most punishing year yet for transgender people in the United States.

In 2025 the ruling made by the U.S. The Supreme Court opened a door for widespread censorship of LGBTQ+ Rights and content in schools across every state which has empowered religious and political backlash to silence LGBTQ+ personas. However there does not seem to be anything that prevents parents from allowing their children to learn about LGBTQ+ personas or topics at the federal level.

Note from the Academic Assistant: While each state has its own laws about key national problems, LGBTQ+ Rights are a debatable topic because their censorship can vary across states but also across regions. So while writing bills or debating upon the topic of LGBTQ Rights be really careful about your states' policies and censorship laws.

7.4 Immigration Policies and Birthright Citizenship Debate

The United States faces ongoing debates and challenges in immigration policies, particularly surrounding birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment, amid efforts to reform or restrict it through executive actions, legislation and court challenges. These issues are well-documented in legal analyses, surveys, and policy reports from nonpartisan and advocacy organizations. As of late 2025, President Trump's January 2025 Executive Order attempted to limit birthright citizenship for children of undocumented immigrants or those on temporary visas, sparking legal battles and Supreme Court review in December 2025. The Brennan Center's July 2025 report explains that the 14th Amendment grants citizenship to anyone born on U.S. soil, with the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" historically excluding only children of foreign diplomats or invading forces. The Migration Policy Institute's May 2025 analysis projects that repealing birthright citizenship would increase the unauthorized population by 2.7 million by 2045 and 5.4 million by 2075, contrary to

aims of reduction, even under conservative assumptions of reduced migration. Pew Research's June 2025 survey reveals a public split, with nearly half of U.S. adults favoring citizenship for children born to parents who immigrated illegally and 47% opposing, including sharp partisan divides. The ACLU's December 2025 overview highlights how Trump's EO violates constitutional protections, with ongoing lawsuits representing families and noting the Supreme Court's decision to hear challenges.

Academic articles detail the Court's agreement to review the EO's legality, focusing on whether parents temporarily in the U.S. are “subject to jurisdiction,” amid arguments that broad birthright citizenship is out of step internationally but common in the Americas. These developments, based on 2025 executive actions, court dockets, and demographic projections, indicate substantial policy imbalances driven primarily by partisan interpretations of the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause, amplified by executive overreach and legal challenges; declining consensus on immigration enforcement amid rising unauthorized populations; and growth in public and judicial scrutiny outpacing bipartisan reforms, particularly where concerns over “birth tourism” and incentives for unlawful entry continue to rise significantly.

Another crucial topic is deportation policies and operations managed by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), particularly under the second Trump administration's push for mass deportations since the beginning of 2025. These efforts have led to record-high detention levels, surging arrests and increased removals, but fall short of ambitious goals, while generating controversies over priorities, humanitarian impacts, legal data, independent analyses, media tracking and reports from organizations such as the Migration Policy Institute, The Guardian and Deportation Data Project.

“As of 14 December 2025, ICE held more than 68,400 people. Immigrants with no criminal record continue to make up the largest group in detention, despite rhetoric about focusing on ‘the worst of the worst’ criminals. Total arrests exceeded 328,000 and deportations nearly 327,000 since January 2025”

-The Guardian, December 2025

The United States faces significant challenges in its deportation policies and operations managed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), particularly amid the second Trump administration's mass deportation campaign launched in January 2025. These efforts have resulted in record-high detention levels, increased arrests and removals, and a shift toward interior enforcement, but remain far below stated goals of 1 million deportations annually while raising concerns over humanitarian conditions, non-criminal targeting, legal challenges, and resource limitations. ICE data and independent trackers show detention reaching a record more than 70,000 people as of mid-December 2025, with non-criminal immigrants comprising the largest group despite official emphasis on “the worst of the worst”. FY 2025 deportations are estimated at around 300,000 by ICE (potentially higher including CBP), surpassing prior years but trailing ambitious targets, with administration claims of 500,000 removals plus 1.9 million self-deportations. Arrests surged to 1,000 per day in late 2025 but fall short of 3,000 daily goals, limited by staffing, detention capacity, court backlogs, and state/local non-cooperation in sanctuary jurisdictions. Enforcement has expanded to community raids, workplace plans for 2026, and \$170 billion in new funding, yet controversies persist: 75% of detainees lack convictions, 32 deaths in custody since January, rapid deportations outpacing due process and public backlash. These trends, based on 2025 fiscal year data, bi-weekly ICE releases and analyses through December 2025, indicate substantial operational and policy imbalances driven primarily by ambitious enforcement scaling against logistical constraints and legal hurdles; a focus on volume over criminality despite discourses; and growth in humanitarian and societal costs outpacing capacity, particularly in overcrowded facilities, family separations and community fear where non-criminal deportations and prolonged detentions continue to rise significantly.

Note from the USG: As the Academy, we find the topic of immigration policies/deportation problems a hot topic for the American people, the ethical and sociocultural aspects of the topic needs to be discussed for the Senate to be on-point about the ongoing problems.

7.5 Abortion

Abortion is a simple health care intervention that can be safely and effectively managed by a wide range of health workers using medical or surgical assistance.

In the United States, abortion is a divisive issue in politics. Still in the years 2025-2026 abortion remains as an issue, with legislative actions at both state and federal levels. In 2022 protection of abortion rights ended by the United States Constitution and allowed each individual state to regulate any aspect of abortion. Which is why abortion is such a divisive topic in the United States Congress.

At the federal level the House of Representatives passes the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21)9, which mandates that infants born alive after an abortion attempt receive the same degree of care as any other newborn. Healthcare providers who fail to comply could face criminal penalties and violations must be reported to law enforcement. To say more on the topic abortion ,is one of the most common procedures performed among women. In the United States it is estimated that 1 in 4 women will have an abortion in their lifetime. Globally 3 in 10 pregnancies end in abortion. The abortion procedure can be carried out through medication or surgery, depending on the stage of pregnancy and the individual's needs.

Abortion Ethics

Abortion ethics involves a direct conflict between two fundamental values : the right to life and the right to bodily autonomy. The central question is “at what point does a human organism become a ‘person’ with a moral right to life?” . This question raises ethical challenges in defining personhood and legal protection. Balancing women's interests with the potential life of the fetus creates complex ethical dilemmas. Societal norms and regional legal differences shape abortion decisions, complicating the decision making for women.

8. Bibliography

<https://fiscaldata.treasury.gov/datasets/debt-to-the-penny/debt-to-the-penny>

<https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-01/60870-Outlook-2025.pdf>

<https://www.cbo.gov>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations.htm>

<https://fiscaldata.treasury.gov/americas-finance-guide/national-debt/>

<https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/TR/2025/>

<https://www.cms.gov/oact/tr/2025>

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/what-the-2025-trustees-report-shows-about-social-security>

<https://www.crfb.org/blogs/social-security-and-medicare-trustees-release-2025-reports>

<https://www.americanactionforum.org/insight/highlights-of-the-2025-social-security-and-medicare-trustees-reports/>

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/>

<https://www.asce.org/publications-and-news/civil-engineering-source/article/2025/03/27/5-key-takeaways-from-the-2025-report-card-for-americas-infrastructure>

<https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2025/07/states-fall-short-of-funding-needed-to-keep-roads-and--bridges-in-good-repair>

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-25-107166.pdf>

<https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Municipal-Infrastructure-Conditions-Report-2025-Final.pdf>

<https://www.cfr.org/background/state-us-infrastructure>

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/birthright-citizenship-under-us-constitution>

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/birthright-citizenship-repeal-projections>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/06/10/us-public-is-split-on-birth-right-citizenship-for-people-whose-parents-immigrated-illegally>

<https://www.aclu.org/news/civil-liberties/trump-immigration-trans-rights-the-stories-that-shaped-2025>

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2025/12/supreme-court-agrees-to-hear-trumps-challenge-to-birthright-citizenship>

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2025/12/supreme-court-agrees-to-hear-trumps-challenge-to-birthright-citizenship>

<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/revisiting-the-birthright-citizenship-question-and-the-constitution>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/idea-to-introduce-on-the-birth-of-a-bill/>

<https://congress.gov/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/what-does-it-take-for-a-bill-to-become-a-law-in-hawaii/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/types-of-measures-bills-resolutions-messages/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/types-of-measures-bills-resolutions-messages/resolutions/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/types-of-measures-bills-resolutions-messages/resolution-faqs/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/committees-the-public-hearing-process/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/the-budget-process/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/floor-sessions-order-of-the-day/>

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/conference-committees-and-governors-deadlines/>

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/BUDGET>

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-products#/?termsToSearch=Budget&orderBy=Relevance>

<https://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/yearlycomparison.pdf>

<https://www.senate.gov/legislative/vetoes/vetoCounts.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/legislative/honorary-citizens-us.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/legislative/ResumesofCongressionalActivity1947present.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/legislative/MeasuresProposedToAmendTheConstitution.htm>

1 Dallara, A. (2025, January 28). State legislatures reconvene to consider 2025 LGBTQ-related bills. GLAAD.

<https://glaad.org/state-legislatures-reconvene-to-consider-2025-lgbtq-related-bills/> Lindsey Dawson and Jennifer Kates Published: Apr 25, 2025. (2025, April 28). Overview of president Trump's executive actions impacting LGBTQ+ Health. KFF.

<https://www.kff.org/other/fact-sheet/overview-of-president-trumps-executive-actions-impacting-lgbtq-health/> Reed, E., Images, M. T. / G., McNeill, Z., Erin Reed Erin Reed is a transgender journalist reporting on LGBTQ+ legislation, Mitchell, S., Wallace, L. R., Walker, C., Sycamore, M. B., & Bichell, R. E. (2025, April 19). More than 850 anti-LGBTQ bills filed so far in 2025 - the most in US history. Truthout

<https://truthout.org/articles/more-than-850-anti-lgbtq-bills-filed-so-far-in-2025-the-most-in-us-history/> Middleton, L. (2025, April 16). What does a Donald Trump presidency mean for LGBTQ+ rights?

<https://www.context.news/socioeconomic-inclusion/what-does-a-donald-trump-presidency-mean-for-lgbtq-rights>

Jonko, A. (2025, May 14). All pornography websites in the US could soon face a ban due to this bill. NDTV.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/all-pornography-websites-in-the-us-now-face-a-ban-due-to-this-bill-8415743>

Bradley, E. H., & Taylor, L. A. (2013). The American health care paradox: Why spending more is getting us less. PublicAffairs.

Himmelstein, D. U., & Woolhandler, S. (2016). The current and projected taxpayer shares of US health costs. American Journal of Public Health, 106(3), 449–452. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2015.302997>

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/birthright-citizenship-united-states>

Lynch, M. (2025, May 13). What does Trump want in the Middle East? America's allies in the region wish they knew. Foreign Affairs.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/what-does-trump-want-middle-east>

The New York Times. (2025, May 13). Maryland Gov. Wes Moore signs bill to tap unused ACA insurance funds for abortion grant program.

<https://apnews.com/article/00e82f54643e782677626bd044b1c62f>

Congressional Budget Office. (2025). The 2025 Long-Term Budget Outlook.

<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59979>

<https://www.equaldex.com/region/connecticut>

Brunner, B. (2014). Shelby County v. Holder: The end of the Voting Rights Act? *Harvard Law Review*, 127(8), 2236- 2268.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/23893064>

Gordon, S. (2019). *Campaign finance reform in the United States: A historical and legal analysis*. Cambridge University Press.

Bickel, A. M. (1962). *The Supreme Court and the idea of progress*. Harvard University Press.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2020). *Securing the vote: Protecting American democracy*. The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/25336>

Gronke, P., & Miller, P. (2022). The future of election integrity in the United States. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 25, 215-236.
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051620-090943>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures/treaties.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures/filibusters-cloture.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/parties-leadership.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/officers-staff/vice-president.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/officers-staff/president-pro-tempore.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/parties-leadership/majority-minority-leaders.htm>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/parties-leadership/party-whips.htm>

Kamarck, E. (2021, October 26). Voter suppression or voter expansion? What's happening and does it matter? Brookings Institution.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/10/26/voter-suppression-or-voter-expansionwhats-happening-and-does-it-matter/>

