

October 1, 2009

DEAR BCFL COACHES AND STUDENT CONGRESS MEMBERS,

Here we go again with another year of Student Congress. I have attached the bills for the first session which will be held on October 13 at Loch Raven High School. I only received legislation from a few schools, so I had to add some legislation in order to fill out the docket. I would ask that each school participating in the October 13 congress bring at least two pieces of legislation for the next congress which will be held at Westminster High School on November 11.

Here are a few things which you need to know in order to participate in Student Congress. Each school participating must supply one adult judge for each ten students participating in the congress. He/She will act as a judge for that school. (He/She, of course, will not be judging students from his/her own school.) Please arrive at Loch Raven NO LATER THAN 3:15 so that we may start the sessions on time. The session will run from 3:30 – 5:30 with awards being given immediately following. On October 13, please e-mail me at [hscott@thecatholichighschool.org](mailto:hscott@thecatholichighschool.org) BY 10:00 AM with the number of students who will be participating that afternoon from your school. If it would be more convenient, you may call my voice-mail at school (410-732-6200 x 258) and leave a message with the name of your school and the number of students participating. You don't need to give me the names at that time, just the number. This will aid me in dividing the houses.

I look forward to an exciting year in Student Congress. We had much success on the national level last year thanks to all of your hard work. I can only look forward to bigger and better things ahead for the BCFL Student Congress. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above e-mail address. See you on October 13.

Sincerely,  
Howard Scott

## RESOLUTION 101

### A Resolution to Improve Highway Safety

**WHEREAS,** Vision is the primary sense used in driving; and

**WHEREAS,** With age, the eye's lens naturally loses efficiency in determining depth perception; and

**WHEREAS,** In older adults, cataracts can decrease the ability to see the difference between two objects with similar coloration; and

**WHEREAS,** When a person ages, the ability of the brain to quickly process information from the eyes lessens; therefore now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled make the following recommendation that at age sixty-five all drivers should be required to retake the appropriate state driver's test and to repeat the test successively at two year intervals.

*Introduced by*

*Loch Raven High School*

## RESOLUTION 102

### A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Secure Parental Rights (The Parental Rights Amendment)

**Whereas:** The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has language that may be interpreted to mean that the government can determine what type of upbringing is in the best interest of the child, and global ratification has the potential to undermine US laws; and

**Whereas:** The Supreme Courts have traditionally upheld the right of a parent to direct the upbringing of their children, but those precedents have not been consistently applied to appellate decisions. Ratification of the vaguely worded UN CRC could further undermine Supreme Court interpretation of parental rights since treaties supersede state laws; and

**Whereas:** Parental rights are only implied rights under the Constitution as it is currently written, and are threatened by international treaties and overturned precedents; therefore, be it

**Resolved:** That the Student Congress here assembled make the following amendment to the United States Constitution:

#### SECTION 1

The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental right.

#### SECTION 2

Neither the United States nor any State shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served.

#### SECTION 3

No treaty may be adopted nor shall any source of international law be employed to supersede, modify, interpret, or apply to the rights guaranteed by this article

# RESOLUTION 103

## A Resolution to Free Trade

1 **WHEREAS,** Free trade is a highly effective way to improve the status of an economy  
2 over the long term; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Currently the United States places import tariffs on hundreds of goods,  
4 thus making businesses within the United States less profitable and the  
5 economy of the United States less connected to reality; now, therefore, be  
6 it

7 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled make the following  
8 recommendation that the United States government shall lift all tariffs on  
9 imported goods, except in cases where the tariff or embargo is set in place  
10 to assist the United States in placing political pressure upon the nation  
11 whose goods are being taxed.

12 .

*Introduced by  
Jonathan Holtzman  
Loch Raven High School*

## RESOLUTION 104

### A Resolution for Parental Involvement in Repeat Suspensions

**WHEREAS,** Evidence suggests that suspension is an ineffective way to discourage misconduct; and

**WHEREAS,** Over the past ten years in-school suspension rates have risen to about 10% of the students, almost half being repeat offenders; and

**WHEREAS,** The high rate of suspension growth raises juvenile justice, equality, health, and safety concerns; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled make the following recommendation that after a child's second suspension, the parents must attend three hours of instructional classes on parenting to ensure their involvement in their child's discipline.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Alia Badawi*

*Hereford High School*

## RESOLUTION 105

### A Resolution to Abolish the Millionaire Tax Rate

- 1 **WHEREAS**, There is a six to seven hundred billion dollar shortfall in the Maryland  
2 state budget; and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, This is a state level issue; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, This budget shortfall will cause budget cuts and layoffs across the state of  
5 Maryland; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, High taxes for businesses and recent tax hikes on the wealthy partially  
7 contributed to this budget shortfall; now, therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED**, That the Student Congress here assembled make the following  
9 recommendation that the state of Maryland should abolish the  
10 millionaires's income tax of 6.25%. It should also replace all income tax  
11 brackets with a 5.90% flat income tax with a 5% sales tax and return the  
12 corporate tax to 7%.

*Introduced by  
Bobby Lindsey  
Towson High School*

## RESOLUTION 106

### A Resolution to Return Medical Decisions to the Patient

1 **WHEREAS,** It should be a person's own right to decide what medical procedures one  
2 wants to have done to one's own body or to the body of one's child; and

3 **WHEREAS,** This right has been increasingly taken away from the patient or from the  
4 parents in the case of a minor; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Traditional treatments such as chemotherapy can lead to conditions such  
6 as severe depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia while not curing the  
7 illness that they were meant to help; and

8 **WHEREAS,** The desires and preferences of the patient/parent are often overlooked  
9 when facing serious illnesses, therefore

10 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled return the right of treatment  
11 or non-treatment to the patient or the parent of a patient when the patient is  
12 a minor; and, be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That patients not be required to participate in any treatment  
14 such as chemotherapy without their consent or the consent of their parent  
15 or guardian.

*Introduced by  
Samantha Santana*

*The Catholic High School of Baltimore*

## RESOLUTION 107

### A Bill to Give All Citizens Access to the Congressional Health Care Plan

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:  
2 **SECTION 1.** All American citizens shall be able to sign into the same health insurance  
3 agreement as members of Congress.  
4 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall use the collective  
5 volume and size of the insurance agreement to negotiate lower prices with  
6 private insurance companies.  
7 **SECTION 3.** After the Department of Health and Human Services negotiates an  
8 appropriate price with private insurance companies, participants in the  
9 program shall pay premiums directly to those private insurers.  
10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect in the fiscal year 2010.  
11 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and  
void.

Un-sponsored

# RESOLUTION 108

## A Bill to Increase Troops in Afghanistan

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall increase troop deployment to Afghanistan until

3 there is a total of 70,000 U.S. troops.

4 **SECTION 2.** The United States shall attempt to reach this level by March of 2010.

5 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall be charged with the enforcement of this

6 provision.

7 **SECTION 4.** The U.S. Agency for International Aid and Development shall be allocated

8 an additional \$10 billion for distribution within the nation of Afghanistan.

9 **SECTION 5.** This Bill shall take effect upon passage.

10 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Un-sponsored