

2017 STATE CONFERENCE

JUNIOR YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

March 3-4

Austin, Texas

State Affairs

Forum



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



TX YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2.
3. To provide a way for teenagers to learn a lesson after caught driving under the
4. influence and encourage others not to make the same mistake declaring an
5. emergency.
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8. **Major Area to be Affected:**

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10. Teenagers, Parents, MADD, Texas State Bar Association, Dallas Bar Association,
11. DFDD(Doctors for Designated Drivers)
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14. **Justification:**

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16. A major problem we have today is deaths in Texas due to driving under the
17. influence. Teens in Texas are most likely to drive in an irresponsible manner
18. while intoxicated. According to the MADD each day, people drive drunk more
19. than three hundred thousand times, but only about three thousand two hundred
20. are arrested. Many of those teens are most likely to cause a fatal crash and
21. endanger others when they aren't even supposed to be driving. This major
22. problem should be addressed because many teens caught are usually thrown in
23. jail for three to one hundred and eighty days and can be bailed out for one
24. thousand dollars. Which concludes them to never learn their lesson.
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31. **Proposal for Action:**

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33. Our proposal is to make all teenagers caught intoxicated make a speech publicly
34. to peers and kids lower in grades/schools. The teen must provide an
35. encouraging speech with the mistakes made when he or she was driving drunk.
36. The teen will also have to pay a three thousand dollar fine, have a two hundred
37. day license suspension, and seventy hour of community service which will be
38. included in the speech.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Gun Permits and Licences in Texas

3. **Major Area to be Affected:**

4. Texas Citizens

5. **Justification:**

6. In Texas there has been way too many shootings. Studies show that in the time span of 8 months we
7. have had 12 mass shootings with 25 deaths. Even though we don't have the most shootings we have
8. the most deaths. Those numbers don't even include all the little shootings. In all we have a total of
9. 45767 shootings. Police are pulling guns and shooting people without even knowing for sure that they
10. don't have a gun. This needs to stop. All of these unnecessary acts are causing our state and county to
11. go into havoc. It's all over the news, instead of talking about this issue we need to solve it.

12. **Proposal for Action:**

13. In Texas to get a licence to carry a handgun you need a valid driver's licence, current demographic,
14. address, contact, and employment information, information regarding any psychiatric, drug, alcohol, or
15. criminal history (new users only), a valid email address and a valid credit card. If you want to renew
16. your licence you need to do it in a timespan of 6 months after expiration. If you try to renew your
17. license after six months you must pay a late fee and buy a new licence. This is our law and it needs to
18. have some minor adjustments. First we need to make it where anytime you get your licence renewed or
19. you get a licence you must get a background check. When you get a licence you should have to take a
20. test about handling and carrying a gun. Then you must sign a contract saying that you will follow all the
21. laws and precautions because if you don't then your gun will be revoked permanently. This will ensure
22. that everyone knows the laws and will not break them. Security in gun stores need to be raised. There
23. needs to be guards and shatter proof glass around all the guns. Multiple security cameras would be
24. helpful too. You also will need a special certification stating that you are allowed to guard and own a
25. gun store. You may not buy guns for other people. You can go with them to buy it, but it must be under
26. their name unless under the age of 18. If you are a police officer then you must go under specific
27. training on how to deal with problems when the person is under watch of weapon. Then you can get a
28. gun. Every year you must take the same test and reearn your permit. If you fail to do so then your gun
29. will be taken away until further notice when you can retake the lesson. This is to ensure that all police
30. officers know what they are doing. In schools we need to teach kids to not mess around with guns and
31. teach them the dangers that can be produced with these weapons. For the people coming into Texas
32. they have to undergo a background check, noting that they haven't done any serious crimes. If there
33. are any marks on their background check from serious crimes then they won't be able to enter Texas
34. with any weapons.

35. **Results to be Expected**

36. Less shooting will happen in Texas. Citizens will be safer and people will stop hating police officers once
37. they learn not to be so quick to shoot. Less deaths and injuries from shootings will happen and we will
38. be one of the safest states to live in. We can make a difference and spread happiness throughout the
39. state.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Prohibiting campus carry

Major Area to be Affected:

All 208 college campuses in Texas

Justification:

Through the past year, one topic that has occurred as a major controversy is campus carry. Although college shootings are very rare they are possible. Many people would argue that campus carry is strictly allowing students to provide themselves with self-defense. During a gunfight a uniformed officer arrives at the scene, how will the police officer identify the shooter from a civilian if they both are obtaining guns. The odds of having a student with a stable mind and sufficient reaction time are very low. According to *Usa today*, Jared Loughner who was not mentally sane, killed 7 people at Arizona University. He was tackled by unarmed students and they took his weapon away, the man with the concealed gun almost shot one of the samaritans. In an article by *time.com*, of all the shootings in the United States during 2015, only three occurred in Texas. Fifty years ago at UT-Austin, occurred the tower shooting of 1966. 49 people were shot and 14 were killed by a 25 year old man veteran and student. Survivors of the mass shooting testified that guns only made the situation worse by provoking the veteran into shooting more, causing more casualties. Campus administration, teachers, faculty and students also testified that the best way to ensure campus safety was to compatible to prohibit guns.

"Today marks the 50th Anniversary of the library tower shooting at the University of Texas at Austin, where one man, a 25 year-old military veteran and student climbed the library tower on campus with rifles, handguns, and shotguns, and shot 49 people killing 14 (earlier in the day he also killed two family members). It is uncertain exactly why he committed this heinous act, but 50 years later, we still face the threat of mass shootings – a threat exacerbated by a new law permitting concealed carry of handguns on campus (SB 11)."

~<http://keepgunsoffcampus.org>

In the United States, over 1,000 suicides occur on college campuses, and one in every ten students plan suicides. Although poisoning and overdose are the most common attempts of suicides, the result in a fatality is only 2 percent. As for firearm suicide, the result in a fatality is 85 percent of the attempts. Professionals also agree that firearms have increased suicides on campuses.

"We know that college students are in this zone between adolescence and adulthood, with greatly increased risk factors for suicide including binge drinking and depression," ~Jeffrey Swanson, medical sociologist at Duke University.

Proposal for Action:

Our proposal for action is to only allow all faculty (administrators, teachers, and campus security) to carry on campus. There are many ways to prevent deaths in colleges, however we will only list three. First you have to identify mentally ill students, give them treatment, discourage them from buying guns, and having campus security always at the ready.

Results to be Expected:

There are many positives to our proposal however our main objective is to protect the civilians of Texas. With our proposal we plan to save many lives and to help the Texas police department identify the suspect in a college shooting.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Murder rate in major U.S.cities.

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4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Citizens

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7. **Justification:**

8. We believe that high murder rates endanger many U.S. citizens and if controlled could
8. lead to economy growth as well as a better overall life in those cities.

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10. **Proposal for Action:**

11. We enforce more in-depth background checks to both sellers and purchasers of
12. automated weapons, including but not limited to mental health checks. We will also ban
13. all automatic weapons from public places, semi-automatic would still be allowed. Finally,
14. we will allocate more money to police training.

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16. **Results to be Expected:**

17. Though we know this won't solve all crimes at this magnitude, we hope that with our
18. proposal the murder rate in U.S. cities will see a decline.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Poverty In Texas
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4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas Citizens
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7. **Justification:**

8. Overall, poverty in America has gotten really bad, but it is especially bad in Texas.
8. Considering how high our poverty rate is, Texas is in bad shape. The poverty rate in
9. Texas is seventeen percent, and the rate of just the Southern border is an average of
10. thirty-five percent. Meanwhile the national average is fourteen point five percent. That
11. means that the poverty rate in Texas is higher than the rate nationally. The Child
12. poverty rate is about twenty-four point three percent. The overall hunger and food
13. insecurity rate in Texas is seventeen point two percent. It is a scientifically proven fact
14. that children do not learn as well on an empty stomach, as they would on a full
15. stomach. If our children aren't getting a good education, then what sort of shape do you
16. think our future is in. Especially since seventeen percent of youths, ages 18-24 go
17. without a proper job or aren't in school.
18.

19. **Proposal for Action:**

20. Our proposal to the dilemma is to raise minimum wage. The minimum wage in Texas is
21. seven dollars and twenty five cents. That means that the average american on minimum
22. wage earns two-hundred and ninety dollars working eight hours a day, seven days a
23. week. The average american spends one hundred fifty-one dollars a week on groceries
24. alone, not to mention taxes, transportation, medical needs,etc. Minimum wage has been
25. a huge topic recently, and is a major problem. To help solve our poverty problem we
26. thought that our solution could be to raise minimum wage. Raising minimum wage
27. would largely help families having to live on a small salary job.
28.

29. **Results to be Expected:**

30. The result to be expected from raising minimum wage is that people in low income jobs
31. get more money yearly, which will help to reduce poverty in Texas. People will be able
32. to get better jobs, better education for themselves and their kids, better living spaces,
33. and better food.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Maternity leave rights in Texas
3. Title purpose: we think that businesses should give employees time off for maternity
4. leave AND BE TREATED EQUALLY WHEN THEY RETURN. AND STILL BE TREATED
5. EQUALLY.
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7. **Major Area to be Affected:**

8. Texas Citizens
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9. **Justification:** The problem here is that pregnant women and soon to be fathers do
10. not get paid during maternity leave. Because the pregnant women and fathers may
11. need that money before the baby is born to pay for the nursery and diapers etc. Babies
12. also cost! This needs to be covered by all businesses that are covered by the
13. FMLA (family and medical leave act) and ones who are not. Then they must be eligible to
14. take at least 12 weeks to take off parental leave to have time with the new baby.
15. There are three requirements to be eligible for the employee. **Number one** You must
16. have worked for your employer for at least 12 months as of the date when your leave
17. will start. These months need not be consecutive, but the employer doesn't have to
18. count any time you worked before a break in service of seven years or more.
19. Did you know that the FMLA also covers family or personal illness, family military leave,
20. [pregnancy](#), [adoption](#), or the [foster care](#) placement of a child. **Number two**, must have
21. worked at least 1,250 hours (about 24 hours per week) for your employer in the 12
22. months immediately preceding the start of your leave. **Number three** you must work at
23. a worksite with at least 50 employees within a 75-mile radius. If you are part of a small
24. group of employees that works at a remote satellite office, for example, you might not
25. be eligible to use the FMLA, even if your company employs thousands nationwide.
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27.

28. **Proposal for Action:** Our ideas to change this start with helping businesses become
29. eligible for the FMLA by assisting them with these requirements, An employer must
30. comply with the FMLA if it has at least 50 employees for at least 20 weeks of the current
31. calendar year or the immediately preceding calendar year. The 20 weeks need not be
32. consecutive.

33. Independent contractors don't count toward the total, but all part-time and full-time
34. employees count, as do employees who are on leave and expected to return to
35. work. The J. C. Penney Company is a department store with 1,060 locations in 49 U.S.
36. states and Puerto Rico. Schools also follow the guidelines, and federal businesses.
37.

38. **Results to be Expected:**

39. After adjustments are made more women will stay in the workforce because they are
40. treated equally when they return. Also it would draw more employees into their business
41. because they're covered by the FMLA.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. More Tornado Shelters needed in Texas

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5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6. Dallas and Austin

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9. **Justification:**

10. Citizens need to get to a tornado shelter quickly. Tornado shelters aren't usually
11. at a place you can get to. Most people don't even know where it is. Some people
12. even die because they don't have a tornado shelter in their home, whereas they
13. hide in their homes while the tornado tears it apart in an instant. More deaths than
14. necessary occur, sometimes because of the issues about tornado shelter.

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17. **Proposal for Action:**

18. Maybe we should create more shelters so we can house more people during the
19. storm. More evacuation countermeasures, in case a route is blocked off to a shelter
20. that's nearest to you. (referring to more shelter.) This may result in less deaths.

21. Maybe we should put maps in everyone's houses for places we should go when
22. tornadoes occur.

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25. **Results to be Expected:**

26. If this works out, and we put effort into it, then the results would be saving a
27. few thousand lives from devastation of tornadoes! We would not only decrease
28. deaths but we will be informing everyone of the important information and shelters
29. that are needed for humanity's survival

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. The minimum wage in Texas.
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4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas citizens
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8. **Justification:**

9. Minimum wage means the lowest wage permitted by law or by special agreement
10. (such as one with a labor union.) Texas' minimum wage is \$7.25 recorded in
11. 2016. The real question is "How does this affect our economy"? Frbsf.org says that a
12. higher minimum wage will lead to job loss among low skilled workers.
13. It also says that most important, workers have varying skill levels, and a higher
14. minimum wage will lead employers to hire fewer low-skilled workers and more high-
15. skilled workers. This is why it affects our economy. The reason why William and I
16. want to change this problem is because people are losing their jobs and not being
17. able to provide for their families, but honestly We would like to raise our minimum
18. wage. This is what my mom says about minimum wage. My mom says "I feel that
19. minimum wage should be higher because it's not enough money to provide for their
20. families. I think the minimum wage should increase yearly in order for families to
21. keep up with the cost of living. I also feel the amount of minimum wage should be
22. based on the cost of living depending on the region in which you live. These are my
23. mom's opinion regarding minimum wage.
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26. **Proposal for Action:**

27. I think we should raise the minimum wage in Texas because Texans don't get
28. enough money to pay for rent or buy groceries to provide for their family. The
29. average Texan gets only \$7.25 per hour at their job and that's not money for
30. people to do what they need to do. We should raise it from \$7.25 to \$13.50 so they
31. can save for college and stuff like that. So when this bill pass, these kids grow up
32. and get a job in a restaurant and the fast food business, they could or can provide
33. for their family, and to save for college tuition & for their future.
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36. **Results to be Expected:**

37. If this bill passes, the results will be incredible. People will have more money in their
38. pocket. Then they can and will provide for themselves, their families. Then the
39. businesses will have more people and more people mean more locations for the
40. restaurants and fast food places. This is why we choose this bill topic. Thank You.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Raise the Minimum Wage in Texas

3. **Major Area to be Affected**

4. Workers paid minimum wage in Texas

5. **Justification:**

6. Texas has the highest number of workers being paid the minimum wage out of all
7. states.

8. 6.4% of all workers in Texas being paid by the hour are paid the minimum wage, that's
9. 400,000 people. This does not include the families and people who depend on the
10. person or people who have those jobs. According to
11. <http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/us-poverty-rate-by-state.html>, the percentage of
12. Texas' population under the poverty line is 16.4%. If we do the math here, considering
13. that the population of Texas in 2016 is 27.6 million people, according to
14. <http://population2016.com/population-of-texas-in-2016.html>, then about 1.8 million
15. people in Texas are in poverty. Poverty is not something to be taken lightly anywhere,
16. and especially in Texas. According to [https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/texas-](https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/texas-2014-report/)
17. [2014-report/](https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/texas-2014-report/), 12% of high schoolers were not able to graduate after 4 years of high
18. school in 2012, 17% of youth ages 18-24 were not in school or working in 2013, 18% of
19. households were food insecure from 2012-2013, and 81% of unemployed workers did
20. not have insurance to aid them in 2013. All of these things were almost completely due
21. to an insufficient amount of money and education, in other words, poverty.
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24. **Proposal for Action:**

25. The minimum wage in Texas should be raised to \$10 an hour, because the minimum
26. wage in Texas is currently \$7.25, which has shown to be one of the main causes of
27. poverty in Texas. According to [http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/us-poverty-rate-by-](http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/us-poverty-rate-by-state.html)
28. [state.html](http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/us-poverty-rate-by-state.html), this proposal will most likely get a lot of votes due to the fact that most of
29. the workers in Texas are in fact being paid the minimum wage. On top of that, as we
30. mentioned in our justification, Texas has a poverty rate of 16.4%. According to
31. <http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/us-poverty-rate-by-state.html>, Louisiana has the
32. highest poverty rate out of all the states in the U.S.A. at 23%. Texas and Louisiana both
33. are at the federal minimum wage, \$7.25, and because Louisiana has such a high poverty
34. rate, and Texas has the same minimum wage, there is a chance of Texas' poverty rate
35. going up. By raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour, the poverty rate will decrease
36. significantly.
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39. **Results to be Expected:**

40. Minimum wage is raised and more people get more money, so other people do not have
41. to donate to foundations to give to the people who are poor. It will increase economic
42. activity and growth. We want to decrease the number of people who are in poverty. We
43. also want people to stop paying people below the minimum wage. If you vote for this
44. proposal, poverty levels in Texas will go down, therefore increasing economic activity,
45. improving the ability to afford a house and basic living essentials for our citizens,
46. reducing crime rates, and increasing attendance at schools and decreasing the number
47. of people dropping out of school.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Public transportation infrastructure in Texas

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas citizens, citizens that don't have their own transportation

8. **Justification:**

8. There are many citizens across Texas who don't have car or have the ability to pay for a
9. driver. 6.4 % unemployed, 72.1% employed, 10.7% students, 6.7% retired rely on public on
10. public transportation. Public transportation drivers have to have a clean record and be
11. certified due to the type of transportation. Therefore, you will be not having to worry
12. caused by the driver. Also, public transportation has reduced gasoline consumption. It's a
13. contribution to society because it reduces traffic. Approximately every twenty minutes
14. there is an accident due to drinking and driving and more than 100,000 traffic crashes due
15. distracted driving. Accidents could be resolved by just taking a bus. On average, over
16. 300,000 incidents of drinking and driving happen per day. According to the Texas transit
17. statistic report public transportation has a a good funding process/formula already. Such as
18. 35% Eligible Urban Provider out of that 50% goes to needs, 50% Performance. 65% Rural
19. providers out of that 65% needs and 35% performance.

24. **Proposal for Action:**

25. Public transportation is important in Texas because Texas has many people who can't afford
26. a car, or an uber, etc. Many people in Texas drink and drive and public transportation is a
27. way to prevent that. Citizens that can't afford their own vehicles use buses, trains, planes,
28. or boats to get around. Public transportation creates public goods by displacing driving. It
29. can also help reduce pollution. They allow more efficient land development. Public
30. transportation can reduce auto injuries and death. You can use the bus to get to know your
31. neighbors or people living around you. Also, public transportation and buses can help you
32. to relax or go somewhere without the fright of driving and feeling the road rage.

36. **Results to be Expected:**

37. Our expected results are that the government keeps funding for public transportation and
38. will create more infrastructure.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. High School Graduation rate

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4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Everyone that is a student and is considering dropping out.

6.

7. **Justification:** In Texas, 22% of students don't graduate high school. Part of it can be
8. blamed on the fact that almost a quarter of the students live in poverty. 7% of teens in
8. Texas don't even attend school. Texas also is third in teen birth rates. For every 1,000
9. females 63 babies are born, and the mothers are from ages 15-19. Black students
10. graduated 69%, latinos at 73%, whites at 86%, asians at 89%. This has to stop.
11. Students should be able to graduate and be able to provide for themselves and future
12. families.
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16. **Proposal for Action:**

17. 30% of teenage girls state that the reason they dropped out of high school is because of
18. pregnancy and parenting. Some ways we could fix that is offer a video in every science
19. class that shows them the dangers and effects of teen pregnancy. That warns girls
20. about teen pregnancy and it will educate them so they won't make the wrong choices.

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24. **Results to be Expected:**

25. Students will take a greater interest in school and the percentage of high schooler
26. dropping out will be decreased.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Restructuring the Texas curriculum

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4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas students and the Texas Education System

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. Texas is infamously known for its lack in educational depth. Texas is currently ranked
8. 47th in SAT scores in the nation. Additionally, we are also ranked 43rd in national
9. education. This is not the education the students should receive. Changes will be made
10. to the curriculum so that students cover more material. We will also omit exceedingly
11. repetitive curriculum since it is unnecessary. The curriculum will be restructured so that
12. topics currently covered in later grades will be covered earlier. Earlier grades,
13. particularly elementary years, do not have much curriculum to cover. However, as the
14. years progress, the curriculum begins to become more packed. Moving curriculum to the
15. early years will allow students in later grades to not only be able to learn more, but
16. possibly give them more time to cover increasingly difficult topics. Texas TEKS aren't
17. effectively preparing students. They end up performing poorly on their SATs. Students
18. find it harder to enter colleges with their unsatisfactory scores. Students are not
19. receiving the education they deserve.

20.

21.

22. **Proposal for Action:**

23. The Texas curriculum will be accelerated. Curriculum will be moved from later grades
24. down to earlier years. Excessively repetitive curriculum will be omitted. The Texas
25. Education System will have 7 years to make these changes.

26.

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28. **Results to be Expected:**

29. Students will have a more enriching education, and SAT scores will increase. Students in
30. Texas will have better chances to get accepted into more prestigious colleges. Texas will
31. have a better overall education and it will be beneficial for the students and the state.
32. The citizens of Texas will be more educated.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. The college campus sexual assault in Texas

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4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. College Campuses Nationwide

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. **Sexual assault** is any type of **sexual** contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit
9. consent of the recipient. Every 2 minutes an American is sexually assaulted. On average,
10. there are 288,820 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the
11. United States. Women ages 18-24 who are college students are three times more likely to
12. be sexually assaulted than women who are not enrolled in college.

13.

14. **Proposal for Action:**

15. We propose a law that any sexual offender gets two to three years in prison. Campus
16. counselors should be provided for the person that was sexually assaulted in addition to
17. placing more security guards on campus. Hold sex
18. offenders accountable for their actions, such as if an athlete rapes someone have them
19. lose playtime etc. Monitor college parties, if any college party wants to have harder
20. drinks then soft drinks require an off duty campus police officer to attend for every fifteen
21. people. Instead of allowing campuses' students to throw their own parties give the party
22. planning to the college dean.
23. We propose a law that security guards walk down hallways on campus residences to make
24. sure all students are safe and secure.
25. We also propose that colleges put cameras in hallways (limited to on campus living areas)
26. to make the students feel safer.
27. Our proposal only approaches parties sponsored by the college.

28.

29. **Results to be Expected:**

30. If we follow our proposal the college campus sexual assault rate will go down. The students
31. on campus will feel safer. Academic rates will go up if there are campus counselors
32. provided, because they will be able to focus rather than being broken down by stress from
33. this traumatic event.

34.

35. We got our information from

36. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

37. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. More education for Special Education students
3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas public schools, private schools can be included if they choose to be apart of this.
6.

7. **Justification:**

8. Not enough kids with special needs in Texas are allowed the opportunity to be educated.

9. There are 27.61 million people and Texas, and of this 27.61 million, 51,830 of these kids
10. have special needs. That is 8 percent of Texas' population, and not all of them can learn.

11. This brings down Texas' STAAR and STEM scores in ranking, and brings down the chances
12. of new learning opportunities.
13.

14.
15.
16. **Proposal for Action:**

17. The 8 percent of special needs kids in Texas, don't have the opportunity to learn like we do.

18. This doesn't help Texas' STAAR or STEM scores very much, and this needs to be fixed. We
19. propose that 8 of the 8 percent of those kids need to be given the opportunity, by their
20. government, to learn. This gives many kids an opportunity to learn, and be able to interact
21. and learn with the world more. Note, that the parent or guardian of these children do have
22. a say in this education process and that they can decide the limits and freedoms of this
23. opportunity process. We need 8 of the 8 percent of these kids to have the opportunity to
24. learn. This can help people in Texas, and others lives very much.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. To Reform School Testing in Texas Public Schools

3.
4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas

6.
7. **Justification:**

8. We are ranked 43rd in the nation for public education

9. No data supports that the STAAR testing has improved public education

10. The company administering the exams lost test data for over 1400 students

11. State standards increase each year without justification

12. Children that come from poor households typically perform poorly on the state test

13. If STAAR results are any measure, Texas is failing its lowest-performing students.

14. In every test at every grade, groups of students who scored lower when STAAR rolled out three years ago are still behind — and in most cases, the gaps are growing.

15. Teachers account for about 1% to 14% of the variability in test scores.

16. 105,000 5th and 6th graders in Texas couldn't pass the STAAR

17. STAAR Alternate 2 assessment for students who have significant cognitive disabilities and are receiving special education services.

18.
19.
20.
21. **Proposal for Action:**

22. My partner and I propose to create a new test with grade appropriate questions and accommodations for students with disabilities.

23. Instead of high-stakes threats of grade retention and labeling of schools by test performance, TEA should focus on tutoring programs for students who need extra attention. We also want the test to be created by a new testing company. (Source Texas Education Agency, and it is a government officiated website.

24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29. **Results to be Expected:**

30. Our overarching goal is for schools to focus on the educational needs of each student and not test results. By providing lower-stress environments, teachers can see what each individual student needs, and do their best to meet those needs. Testing is still required, but is only a benchmark to evaluate student growth and needs. The focus is on education, not testing. With this approach, Texas' overall public school performance will improve.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. To improve SAT scores in Texas to provide students with well paying jobs.

3. **Major Area to be Affected:**

4. Texas High Schools

5. **Justification:**

6. As stated by the Texas State Affairs topic list, Texas is ranked 47th in the nation for SAT
7. scores. This is a huge problem. If we can enhance our scores, Texas high school
8. students can get into colleges that equip them with the experience they need to qualify
9. for jobs which can provide them with sufficient income. As of 2016 The College Board
10. (the test company) has changed the scale to a 1600 point scale instead of a 2400 point
11. scale and the way the test is formatted thus making it harder and more intimidating. You
12. are required to get a 1300 out of 1600 on the test to get into Texas A&M. The average
13. score on the SAT in Texas is a 1110 out of 1600. Therefore, the average person would
14. not get into A&M as well as many other schools.
15.

16. **Proposal for Action:**

17. We propose better preparation materials to be provided by the school such as SAT
18. reference books so that they have more sufficient practice for this critical test. We also
19. propose that practice tests be mandatory and provided in school free of cost. We think a
20. practice test would be helpful because the test company has changed the test, and this
21. might help students feel more comfortable taking it if they know all they need to know
22. about how it works. Other preparation materials we think would be a benefit to high
23. school students are SAT prep textbooks, studying assigned as homework, and free
24. studying sessions.
25.

26. **Results to be Expected:**

27. If students get sufficient practice and a good score on the mock test, we expect Texas
28. scores to go up a lot from what they are now and essentially this provides Texans with
29. good jobs. This will help boost the amount of students admitted into these Texas schools
30. and the unemployment due to the lack of qualification will decrease.
31.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. College campus sexual assault in Texas

3.
4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas citizens.

6.
7. **Justification:**

8. Sexual violence has always been a specter on college campuses- but it's long lurked in
9. the shadows. Thousands of college students are victims of sexual assaults each year,
10. yet the vast majority of the cases go unreported. And no cases are filed. Texas colleges
11. such as Baylor, TCU, University of Texas, and Texas State are one of the many colleges
12. where sexual abuse occurs. It is not just girls that the horrible things are happening to it
13. is also boys. Where boys are pulling pranks on other guys as an act of bullying and
14. making fun of.

15.
16. **Proposal for Action:**

17. We can all take steps to increase safety on college campuses as bystanders, students
18. can learn ways of stepping in to prevent crimes like sexual assault from occurring.
19. When it comes to personal safety, there are steps you can take as well, and some of
20. those tips are outlined below. No tips can absolutely guarantee safety – sexual violence
21. can happen to anyone, and it's not the only crime that can occur on a college campus.
22. We can hire more guards to prevent and protect girls and boys from being sexually
23. assaulted. We can also put more cameras around the campus, dorms, and school. We
24. should pay more attention to our surroundings. Every case of sexual assault on a TX
25. college campus should be reviewed by an independent committee of police, college
26. representatives, and citizens from the community.

27.
28. **Results to be Expected:**

29. We believe that we will bring down the rate of sexual assault in Texas if we follow these
30. tips, and guidelines. We think it will bring down the rate of boys getting sexually
31. assaulted, and girls being sexually assaulted. I also believe if people are not sexually
32. assaulted it will stop people from committing suicide. People are killing themselves
33. because of being sexually assaulted. Then when that people that committed sexual
34. assault post on some type of social media thinking that it is funny and think this is a
35. game.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. The low high school graduation rate in Texas.

3.
4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas

6.
7. **Justification:**

8. The high school graduation rate in Texas in 2015 was 73.8 percent. We want at least 90
8. percent. A lot of this problem starts at a young age. This bill presents a resolution to
9. that. It will allow us to increase the rate of graduates from high school by ensuring a
10. better foundation from the beginning of their education.

11.
12.
13. **Proposal for Action:**

14. We can have fundraisers and raise money to start more pre-K programs. We also would
15. like to use state funds from taxes to give every student the opportunity to start school
16. at 2 years old. We want to give every child in Texas a good opportunity for a strong
17. start so they will have a good finish, that is, graduating high school and going on to
18. college.

19.
20.
21. **Results to be Expected:**

22. We expect that high school graduation rates will increase.

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. The decreased funding for the state university system.

3.
4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Community colleges

6.
7. **Justification:**

8. Over the years,college funding is decreasing drastically.The state of Texas currently
9. has a formula funding for colleges. A formula funding is a policy to allocate funding
10. based on the colleges performance. The performance criteria vary per state who have
11. the formula funding policy in action. As for Texas, ten percent of the formula funding is
12. granted every two years. According to "Performance Based Funding for Higher
13. Education." *National Conference of State Legislature*. Ncsl, n.d. Web. the grants are
14. given by the following criteria: 1)number of students with completed education in
15. mathematics, reading,and writing 2) Number of students who complete first college
16. level course in mathematics, reading, and writing intensive courses. 3) number of
17. students who successfully complete 15 credit hours .4) Number of students who
18. successfully complete 30 credit hours. 5) Number of students transferring to a
19. General Academic Institution after successfully completing at least 15 semester credit
20. hours. 6)Number of degrees and certificates awarded. 7)Additional points are awarded
21. for degrees in STEM or Allied Health fields.According to The American Council of
22. Education, "The national average state investment in higher education will reach zero
23. in fiscal 2059." Simply stating, it will take 48 years to finish off the remaining state
24. support for higher education. In each state, 103.7 million dollars is spent on funding
25. colleges. The majority of this money goes to sports and recreation.

26.
27.
28. **Proposal for Action:**

29. We propose that a certain amount of money be put to education at a University,
30. before it can be used for stadiums, recreation, restaurants, etc. Because the University
31. provides our future economy, government, and if we don't have well educated people,
32. our state will not have a eligible work force. Although our taxes go to community
33. colleges, most of the money does not go to their education, it goes to other on campus
34. activities. In high school, when they excel at a certain sport but don't have funding for
35. it they are forced to focus on their grades and college choices. This will prevent people
36. from not going to college because they will have a better GPA and testing scores. And
37. according to Lynn O'Shaughnessy. "Ways to Cut College Costs." *Us.News*. N.p., n.d.
38. Web."Fewer than 20 collegiate athletic programs in this country make money, while
39. many schools lose \$10 million or more in their sports operations."

40.
41.
42.
43. **Results to be Expected:**

44. Our results to be expected is that if we put away money for education, that more
45. students will be able to succeed and the Universities will have more money to expand
46. their learning program,and have a better future. This will save the economy when our
47. future generations are more educated.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Education for special needs students in Texas needs to be improved.

3.
4.
5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6. Texas citizens, Students and Teachers.

7.
8. **Justification:**

8. How would you feel if the government promised to give every citizen the same amount of money,
9. but you discover that you were getting less because you were a little different from everyone
10. else? The government is not really giving away money, but it is very similar to what the State of
11. Texas has done to special education students. All students have a right to receive a quality
12. education. However, special education students are not being serviced properly by the school
13. system in Texas. Special Education services are provided to students with various conditions that
14. include autism, ADHD, dyslexia, traumatic brain injuries, epilepsy, mental illnesses, speech
15. impairments, blindness, deafness, and learning disabilities. In Texas, 8.5% of students are
16. classified as needing special education. That is much lower than the 12.9% nationally, and it is a
17. 12% drop from the number of Texas students in special education 12 years ago. One of the main
18. problems is that the State of Texas has denied thousands of children access to special education
19. by placing restrictions on the number of students who can receive this service. Although the
20. Texas Education Agency denies the 8.5% goal, many teachers and school districts state that
21. noncompliance would lead to audits and a requirement for corrective action plans designed to
22. lower the number of kids in special education. Besides the state percentage limit, there are other
23. reasons special needs students are not receiving the education they deserve. First, many parents
24. are not involved in their children's education, or they do not have the knowledge to make sure
25. that their child is receiving what they need. Another issue is that many teachers, especially
26. general education teachers, do not receive the necessary training to properly teach students with
27. special needs who are placed in their classrooms.

28. **Proposal for Action:**

29. To begin to solve these issues, the federal government needs to get involved by having the U.S.
30. Department of Education look into the issue of a limit being placed on special education services
31. and referrals in Texas. They need to look at the way the program is operated and how funds are
32. being used. Next, parents need to become more involved in their child's education. Research
33. shows that children are more likely to succeed in school if their families are involved in their
34. education. Parents need to learn more about their child's needs, and they need to make sure that
35. the schools are meeting those needs. Schools need to create programs to build a bridge between
36. school and home. Programs should also be developed to educate parents about their rights.
37. Finally, if the goal is to place special needs students in the general education classroom with all
38. other students for most of the day, teacher certification programs need to provide more training
39. for teachers in dealing with the various types of special needs students that they may teach.
40. Many teachers have stated that very little of their training focused on special education programs
41. or resources.

42. **Results to be Expected:**

43. By insisting that the state provide special education services for any student who shows a need,
44. we will guarantee an equal education for all Texas citizens. If programs are created for parents,
45. they will be more aware of the learning needs of their children and how the school system should
46. best address those needs. Teachers will feel more comfortable working with and teaching special
47. needs students. They will be better prepared to provide them with the quality education that they
48. deserve just like their peers.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Low high school graduation rate In Texas.

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas citizens, high school students.

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. According to a report issued by the Texas Education Agency in August 2014, 6.6% of
8. students in Texas dropped out of high school. There are many reasons why these
9. students dropped out, for example bullying, drugs, failing classes, getting
10. pregnant/gave birth, family issues, financial issues or they simply got bored. Students
11. fail to realize that dropping out of school has a long lasting effect on their lives. For
12. example, 35% of jobs in the US require a high school diploma or some kind of
13. educational degree. Some high school dropouts work to receive their GED (General
14. Educational Development). A GED diploma is a set of tests that when passed, they have
15. met the high school level academic skills. Many kids who dropout hope to use their GED
16. to go to college. However, about 5% of colleges do not accept students without a high
17. school diploma.

18. Also it is often difficult to get a job when you have not graduated from high school.
19. Dropouts typically earn less money than the people who graduate. Without a high school
20. diploma you earn about \$19,000 a year while people who have a diploma earn about
21. \$28,000 a year, and people who went to college earn \$51,000. Over the course of a
22. career, a college graduate will make nearly \$1 million more than a high school graduate.

23.

24. **Proposal for Action:**

25. There are several things we can do to prevent students from dropping out of high
26. school. Some of our actions are to require schools to hold assemblies and for
27. teachers/principal to educate students about their future and how much they can earn in
28. their jobs if they graduate. We want to create a program for the people who are thinking
29. about dropping out and make them see what happens and how difficult their life will be
30. without a full education. Since pregnancy is a major reason that students do not
31. graduate, we want the state to create a program in high schools with high pregnancy
32. rates that would provide daycare. We also believe that the state should develop a
33. stronger prevention program to educate students about avoiding getting pregnant. The
34. State of Texas also needs to provide more money to school districts to pay teachers for
35. tutoring students who are failing their classes or End of Course Exams. We also believe
36. that schools should do more to develop courses that students will find interesting and
37. fun. Many are bored and think it's just a waste of time.

38.

39. **Results to be Expected:**

40. If we begin to address the issues that have caused so many Texas high school students
41. to drop out, we know that this will help the future of Texas citizens and the state's
42. economy. It has been proven that graduates earn more money. Higher salaries mean
43. that people spend more. This means more money for state services. As a result,
44. students will have a better future. Their future children will have a better future. The
45. graduation rate of Texas will go up instead of going down.

46.

47.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

All schools required to provide students with access to an online and/or physical SAT Prep textbook

Major Area to be Affected:

This proposal will mainly effect high school students standardized SAT test scores. It will also increase college acceptance rates and the amount of National Merit Scholar Awards given to high school students that take the PSAT.

Justification:

Currently 31% high schools offer this SAT prep courses. According to Karen Dillard's College Prep "56% of students get at least an 1290 on their SAT when using a basic SAT prep course" However, in order for the average high school student to receive this score they must take many classes and pay large amounts of money. Students pay anywhere from \$700 and up. Major SAT prep companies include Kaplan, Princeton Review, Power Score, Revolution Prep, Set for College, Test Masters, and Top Test Prep. SAT scores increase is by 300 points with SAT prep in the state of Texas. The SAT and the PSAT are very closely related and the amount of students taking the tests increases each year. According to the College Board "A larger, more diverse group of students took the SATs and PSATs than ever before during 2014-2015. In the fall of 2014, 3.8 million students took the PSAT — the practice version of the SATs — compared to 3.7 million in 2013 and 3.6 million in 2010. Similarly, a record 1.7 million students from the class of 2015 took the SAT, while 1.67 million did the same from the class of 2014 and 1.65 million from the class of 2011. Nearly 33 percent of SAT test-takers from the class of 2015 were underrepresented minorities, compared to 29 percent from the class of 2011." The number of students taking these tests continues to grow each year. With this increase of students taking the PSAT comes the potential for students to win National Merit Scholar Awards. According to the National Merit Scholar Association "In late September, more than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year and is typically below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit® Scholarships, the award is a point of interest to many great colleges" By allowing students the opportunity to prepare for the SAT at no forced cost they can not only increase their potential for winning a National Merit Scholar Award, but they can also increase the college acceptance rates in Texas. According to Princeton Review "Approximately 78 percent of schools consider standardized test scores to be considerably important but they evaluate them in conjunction with your transcripts" This proposal will only effect public schools in Texas, however there are 3,263 public high schools in Texas compared to 446 private schools.

Proposal for Action:

This proposal will grant all high school students in Texas access to a SAT Prep online textbook. This textbook will be comprised of information taken from various SAT Prep certified companies, due to the fact that a majority of SAT prep companies are public. This proposal will require all high schools to allow students access to this textbook during all four years of high school. In addition, students may pay to access an online tutor that will offer them personal help along the way. This will only affect public high schools in the state of Texas. This textbook will also include an audio option that will allow students to listen to the book. Physical copies of this book will be available to schools with limited access to the internet. Copies of the book will also be printed in brail for high school students who are blind or may have vision problems. Every chapter that students read they will earn 100 points. These points can be used to purchase clothes and accessories for their own avatar. Each school will have their own leaderboard where they can compete to become number one in their school. The number one in the leaderboard each month will get recognition from the school.

Results to be Expected:

Students will be able to prep for the SAT on their own time. Since all high school students will be granted access to this textbook, it will also increase college acceptance rates. The SAT and PSAT are very closely relates so this proposal will also effect the amount of National Merit Scholar Awards given to students. This will impact students immensely because they will have motivation to study.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:** Reporting Sexual Reports on College/University Campuses in Texas

2.
3. **Major Area to be Affected:** College Campuses in Texas

4.
5. **Justification:**

6.
7. One in five women and one in sixteen men are sexually assaulted while in college. While
8. sexual assaults are common, the reporting to the police of these crimes isn't. One
9. reason is that campuses often want to avoid bringing negative attention to their
10. colleges/universities. Rarely do the sexual offenders receive punishment that
11. stigmatizes rape and deters others from committing this crime. For example, Brock
12. Turner, a former Stanford University swimmer, raped an unconscious woman behind a
13. dumpster in January 2015 and was charged with the maximum of 14 years in state
14. prison and 6 months in county jail. However, he only served three months in jail and will
15. serve three years of probation.

16. **Proposal for Action:**

17.
18. College campuses in Texas should have a voluntary support group or center for students
19. who have been sexually assaulted. The women and men who utilize the center can
20. share their experiences, receive counseling, and spread awareness on how sexual
21. assault affects lives. This center could also provide self-defense classes and promote
22. educational programs that will help men and women understand how to avoid such a
23. situation.

24.
25. **Results to be Expected:**

26.
27. Women who know how to use effective self-defense techniques, a buddy system when
28. attending events, and other methods of preventative care would be better armed for
29. protection against campus rape. Healing procedures for those affected by rape would
30. also assist in the recovery process.

Author: Grace Knudson and Grace Handler
YMCA: Richardson **CITY:** Richardson

YMCA Delegation: District 5
PROPOSAL: _____ **24** _____

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title:**

2. School Testing Reform in Texas

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. 5th-8th grade (Public Middle School) and teachers

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. The State of Texas requires public schools to issue a standardized test called the STAAR.
9. The STAAR test stands for the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness. In
10. addition to student academic readiness, this exam is used to determine school
11. excellence, and, as a result, teachers are held responsible for the results of their
12. respective classes. However, if a student is an ineffective tester or has a learning
13. difference, the school is unfairly held accountable for circumstances beyond their
14. control. The weighty responsibility of testing outcomes has encouraged many teachers
15. to abandon their class curricula in favor of teaching to the test.

16. **Proposal for Action:**

17. Instead of proctoring STAAR exams at individual schools, we propose that the State of
18. Texas adopt testing centers for each school district to administer the test. By doing so,
19. we would remove STAAR execution responsibilities from teachers and schools allowing
20. for a more accurate depiction of student performance. This would remove the chance
21. for teachers to release test answers to the students to bolster class percentages as well
22. as allow teachers the opportunity to focus on curriculum rather than STAAR exam
23. scores. Rather than viewing class percentages by STAAR exam scores, the state would
24. round up the students in the class average grades.

25.

26. **Results to be Expected:**

27. By taking teachers and schools out of the testing process, teachers would be afforded
28. the opportunity to focus on the grade curriculum rather than a test based curriculum.
29. This, in turn, will give students a better understanding of subjects they are learning,
30. and, in the long run, will better their chances to secure a seat in college.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Driverless car regulations in Texas.

3.

4.

5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6. Any drivers/passengers of driverless cars specifically but any citizen on the road could
7. be affected.

8.

8. **Justification:**

9. We believe driverless cars can malfunction and hurt the driver, passengers and
10. onlookers if there is not proper safety regulations instituted. We would also like an
11. option to add a level of security to protect the drivers' security as to when and where
12. they are driving.

13.

14. **Proposal for Action:**

15. We instate that all driverless cars would have to have a back-up manual break system
16. in case the car were to malfunction in "driverless" mode. If the car does not already
17. have one set up, the owner of the car must install a device. There best be at least one
18. passenger with a valid driver's license in the car that is coherent at all times. Both of
19. these could result in tickets and further action by a police officer if pulled over.

20.

21. Due to the GPS installed in their car to tell it where to go, we propose an added level of
22. security so the manufacture of the car or GPS can't use the drivers' information for
23. outside purposes.

24.

25. **Results to be Expected:**

26. We believe with this proposal that it would decrease the amount of accidents caused by
27. cars in "driverless" mode as well as protect the drivers' travel habits.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Teen Substance Abuse
3. Classes about substance abuse
4.

5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6. Students that took the substance
7. Citizens that get payed to give substance
8. Schools that provide the classes
8. students that never took the substance and still takes the class
9.

10. **Justification:**

11. Teens these days are tempted into taking bad substances.
12. They abuse the substance way to much that they get addicted.
13. This addiction to the substance can cause bad health and maybe death. This is a very
14. important issue because people that use the substance more than once can lead up to
15. having a bad career. There are lots of bad problems that can happen to you or your
16. body like brain damage, hallucinations, depression, and liver and kidney problems.
17. Some illegal substances can lead to death. Teens takes drugs because they want to
18. change something about their lives like to fit in, to escape or relax, to relieve boredom,
19. to seem grown up, to rebel, or to experiment. Teens usually think it is a solution to
20. their life problems.
21.

22. **Proposal for Action**

23. First we could inform all school boards about this specific class. Then we could have
24. specific teachers of our own to go to the school and teach and inform students about
25. how bad substances are bad for you and what they could do to you. We will confirm
26. that the bad substance information class is mandatory, because kids won't sign up for
27. a class that talks about what they might be doing. This class will have special projects
28. that have to do with the dangers of using bad substances.
29.

30. **Results to be Expected:**

31. We expect for them to be informed of what can happen to them and their body if they
32. took or are taking the substance so they can stop. We expect teens to stop taking the
33. substance.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Teen Substance Abuse in Texas

3.
4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas High Schoolers

6.
7. **Justification:**

8. Unfortunately, for some Texas students, alcohol, illicit and licit drugs, cigarettes, and
9. tobacco have become a part of their daily life. They don't realize the harm in these
10. substances until they are addicted. 26.4% of Texas students were offered, sold, or
11. given an illegal drug on school property. 37.4% of 12th graders have had alcohol in the
12. past month, and 23.5% of tenth graders have had alcohol in the past month. 6.5% of
13. 12th graders use marijuana daily. This is not acceptable because instead of focusing on
14. school, they are focusing on substances. Because of this, they become high school
15. dropouts, which leads to poverty or a low-income job. According to drugabuse.gov,
16. taking drugs can cause: heart disease, stroke, cancer, hepatitis, and lung disease. The
17. reason substance abuse is most likely so popular in Texas is because there is lack of
18. awareness when they are in high school. Since kindergarten, high schoolers have been
19. told that drugs are bad. What they haven't been taught is why.

20.
21.
22. **Proposal for Action:**

23. There are several steps that could be taken to prevent substance abuse. First, it should
24. be mandatory for every high school to have an awareness talk about substance abuse
25. every year. Second, the person would be given the duty to do these talks are people
26. and students who are drug free themselves. Students would do this on a volunteer
27. basis. There would be a orientation class that the volunteers would take to be able to
28. teach high schoolers about substance abuse. The volunteer who is teaching will teach
29. the students about the harm that substance abuse can do to your mental and physical
30. state. High schoolers will also be taught what to do if someone they know is on drugs
31. and what to do if under peer pressure. The volunteer will accompanied by a
32. professional while the volunteer is presenting. There will also be a question and answer
33. period to clear up any confusion that the students have. A video will be taken of the
34. volunteer presenting and the question and answer period. This video will be shown to
35. any students that are absent. If that student has any questions, they can contact a
36. teacher or administrator

37.
38.
39. **Results to be Expected:**

40. By teaching students more about substance abuse students will be more aware. They
41. will be able to make the right choices and influence the people around them to do the
42. same. The percentage of students who take drugs will drop.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Bad Water Quality in Texas

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. The major areas to be affected are factories, chemical users, and other
6. polluters.

7.

8. **Justification:**

9. Factories, construction sites, and chemical waste facilities create large amounts
10. of toxic waste that pollutes rivers and lakes with harmful chemicals. Texas is
11. among the worst in water quality in the nation. This has led to "boil-water"
12. advisories in Texas. A "boil-water" advisory is a notification to the people in the
13. affected area to boil their water before consuming it. The number of "boil-water"
14. advisories has nearly tripled from only 650 in 2008 to 1,550 in 2015. While
15. many harmful objects are already not accepted for normal disposal, there are
16. still some items that are allowed that could pollute water sources, such as
17. cleaners and chemicals.

18.

19. **Proposal for Action:**

20. There are multiple ways to make sure that chemical waste does not pollute
21. water sources. Hazardous waste and chemicals need to be disposed properly to
22. lessen the rate of "boil-water" advisories. A solution to this is to make sure that
23. all possibly harmful chemicals are separated, contained, and treated. Having
24. designated areas to dispose of chemicals keeps contaminants out of lakes and
25. rivers. Another way to reduce "boil-water" advisories is to improve and
26. modernize water treatment facilities. Moreover, food factories and chemical
27. plant farms could also cut down the amount of chemicals used and make sure
28. that none of the chemicals pollute the water. In addition, the farmers can plant
29. trees at the edges of their fields so any rain that might contain chemicals can be
30. stopped before they enter a water source.

31.

32. **Results to be Expected:**

33. Some results to be expected are that the quantity of cases that people have to
34. boil water will drop so that it is safe to consume. Some other changes are that
35. the water will be safer to consume and the water will be cleaner and contain less
36. pollutants. Furthermore, less people will get sick and injured from hazardous
37. substances and make it easier to obtain clean water. As a result, the citizens of
38. Texas will experience a decline in "boil-water" advisories.

39.

40.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Increase education for special needs in Texas.

3.

4.

5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6. Texas Special Needs Students and Families

7.

8. **Justification:**

8. We believe there is not enough specialized education and attention for special needs in
9. Texas. Every student deserves to have a good education that fits his/her needs.

10.

11. **Proposal for Action:**

12. We believe that there should be on specific special needs area (either school or wing of
13. school) for every 500 students in the district. For smaller districts that have less than
14. 500 students, this area can be smaller such as a room in each school for these students.
15. The school districts will provide trained aids for the students in a small ratio as well as
16. nurses and physical therapists. We know this will be costly and it is up to each district to
17. determine how they will pay for the additional costs that is needed.

18.

19. **Results to be Expected:**

20. Every special need student will have education that is suited for his/her needs.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:** Decreasing murder rate in Texas

2.
3. **Major Area to be Affected:** San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas

4.
5. **Justification:**

6.
7. The murder rates in three Texas cities, San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas, are rising.
8. Dallas's murder rate has increased by 17%. Multiple sources, including city police
8. departments and the Brennan Center for Justice, have reported an extreme increase in
9. murder rates in large American cities from 2014 to 2015. While there is no consensus
10. among experts on the cause of this increase, several have ideas.
11. A rise in income inequality, poor gun control laws, anger, and cops who act more
12. cautiously in the wake of events such as the Ferguson shooting are some of the officials
13. give as a reason for the increase.

14.
15. **Proposal for Action:**

16. We can create programs to first understand the reason behind murderers' actions. A
17. lack of anger management and conflict resolution contributes to this issue, so putting
18. systems in place to address these issues would go far in preventing murders. We also
19. need better healthcare for the mentally unstable.
20.

21. **Results to be Expected:**

22. Murder rates in San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston will decrease.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Fracking solution

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas citizens

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. Fracking is drilling in the ground for natural gas. It is a new way in Texas. It has many
8. effects on Texas and its citizens. It can cause earthquakes and can cause structural
9. damage to the earth. It can also cause water contamination. Fracking is when there is
10. drilling in the ground for oil. The pipes go down and sideways, turning and collecting gas
11. through the pipes. The earthquakes come from the rocks expanding due to fracking and
12. that causes earthquakes. Fracking uses water which expands the rock or dissolves it like
13. limestone. There have been earthquakes in Texas. The earthquakes have been around a
14. 2.0 magnitude which can cause damage.

15.

16. **Proposal for Action:**

17. I propose that we ban fracking. Instead of taking the water to a place that is far away.
18. We can also use better ways to get natural gas. We can stop using the water to frack. If
19. we stop using the water used to frack it will stop expanding and dissolving rocks, which
20. will help the problem. We can also start reusing the water used to frak to not use as
21. much water in fracking. We can develop a machine that can frack without using any
22. water in the process of fracking.

23.

24. **Results to be Expected:**

25. We can expect to see the earthquakes go down in the regions that are affected by
26. fracking. We will also see that the amount of water wasted in fracking will go down if we
27. stop using water in the process of fracking.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Driverless Car Regulations in Texas

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas

7. **Justification:**

8. Regulating driverless cars would help benefit Texas as a state, due to the large amount of
8. complications involving driverless cars overall. Governing driverless car regulations would be
9. effective because driverless cars comprise many complications. Driverless cars encourage their
10. owner to sit in the backseat while it's in use and could put the owner in peril. According to LG,
11. 60% of Texans trust and depend on driverless cars. Self-driving cars can not interpret human
12. signals. For example, if a police officer is directing traffic and guides the car to move to a different
13. street, the car may not follow the orders which could lead to accidents. Seventeen accidents out
14. of 518,577 reported in Texas were a result of Google's driverless cars. The first U.S. fatality using
15. driverless cars occurred in February 2016 when Google's self driving crashed into a public transit
16. bus. "A public transit bus was approaching from behind. The Google AV test driver saw the bus
17. approaching in the left side mirror but believed the bus would stop or slow down to allow the
18. Google AV to continue. People sleeping in these cars or preoccupied while on the road could also
19. lead to more accidents. Overtime, these accidents would increase as more people use them.
20. Driverless cars can also be slow. In December of 2015, a driverless car from Google was going 24
21. mph in a 35 mph area was pulled over by a policeman. Another problem is Hackers using
22. driverless cars to disrupt harmony in the society. In August 2016, a pair of hackers hacked Fiat
23. Chrysler's DealerCONNECT software. They entered the ID number and reprogrammed the car's
24. security system wirelessly. Self-driving cars could also impact the gasoline industry drastically.
25. Google's self-driving cars are mainly electric. Driverless cars may be an advantage for people who
26. are drunk, however, the person may state an incorrect address and end up somewhere unknown.
27. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, about every 20 minutes, someone is hurt or
28. killed in a crash while intoxicated. In the past seven years, there have been over 821,000
29. inebriated drivers in Texas. These are reasons why we should regulate driverless cars.

32. **Proposal for Action:**

33. In order to prosper in driverless car regulations, we will regulate driverless cars to blind, deaf, and
34. handicapped people. They will be the only people to have driverless cars on the streets. They
35. would have a special driver's license, with an approval letter from their doctor, to make them
36. eligible for a driverless car. Their disadvantage can actually become an advantage and help them
37. fit into the society.

40. **Results to be Expected:**

41. Since driverless cars are new to technology, it's easy to simply regulate driverless cars onto
42. Texas' streets for the blind, deaf, and handicapped. According to the National Federation of the
43. Blind, 203,900 are blind, and according to Gallaudet University, 357,574 are deaf in Texas.
44. Reported by Texas.gov., 11.9% of the Texas population is handicapped. As a United State, we
45. must take extreme measures to make this a reality and improve the quality of life for the

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or purpose:**

2. To stop fracking in Texas.

3.

4. **Major Areas To Be Affected**

5. The major areas to be affected are mainly Houston, Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, and
6. Midland. These are the major cities that produce oil, but also including smaller
7. counties/cities that frack.

8.

8. **Justification:**

9. Fracking causes air pollution to the nearby areas where fracking takes place in Texas.
10. According to a study in 2014, millions of people have lived a mile or less away from a
11. fracking well in Texas. In these areas fracking has affected the air and water quality. It
12. has made the place dangerous to live in because the chemicals used for fracking are
13. dangerous to the human body. According to livescience.com fracking also breaks up rocks
14. which can cause some of the most deadly earthquakes which can be dangerous and lives
15. could be lost due to this unsafe way of extracting oil. Every year there are new wells that
16. are drilled. These wells can affect people and make them sick and possibly give them
17. cancer due to the chemicals used in fracking liquids The chemicals in the fracking fluid
18. **benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene** and **xylene**. Some cities are already banning fracking
19. mines.

20.

21.

22. **Proposal for Action:**

23. To solve this problem we could limit/ remove fracking to get oil and replace it with pumps
24. that would take longer but it is better for the environment. The pumps wouldn't use those
25. dangerous chemicals that cost millions of dollars to handle and dispose of. The people in
26. the area would get better quality water and air. This may take a while to remove some of
27. the fracking wells but it will be worth it. If we continued using the fracking wells the
28. region that fracking takes place could get polluted. The pumps would be cheaper than the
29. wells and it would be better for the environment.

30.

31. **Results to be expected**

32. Our results to be expected are that the pollution and chemicals going into the water
33. system will be depleted. Also the act of pumps will not cause earthquakes.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose: STAAR Test VS the SAT: Closing the Gap!**

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4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5.

Public school students that will take the STAAR Test.

6.

7. **Justification:**

8.

8. The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness(STAAR)Test is a standardized test used in public schools to test what the student learned per grade level. The STARR Test isn't geared toward the SAT; the SAT is one of the key elements that help you get into a decent college and receive a scholarship. The STARR Test is based on you knowing specific facts when the SAT is based on critical thinking. We believe one way to improve SAT test scores in Texas is to add more elements that mimic the SAT test to the STAAR Test.

13.

14.

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16. **Proposal for Action:**

17.

17. Step one, create a panel of teachers and school officials to analyze both the STAAR test and the SAT to determine which parts of the STAAR test can be eliminated or reduced and which parts of the SAT are most important to mimic. The goal is not to add to the length of time to the STAAR test but to import the critical parts of the SAT that will help increase scores and boost overall confidence as well increase the number of students participating in the testing process.

22.

22. Step two will involve a panel of students who have taken both the STAAR and the SAT to

23.

23. give feedback in regards to their experience taking both.
24. Step three, compile data from both panels and create a sample test. This sample test will be given to students designated at a Texas school with a low percentage of students who take the SAT. Over a period of time the data will be compiled, and if the percentage has increased then the new test will be rolled out to all Texas schools.

27.

28.

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30. **Results to be Expected:**

31.

32. While high school graduation rates are increasing, college enrollment is declining.
33. Nationally the number of students enrolling in colleges and universities this year is 1.7 percent lower than last year; we want to stop this decline!
34. Several reasons determine this factor: confidence in SAT testing, low income that equals no money for tuition and not being prepared overall. This bill will help with all three; by being introduced earlier to key components in the SAT it's our goal that this will lead to elevated testing confidence which then leads to higher scores ending with possible scholarships and college enrollment!

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Reducing relationship abuse murder rates in major US cities

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Major US cities

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. Our plan is to reduce relationship abuse and to reduce relationship murders. "In
9. Maryland, there has been a 41 percent drop in the number of homicides linked with
10. domestic abuse over the past three years. The rate of violent crime overall has been
11. declining, but not that fast. The dramatic drop in domestic-violence deaths in Maryland
12. and the District is due largely to a simple but effective tool that helps identify women
13. most at risk of being killed by their husbands or boyfriends. Although men are also
14. victims of domestic violence, women are the victims in at least 85 percent of the cases.
15. Other questions, perhaps less obvious, include whether the man is unemployed and
16. whether there is a child in the household who is not the biological offspring of the
17. potential perpetrator." (Source: Washington Post.)

16.

17.

18. **Proposal for Action:**

19.

20. Our plan is to find ways to protect yourself. Some examples would be go to women
21. shelters and law enforcement so that you can get a restraining order. Some other
22. examples would be to get counseling and also leave. We need to have more women's
23. shelters so that women can feel safer. We also need to have a shelter for men because
24. even though 85 percent of abuse is to women, 15 percent of men have been abused.

24.

25.

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28. **Results to be Expected:**

29. Reduce domestic murder rates in major U.S. cities. The rate of violent crime overall has
30. been declining but not very quickly. Research shows that women are most likely to get
31. murdered by husbands or boyfriends, but women can kill their husbands.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Teen Substance Abuse-Alcohol

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas citizens

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. People in Texas are not being monitored well enough for the amount of intoxication in our
9. day and age. The drinking and driving laws should be more strict.

10.

11.

12. **Proposal for Action:**

13. In the state of Texas bartenders should be held responsible for their patrons. This includes
14. patrons' ability to drive legally within the law. Bartenders will be legally responsible to
15. administer breathalyzer tests and overseeing their patrons get safely home via taxi cabs.
16. The intoxicated person will be solely responsible for cab fees as well as their alcohol
17. purchases.

18.

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20. **Results to be Expected:**

21. Fewer DUIs, fewer alcohol related accidents.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:** The low high school graduation rate in Texas

2.
3. **Issue:** Improving the low high school graduation rate in Texas

4. **Major Area to be Affected:** Public high schools in Texas

5.
6. **Justification:**

7.
8. Education is important in today's society if anyone wants to get a well-paying job, or even just to
8. lead a happy and/or stable life, yet many kids are choosing to drop out as early as ninth grade. In
9. Texas, only 86 percent of kids graduate high school. That's one in seven kids who
10. will drop out. This needs to be changed. First of all, many places/companies will not hire anyone
11. without a high school diploma; so that means high school dropouts have a lower chance of getting
12. a job. In addition, if they do get a job, they will earn on average \$10,386 less than graduates,
13. according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Consequently, this means that graduates will be less likely
14. to draw on public money for health care and welfare, which will help the economy. Additionally,
15. dropouts have higher crime rates as compared to high school graduates. Research from the Texas
16. Appleseed reports that more than 80 percent of prisoners in Texas are high school dropouts. Not
17. to mention that dropping out can have generational impacts in families. Kids whose parents have
17. dropped out tend to fall in similar patterns as their parents.

18.
19. **Proposal for Action:**

20. I propose that we establish block schedules in public high schools to raise high school graduation
21. rates. We are suggesting the A/B block scheduling method, which is where students take four
22. alternating classes per day with their class periods being twice as long as the schools traditional
23. class period length. This means that the students would have less of a variety of homework each
24. day and less types of information to deal with, both of which will reduce stress levels, which are
25. one of the main causes of dropouts. Teachers would also have more time available to work with
26. students individually, causing better student/teacher relationships. A paper by Brown University
27. states that with block scheduling, students' grades improve, a higher number of students achieve
28. honor roll, GPAs improve, and fewer students fail classes. Additional research from Brown
29. University says that the transfer to block scheduling does not have to increase school
30. funding/spending. And because there are less passing periods, there is less time for kids to be
31. chaotic in the halls (this means less fights and/or bullying), and research from the Challenge
32. Discovery Projects Organization says that 1 in 10 students drop out of school because of repeated
33. bullying.

34. **Results to be Expected:**

35.
36. As you can see, block scheduling corrects many issues in high schools that cause students to drop
37. out, such as decreasing stress levels, allowing students to have more one on one time with
38. teachers, and just overall improving classroom communities. All these factors should help
39. decrease the high school dropout rates. With more high school graduates, Texas will begin to
40. become a more educated and responsible place to live in.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. TechCare in Texas

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas citizens and eventually everyone in the US

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. A third of North Texas businesses say the victims of a cyber attack in the past two years, according
9. to a Deloitte survey. Hackers have raided the computer systems of household names, including
10. Target, Visa, and the Houston Astros. In the Dallas area, major retailers including Neiman Marcus,
11. Sally Beauty Supply, Dave and Buster's and Michaels Stores Inc. have been victims of cyber attacks.
12. At Neiman Marcus hackers tapped into the credit card payment system for more than eight months in
13. 2013, according to the company's internal investigation. They set off the security alerts in the luxury
14. retailer's computer system about 60,000 times, but the alerts went undetected. Having a new cyber
15. security program would also provide more jobs for citizens living in Texas. According to the Bureau of
16. labor Statistics, 4.7% of Texans are unemployed as of 2016. As of September 2016, 5% of all
17. Americans are unemployed, that is 7,939,000 people that are jobless. The entire US has lost over 5
18. million manufacturing jobs between Jan. 2000 and Dec. 2014 due to cyber attacks. Texas is very
19. much included in this number, and we have sustained a very large loss of jobs just in this state itself.
20. But, with an increased need for cyber security workers, many people will be able to get jobs in the
21. field of cyber security. The estimated demand for cyber security workers will climb to six million by
22. the year of 2019 in Texas. Overall, TechCare I'll be both beneficial to those using it and those working
23. for the company.

24.

25.

26. **Proposal for Action:**

27. TechCare will provide the proper protection from viruses and hackers. TechCare will provide the
28. defense for the owner, and they will not have to worry about setting up defenses themselves.
29. TechCare will also provide instructions for setting up basic measures for security such as firewalls. A
30. network firewall safeguards the sensitive internal data of a company, such as customer databases and
31. employee information. Firewalls prevent intruders from accessing this information and protect the
32. business from cyber attacks. Just doing this one thing can prevent tons of cyber attacks against
33. companies and individual people also. Overall, TechCare provides reminders of when to update, alerts
34. for unknown users, backs up your computer, provides basic cyber security against attacks, reminders
35. on when to change your password, and even advice on protecting your computer. It could get funded
36. through some of the money paid to the government through taxes, the government could borrow
37. money, volunteers can donate, and if need be, money can be raised by those who support TechCare.

38.

39. **Results to be Expected:**

40. It will make citizens feel like their information is protected. It will also allow less money to be lost
41. through attacks. There would be less hacks, and no more information would be illegally leaked. There
42. would be tighter security everywhere. There would also be a decrease in unemployment due to an
43. availability of jobs in the cyber security department.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Improve Cyber Security in Texas

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Anybody who owns or uses a device in Texas

6.

7. **Justification:**

8.

8. For many years electronics have been hacked and that results in important information
9. and money being stolen from many people. It needs to be solved because many Texas
10. citizens are losing personal information as well as a lot of money as a result. As a result
11. of cyber attacks the U.S. losses close to 100 billion dollars a year. When people's
12. devices are hacked that can lead to people going bankrupt because their money was
13. stolen and used for non-appropriate purposes. Also what happens when devices are
14. hacked people lose information regarding where they live and people might come to
15. their household and rob them? A data breach at the Texas Comptroller's office in 2011
16. comprised roughly 3.5 million private records and cost taxpayers more than \$1.8
17. million. This is an example of how much information can be stolen and the money it
18. takes to pay due to a hack. When someone hacks something it can lead to disasters
19. such as banks can lose money when someone hacks or create havoc to businesses like
20. nuclear power plants and water purification plants. Last December the company Vtech
21. was breached and 6.4 million children's personal information was stolen.

22.

23.

24.

25. **Proposal for Action:**

26. Take a small amount of tax money and use it to fund a project named Chameleon that
27. was made by the University of Chicago and the Texas Advanced Computing Center.
28. Chameleon is a computer cloud where they run simulations of someone trying to hack a
29. website. The people who run the cloud space run anti hack systems to find the hack.
30. They try over and over to see which systems have the highest chance to stop the hack.
31. We also could create more opportunities like Texas Advanced Computer Center to help
32. prevent hacks. We need to act now before a major chaotic event happens as a result of
33. cyber security not being updated and improved.

34.

35. **Results to be Expected:**

36.

37. We expect to have government relocate \$50,000 dollars in tax to fund the Chameleon
38. Project. We also expect that the rate of cyber breaches will go down in Texas. We would
39. like to see more precautions taken to prevent cyber security breaches from happening.
40. This can lead to fewer taxes in the long run because we will have less debt and loss of
41. money. We will lose less national debt than we already have!

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43.

44.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:** Teen substance

2.
3. **Major Area to be Affected:** Texas

4.
5. **Justification:** Too many teens are doing drugs and they need help to stop or their lives will
6. be in danger. Teens are feeling pressured by their friends to drink and smoke. Over 5,000
7. young people under the age of 21 die as a result of drugs. Drinking and doing drugs is a
8. terrible reason to die and doing something so reckless is not very smart. In the 5,000 people
8. who died this also includes 1,900 deaths from vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicide
9. and 300 from suicide as well as HUNDREDS of other injuries including falls, burns and
10. drowning. This is unacceptable and has to come to a stop. 75% or 10 million of high school
11. students have used active substances including tobacco, marijuana, and cocaine. These
12. dangerous drugs are putting on of your loved ones lives on the line. More teens die of
13. prescription drugs than heroin/cocaine COMBINED. 46% or 1.6 million of ALL high schools
14. are using active substances. 60% of seniors don't see regular marijuana use as harmful.
15. Even though they are legally adults some are still ignorant and need their parents help to
16. guide them. The THC (the active ingredient in the drug that causes addiction) is nearly 5
17. times stronger than it was only 20 years ago. 1 out of 3 teenagers who live in the United
18. States with medical marijuana laws get their pot from other people's prescriptions. This will
19. only get worse and worse until they seek help.

20. **Proposal for Action:** We need to start small but we should wipe out all teen substance in
21. Texas. This is a big problem that we have to solve. We suggest that parents look out for
22. symptoms of their child abusing medication. We could also increase the amount that
23. teachers/principals have the alcohol and drug speeches in their schools. Another idea we
24. have was that they could have a surprise locker check every month so check for drugs or
25. alcohol. When parents are done using their medication they could throw it out to prevent
26. their teen from trying to use it as a bad drug. And put locks on their bars or wine cellars that
27. the children or teenager do not know the codes to to prevent underage drinking and alcohol
28. poisoning. Giving their teens longer curfews is a good idea too. If they do not take extra
29. caution this could end in alcohol poison for their own child and their friends and this could
30. also result in lawsuits and suing. Being addicted to drugs can waste the teens money and in
31. extreme cases they could end up homeless, foodless, or death from illness. In conclusion we
32. would like to get the word around that we would like to put a stop to teen substances in
33. Texas once and for all!

34. **HAVE A PARADE TO RAISE MONEY FOR SUPPORT GROUPS**

35. **Results to be Expected:** We expect that teens will say no to drugs and alcohol, especially
36. at parties. Also, that they will deny taking drugs or alcohol to not be in trouble. The sad part
37. is that lying will get you nowhere and only makes things worse. Also in natural teenager
38. behavior they will ignore their teachers and parents advice because they might be more
39. popular or be invited to more parties but we should let them know the consequences to their
40. actions. The locker checks would helpfully put an end to smoking, drinking, doing drugs, or
41. getting high on school campuses. Also we recommend to parents getting one of those
42. tracking devices on their teens cars to see where they are going and how long that they are
43. staying there. Hopefully we will help these teens see that they have a bright future ahead of
44. them and being unpopular is better than having a serious addiction that could end their life.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. The opioid crisis has led to a near 100% rise in the overdose deaths since 2003

3.
4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Opioid users, doctor

6.
7. **Justification:**

8. Many people have used opioids as painkillers some time in their life, but almost just as
9. many have used it as a weapon. Opioids such as Heroin and crushed- pill injections can
10. cause veins to collapse. Chronic opiate abuse can also create a greater sensitivity to
11. pain. It can also slow down the digestive system which can cause constipation. These
12. painkillers also cause slowed breathing which indeed can potentially be fatal. But these
13. are only a fraction of the many symptoms of overdose opioids and crushed- pill
14. injections. There were 2,601 deaths from drug overdose in Texas in 2014 alone. But this
15. epidemic is easily avoidable with hard work and determination.

16.
17. **Proposal for Action:**

18. There 3 crucial steps that can be taken to help this epidemic from going overboard. One
19. of the simplest steps is to ensure the patients know that this drug can be addicting, the
20. results of overdose, and what to do if that do take too much. This may not seem
21. necessary, but many opioid users don't anything about opioid other than that is helps
22. reduce pain. Another essential part of the solution is to create a system where
23. pharmacies can track how many opioids a person receives daily. Most people don't
24. people don't get their drugs of the streets or from family and friends; they get them
25. from legally written prescriptions. But many individuals go from hospital to hospital
26. asking multiple doctors to give them opiates. If pharmacies have a way to track how
27. many opioids someone has bought in the past few days, they can prevent the majority of
28. these deaths. The final step of this process is to attach a dose of naloxone to the opiates
29. themselves. Naloxone is a drug that is non-addictive and helps reverse the side effects of
30. opioid temporarily. This is actually an idea that many sites and companies have thought
31. of executing.

32.
33. **Results to be Expected:**

34. If these steps are properly taken, then 10s of 1000s of lives throughout the U.S. may
35. not have been taken. For example, if these actions were taken a few months ago, then
36. Prince may not have passed away since he died from accidental opioid overdose. There
37. will also be a decrease in the amount of pharmacies and doctors that were sued for
38. prescribing and/or giving people opioids. Many families sue doctors that prescribe opioids
39. to addicts because these emotional families do not realize that it is the fault of the
40. person in their family who died from overdose.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2.
3. Deaths in Texas due to driving while under the influence

4.
5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6.
7. The Major Area to be Affected is the citizens of Texas when under the influence

8.
9. **Justification:**

10.
11. An average of 10,000 people die every year from drunk driving related crashes. One
12. person is injured from an alcohol related crash every minute. The average drunk driver
13. has driven under the influence 80 times before his or her arrest. Fifty to 75% of
14. convicted drunk drivers continue to drive with a suspended license. Drunk driving costs
15. every American adult \$500 per year. In 2013 Texas had the most drunk driving cash
16. related deaths. In Fort Worth alone 9.7 percent of high school students drive after
17. drinking alcohol. DUI with a child passenger can be fined up to 10,000_dollar up to 2
18. years in state jail and license suspended for 180 days.

19.
20. **Proposal for Action:**

21.
22. Our proposal is to require a breathalyzer test to start every convicted drunk driver's car.
23. This would mean purchasing a breathalyzer when you buy your car. When you go to
24. your and your car does not have a breathalyzer your license will be suspended. If you
25. sell cars with keys to a convicted drunk driver, you will be penalized.

26.
27. **Results to be Expected:**

28.
29. The results to be expected are the amount of deaths in Texas due to driving under the
30. influence declines by requiring a breathalyzer in very car to start the car. In 2014 over
31. 70,000 people were arrested for driving under the influence. Our goal is to decrease the
32. number. Texas leads the nation with 1337 deaths cause by a drunk driver. We want to
33. at least not be the leaders.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

Title or Purpose:

Reform the Amount of School Testing

Major Area to be Affected:

Texas public school students, families, and teachers

Justification:

The amount of testing is a problem. The teachers squeeze so much learning into a timeframe we half the time can't even hear ourselves think. Sure, teachers could try to squeeze fun in between the lessons but do you think they care. There is a rumor that the better the test grades are teachers will get a bonus. This is a cruel act to put children through to get a bonus. The more tests there are the . Sometimes the tests are scheduled to have one every day for a week or every other day. This lets the children be tired which might also affect their health of not being able to go outside everyday and create an unhealthy sleeping schedule. In an article titled "study reveals how many standardized tests students take amid common core academic standards" by CBS news, they report that the average student in America's big-city public schools takes some 112 mandatory standardized tests between pre-kindergarten and the end of 12th grade — an average of about eight a year, the study says. That eats up between 20 and 25 hours every school year, the study says. As for the results, they often overlap.

A. Between 10-15 hours.

B. Between 20-25 hours.

C. Between 30-35 hours.

What do you believe?

The correct answer is "B," according to a comprehensive study of 66 of the nation's big-city school districts by the Council of the Great City Schools. It said testing amounts to about 2.3 percent of classroom time for the average eighth-grader in public school. Between pre-K and 12th grade, students took about 112 mandatory standardized exams.

Proposal for Action:

There are many actions that we could take to provide the next generation with a healthy amount of learning, but the first thing that comes to mind is shortening the tests to give the children more energy. This has its downsides but we could just make the tests with harder questions. There is no point to put a bunch of easy questions to ruin the stamina of these kids rather than just getting rid of them. Sometimes when the tests are longer there is no time for breaks or sometimes they devote the entire day to a test that takes 20 minutes.

Results to be Expected:

The result we expect is to have a boundary of the maximum amount of questions on a test. The amount will hopefully be heavily shortened or cut the amount of tests. We could maybe even make the tests 2 hours long compared to a heavy 4 hour one.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Making regulations for driverless cars in Texas.

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. If you adopted my proposal it would help have less car crashes. It would also help people
6. to not get injured. Regulations would help to keep their car from being hacked by
7. someone else.

8.

8. **Justification:**

9. The problem we have right now is that we do not have regulations for driverless cars. I
10. think this problem is very important because we do not want people coming up and
11. getting a driverless car if they do not know how to use it. There have been many injuries
12. because they did not get a yes to you can test your car. Some web sites that talk about a
13. company named Tesla's that have had over a number of crashes and accidents.

14.

15.

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17.

18. **Proposal for Action:**

19. One thing I think we should do is make them get a checkup every year on their car so
20. that we can make sure their driverless car is working properly and so that everyone is
21. safe. Another thing we can do is make them take a test to see if they can manage the
22. driverless car and it will help see if they can control the car. I think we should do what
23. you do to get a regular car too, but add in a checkup every year and a test for them to
24. take.

25.

26.

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29. **Results to be Expected:**

30. Making regulations for driverless cars in Texas will result in less crashes and accidents
31. with driverless cars and it will help save a lot of lives for people in Texas.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. To limit the amount of prescribed pain killers taken in excess.

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4.

5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6. Opioid Users

7.

8.

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9. **Justification:**

10. The amount of people taking Opioid drugs these days have skyrocketed. The amount of
11. people addicted, and dying are immense too. 5% of our army has died from this and
12. we currently have 13% on them. Opioid use has spiked 270% in the past 12 years. If
13. the man is not able to obtain the medication for himself, he would be able to have a
14. family member pick it up for him.

15.

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18. **Proposal for Action:**

19. To limit the amount of Opioids being prescribed to two weeks of medication and once
20. the patient has finished it, they must go back to their doctor for another prescription.

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24. **Results to be Expected:**

25. Not as many people becoming addicting and dying from overdosing on Opioids.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Cyber Security Education for Youths

3.
4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. Texas Youth Population 3rd grade and up Educators Education System

6.
7. **Justification:**

8. Texas is ranked third in the top 10 states for cyber crime in 2015. This shows that many
9. children who are unaware of how to keep themselves safe are vulnerable and in danger.
10. Youths today are the first generation to grow up with access to the internet their entire lives.
11. However, the education system has not been updated to prepare them for using the internet.
12. Children do not know how to keep their and their parents personal information safe. In 2014
13. 45% of U.S. credit card fraud happened online without physical card present. Cyber fraud is
14. expected to go from 10 billion dollars lost to 19 billion dollars lost in 2019. Generally cyber
15. fraud starts off with a virus, and this generation youths also don't know how to prevent
16. viruses on their computers. Viruses can lead to people hacking their webcams or stealing
17. their info. This information cannot be taught to children by their parents, because some
18. parents do not understand cyber safety either.

19. Teaching the youth cyber safety would also prepare them for the future. Many adults now
20. were never taught internet safety leading to identity theft and credit card fraud done through
21. viruses on their computer. The internet will only grow, so children need to be taught how to
22. protect themselves. In Massachusetts, a 16 year old boy managed to use his computer to
23. hack into the power sources of over 600 homes and a small airport control tower. In another
24. case, a hacking group supposedly made up of teenagers hacked into the Pentagon. Just
25. recently in 2011 a 16 year old boy in Britain was arrested for suspected connections to a
26. major hacking group. This shows that when young people are unaware of the risks of using
27. the internet they can be tricked and convinced into participating in major crimes. Some of
28. these cases happened before the internet was more widely explored-proving that people
29. need to be taught the consequences of their actions on the internet. If people remain
30. clueless about the dangers of the internet as it continues to expand, the damage could be
31. exponential.

32. **Proposal for Action:**

33. To be sure youths are properly informed about cybersecurity we propose it could be included
34. in the required school curriculum for grades 3-12. This could be taught by visitors,
35. counselors, teachers, or through the internet. In this requirement it would be suggested to
36. speak about cyberbullying, identity theft, credit card fraud, and how to keep yourself safe
37. from these things. Children could also be taught to ask their parents before using the
38. internet only to use safe and age-appropriate websites. Cybersafety would be taught like
39. most other subjects where every year more information would be provided in age
40. appropriate ways.

41. **Results to be Expected:**

42. If this course of action was to be taken we would expect the internet to be safer for the
43. children to use. There would be less hacks, viruses, malware because people would know
44. how to protect themselves. Basic knowledge in cyber security can prevent things like hacks
45. in major businesses because even if one person in a business is hack an experienced hacker
46. can use this loophole to find confidential documents and employee information.

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. College Campus Sexual Assault in Texas

3.

4. **Major Area to be Affected:**

5. College Campuses in Texas.

6.

7. **Justification:**

8. The dictionary defines sexual assault as an undesired sexual contact from one
9. person to another without their consent. According to the Star Telegram,
10. incident report says sexual assaults occurred September 26, 2015. This was the
11. seventh sexual assault reported at TCU in 2015. The University of North Texas,
12. where more than 36,000 students attend, the reported number of sexual
13. assaults were 18 in 2014, 7 in 2013, and 4 in 2012. At Southern Methodist
14. University with a total of 11,272 students, 7 forcible sex offences were reported
15. in 2014, 5 in 2013, and 5 in 2012. We think that any type of sexual assault
16. shouldn't happen on college campuses and that college campuses should work
17. harder on preventing sexual assault and protecting their students.

18.

19.

20.

21. **Proposal for Action:**

22. We want college students to attend a certain number of college classes to learn
23. about negative effects of sexual assault. One of these classes would be self-
24. defense class for men and women. Colleges should also make counseling
25. available to all students in the event of a sexual assault. Colleges could also give
26. peer counseling to students who need counseling.

27.

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29.

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31. **Results to be Expected:**

32. The result we expect through these changes is for a decrease in the number of
33. sexual assaults that happen on college campuses.

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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Title or Purpose:**

2. Funds for space exploration. The government is funding too much money for
3. NASA
4.

5. **Major Area to be Affected:**

6. NASA and the Texas Government.
7.
8.

8. **Justification:**

9. In Texas, the economy is doing poorly. The debt is \$1.648 trillion for the State
10. of Texas. The United States government provides \$18.5 billion to NASA
11. annually. Out of this money, each state in the United States gives NASA
12. money, usually through taxes. Texas is currently contributing about \$3.79
13. billion dollars, mostly through federal taxes that go to NASA. This is a problem
14. because Texas could be spending the money on Texan needs.
15.
16.

17.
18.
19. **Proposal for Action:**

20. To fix this problem, we could decrease the amount of funds given to NASA from
21. Texas government. NASA will have to create a budget to show the United
22. States Government how much they will be spending within their program. We
23. could decrease the amount of money by 50% leaving NASA with \$1.895 billion
24. dollars from Texas. The extra \$1.895 could be used by Texas because it is our
25. taxes to make positive changes to the communities in Texas.
26.
27.

28.
29.
30. **Results to be Expected:**

31. The extra \$1.895 billion would go to the Texas Government needs such as:
32. fixing school buildings, improving road conditions, raising minimum wages, and
33. various other things that could be done to better Texas. This will eliminate the
34. problem of too much funding for NASA by using the money to make Texan's
35. lives better.
36.
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STATE AFFAIRS FORUM PROPOSAL

1. **Major Area to be Affected:**

2. State of Texas

3.

4. **Justification:**

5. Adopt – Legally taking an animal as your property.

6.

7.

8.

8. **Proposal for Action:**

9. All persons who wish to adopt an animal shall have to go through harder adoption processes such as:

10. Background checks

11. Home Visits

12. Personal References

13.

14. **Results to be Expected:**

15. When someone has an animal that is being neglected in some serious fashion, the animal shelter will have to take back to animal.

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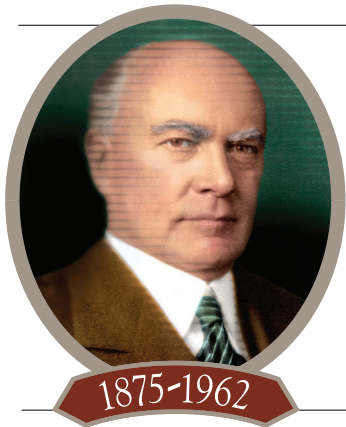
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