



TOPICS PLUS

UIL 3A State Congress Research

**– Researched and Written by –
Research Team**

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Prelims
Legislation – A Bill to Establish the Affordable College Act
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Widespread Education Stimulates Economic and Technological Growth

The New York Times, “Is College Tuition Really Too High?,” Adam Davidson, September 2015,
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/13/magazine/is-college-tuition-too-high.html>>

“In 1900, less than 10 percent of the U.S. population had a high-school degree, and many couldn’t have received one if they wanted. There just weren’t enough public high schools. In the beginning of the 20th century, a nationwide effort was undertaken to provide free secondary schooling to every American child. By the end of World War II, half of all young American adults had high-school diplomas; by the 1970s, a vast majority did. The country’s rapid growth during that century – the rise of industry, the development of technology, the dawn of a vast middle class – would be hard to explain without acknowledging the spread of education as a cause. From 1900 to 1980, every generation born in the United States had about two more years of schooling than the one before. This transformed a nation of semiliterate farmers into the world’s most-educated country. But progress has slowed since 1980. In the 1970s, the United States ranked first globally for college attainment; today, among people 25 to 34, it ranks 14th, having fallen behind many other industrialized nations. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has singled out the United States as being particularly deficient in one measure: the chances are greater than 70 percent that an American will not attend college if his or her parents do not have a college degree.”

TAKEAWAY – *Historically, efforts to make education accessible to the public precipitated growth in industry and technology. Likewise, a decline in this availability has been linked to economic decline. Making quality higher education affordable to most Americans would clearly have far-reaching benefits for the nation’s future as a leader in world development. As the affirmative, you should argue that college is too expensive, it perpetuates the cycle of poverty, and too many Americans don’t have access to a valuable education.*

AFF – Increases To Current Tuition Rates Are Unsustainable

CNBC, “What College Tuition Will Look Like In 18 Years,” Stephanie Landsman, May 2012,
<<http://www.cnbc.com/id/47565202>>

“Campus Consultants Founder and President Kal Chany figured out what college will likely cost by 2030 based on inflation rates...In 18 years, the average sticker price for a private university could be as much as \$130,428 a year (See chart.) The situation isn’t much better if you go the public route. Sending your child to a state university could set you back at least \$41,228 a year.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article focuses on projections for college tuition rates in less than two decades. The figure for private tuition surpasses the combined income of most families, while the figure for public tuition offers no better option. It’s important to note that these figures are based solely on inflation rates, with increases of scarcely 5% in 18 years. This depicts that even small jumps in tuition could eliminate prospective undergraduates’ chances at any degree. As the affirmative, you should argue that if tuition rates keep increasing at these rates, no one besides the incredibly rich will be able to afford college in just a couple of decades.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article demonstrates that efforts to make education accessible to the public precipitated growth in industry and technology. Likewise, a decline in this availability has been linked to economic decline. Making quality higher education affordable to most Americans would clearly have far-reaching benefits for the nation's future as a leader in world development. As the affirmative, you should argue that college is too expensive, it perpetuates the cycle of poverty, and too many Americans don't have access to a valuable education.

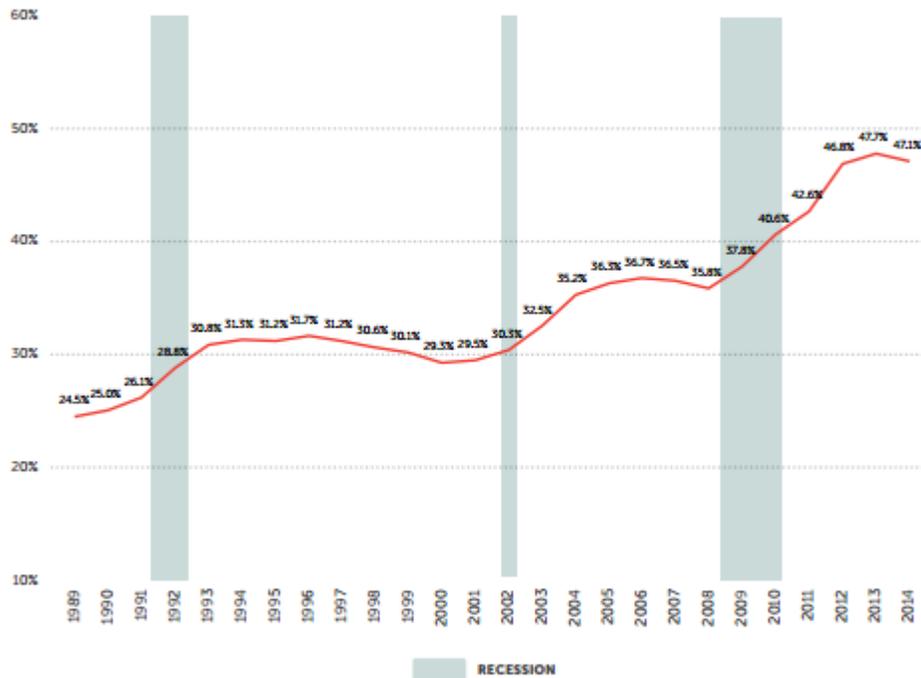
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Negative Evidence

NEG – Tuition Major Factor In College Funding

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, “State Higher Education Finance: Fiscal Year 2014,” George Pernsteiner, President, Robert L. King, April 2015, <<http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/project-files/SHEF%20FY%202014-20150410.pdf>>

FIGURE 4
NET TUITION AS A PERCENT OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL REVENUE, U.S., FISCAL 1989-2014



NOTE: Net tuition revenue used for capital debt service is included in net tuition revenue, but excluded from total educational revenue in calculating the above figures.
SOURCE: State Higher Education Executive Officers

TAKEAWAY – This chart depicts a significant increase in the role tuition plays in funding colleges and universities. It also documents sharper increases in the tuition rate during and following recessions, with little recovery and never back to original percentages. Given that tuition pays for twice as much of a colleges costs as it has previously, cutting those tuition rates to less than 1% of their current value would severely disrupt current college financial models. By passing this legislation, we would be severely cutting the financial backing of institutions. That means less schools, people would lose their jobs, and less young adults would be able to receive a valuable college education.

NEG – Less Funding Would Mean Lower Quality of Education

Time, “Obama Wants to Force Colleges to Reduce Tuition, but at What Cost?” Kayla Webley, January 2012, < <http://swampland.time.com/2012/01/30/obama-wants-to-force-colleges-to-reduce-tuition-but-at-what-cost/>>

“But at the same time, state funding for higher ed has just sustained record-high cutbacks. According to the annual Grapevine report from the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University, 41 states cut funding for higher education in response to the slow economic recovery and the end of federal stimulus funds last year. Overall, in the past year alone, state funding for higher ed decreased by nearly 8%, or \$6 billion. As state money declines, many have said the only way for colleges to compensate is for students to foot more of the bill.

Some higher ed experts fear the plan would force colleges to trade quality for price. In the four years since the 2008 financial crisis, many institutions have made the easy cuts. They’ve consolidated campuses, cut programs with low-enrollment, scaled back administrative costs and increased energy efficiency. The options that remain—trimming financial aid, reducing enrollment, increasing class size, cutting back on the number of classes, using adjunct instructors instead of full-time faculty and postponing maintenance projects—can hurt students.”

TAKEAWAY – *Previous cuts to federal funding led to many cutbacks in the programs colleges have been able to offer with any financial viability. These losses not only limit the avenues colleges have available to keep their doors open but also negatively impact students by way of fewer programs and less-intensive education. Without offering financial aid from a separate source, tuition cuts could severely reduce what programs and services colleges can offer.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first chart depicts a significant increase in the role tuition plays in funding colleges and universities. It also documents sharper increases in the tuition rate during and following recessions, with little recovery and never back to original percentages. Given that tuition pays for twice as much of a colleges costs as it has previously, cutting those tuition rates to less than 1% of their current value would severely disrupt current college financial models. By passing this legislation, we would be severely cutting the financial backing of institutions. That means less schools, people would lose their jobs, and less young adults would be able to receive a valuable college education.

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Legislation – A Resolution to Accept Syrian Refugees to Ease the Burden on
European Nations
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – The US has Failed to Appropriately Address this Global Crisis

CNN “War has forced half of Syrians from their homes. Here's where they've gone.” Mark Bixler and Michael Martinez, September 11, 2015

<<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/11/world/syria-refugee-crisis-when-war-displaces-half-a-country/>>

“Imagine every man, woman and child leaving home in 29 states, mostly in the U.S. West and Midwest. That's everyone west of Ohio and Kentucky and north of Texas, all the way to California.

The 158 million people in those states make up the same share of the U.S. population -- 49% -- as the proportion of Syrians that have fled carnage there.

The war in Syria is so hellish and unrelenting that more people have left that country than any other in recent years. One of every five displaced persons in the world is Syrian.

Here's a look at where those Syrians have gone.

War has displaced half of all people in Syria
Protests against the government in Syria in 2011 soon devolved into chaotic war. The fighting and later rise of ISIS forced 10.6 million people from home -- about half of Syria's pre-war population.

Most Syrians who have left their homeland registered as refugees with the United Nations. Three in four Syrian refugees did that in Turkey, Lebanon or Jordan.

The number of Syrians seeking safety in Europe has more than doubled in the past year. Many left Turkey and other countries for Europe to ask for asylum, a status that allows someone to live and work legally in another country.

Worldwide, 59.5 million people are on the move as refugees or displaced people within their home countries. That population would be enough to make them citizens of the world's 24th biggest country.

Humanity has never seen such displacement. Ever.

"Wars, conflict and persecution have forced more people than at any other time since records began to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere," the United Nations said in June.

At least 15 wars and conflicts are to blame -- in Africa, the Mideast and Asia.
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"Wars, conflict and persecution have forced more people than at any other time since records began to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere," the United Nations said in June.

At least 15 wars and conflicts are to blame -- in Africa, the Mideast and Asia.

The United States has resettled 1,500 Syrian refugees since the start of the conflict in 2011, the vast majority of them this year.

That amounts to about 0.03% of Syria's 4.1 million refugees.

Here's a breakdown: 23 in 2011, 41 in 2012, 45 in 2013, 249 in 2014 and 1,199 so far this fiscal year, which ends September 30, according to the State Department.

About 300 more refugees are expected to be admitted by the end of the month, according to U.S. officials."

TAKEAWAY – *This article examines the number of refugees fleeing Syria. It addresses where the refugees went, how many have fled to other countries, and current trends in number of refugees. As the affirmative you should ask the question: If we're not going to show more support for a crisis of this magnitude, when will we? This article says that, the "United States has resettled 1,500; that amounts to about 0.03% of Syria's 4.1 million refugees." If you argue in affirmation of this bill, it's imperative that you really hit home the devastation of the crisis, and elevate the United States' moral imperative to step up and take in more refugees. We can't sit on the sidelines and allow European countries, who are our allies, to take on the full burden of this issue. We can't be scared of admitting terrorists into our country, either, because there are ways to solve that issue without ignoring the problem altogether. Beyond that, these are people, civilians, who need help and are trying to escape a war zone. It is imperative that we help, and take some of this burden away from our allies in Europe.*

AFF – The EU will Require more Support to House Syrian Refugees

CCN "Syrian refugees: Which countries welcome them, which ones don't" Michael Martinez, September 10, 2015
<<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/09/world/welcome-syrian-refugees-countries/>>

"The expanding Syrian refugee crisis highlights the differences among countries that welcome desperate migrants and those that don't.

Some 4.1 million Syrians are fleeing a homeland riven by more than four years of civil war. Some countries have taken in so many migrants it's caused a population spike, while others have done little or nothing at all.

Here's a country-by-country look at what is being done to address the worst refugee crisis since the Rwandan genocide more than 20 years ago, according to experts.

Which countries take in the Syrian refugees?

Turkey: 1.9 million

Remarkably, this country now shelters almost half of the Syrian refugees and clearly has more than it can handle.

It's the No. 1 destination for displaced families.

Geography explains much of it: Turkey and Syria share a border.

The masses are so vast that 14% of them are sheltered in camps, U.S. figures show.

A staggering share of them are children and teens: More than half are under age 17, according to U.N. figures...

...Which countries are getting Syrian asylum requests?

Germany: 98,700

As Germany faces the largest share of Syrian requests for asylum in Europe, Chancellor Angela Merkel called for quotas to be set for each country to take a share of displaced people, including from Syria.

Germany expects the overall asylum requests to soar above the current U.N. count of 98,700 from Syrians alone.

There could be 800,000 applications for asylum in Germany this year, and the country could take 500,000 refugees annually for several years, Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel has said.

Sweden: 64,700

Sweden joins Germany in demonstrating a high standard of responsibility in the refugee crisis, and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven joined Merkel at a press conference this week in urging a Europe-wide solution for hosting refugees.

In the 1990s, Sweden accepted 84,000 refugees from the Balkans.

"We accept that every person has a right to seek asylum," Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister Margot Wallstrom said. "This also puts the European solidarity to a test. I think it's important that we signal being a community that rests on common values of democracy and defense of human rights."

France: 6,700

The number of asylum requests has been relatively low.

But they will surely increase now that French President François Hollande has said France is ready to take on more responsibility and host 24,000 refugees over the next two years.

The French leader said this number would be France's share under a proposal by the European Commission for EU nations to take in 120,000 refugees over the next two years.

"We will do so because it is the principle to which France is committed," Hollande said.

United Kingdom: 7,000

The United Kingdom will likely see an upswing in asylum requests now that it has said it will take up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years.

But Britain will focus on resettling vulnerable refugees from camps in countries bordering Syria, not those who have already entered Europe, Prime Minister David Cameron said Monday.

"This provides refugees with a more direct and safe route to the United Kingdom rather than risking the hazardous journey to Europe, which has tragically cost so many lives," he said.

The refugees will receive a five-year humanitarian protection visa, Cameron said. Britain has been the second largest provider of humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees within the Middle East region, according to U.N. figures.

Denmark: 11,300

Denmark has received a relatively large number of Syrian asylum requests but has sought to discourage the arrival of more migrants.

On Wednesday, Danish authorities tried to restrict migrants from crossing into the country from central Europe. Danish police said via Twitter it blocked access to some highways and suspended some international railway traffic.

The country earlier had paid for ads in Arabic in four Lebanese newspapers to get the word out about its new, tightened restrictions -- such as reducing social benefits -- to try to prevent refugees from getting into the Scandinavian nation.

"We cannot simply keep up with the present flow," Immigration and Integration Minister Inger Stojberg, a member of the right-wing Venstre Party, said on Facebook. "In light of the huge influx to Europe these days, there is good reason for us to tighten rules and get that effectively communicated."

Hungary: 18,800

Many Syrian refugees are reluctant to register an asylum application in Hungary.

Having traveled north through the Balkans, those arriving on the country's border with Serbia have had police greet them, and they've been forced to wait, sometimes for days, in holding areas and transit camps, where conditions are said to be poor.

Many migrants would prefer to register as refugees in countries such as Germany, Sweden and Austria, continuing their journey through Hungary to Northern and Western Europe.

Hungary's right-wing government, which has been trying to stop the flood of migrants, has erected a barbed wire fence along its more than 160-kilometer (100-mile) border with Serbia to prevent them from crossing there.

Serbia, which has received 49,500 asylum requests from Syrian refugees, is not a member of the European Union.

Other European countries

Syrian refugees have made a wide range of requests for asylum in other parts of Europe, including -- between April 2011 and this July -- 5,500 in Spain, 14,100 in the Netherlands, 18,600 in Austria, 8,300 in Switzerland and 15,000 in Bulgaria, according to the United Nations.

Italy, where many migrants who've made the perilous Mediterranean crossing from North Africa first land, had received 2,143 asylum applications as of July, the United Nations said.

Greece, which lies on a popular transit route from Turkey north through the Balkans to Northern Europe, has seen more than 250,000 people arrive on its shores this year, according to the International Organization for Migration. It had received 3,545 asylum applications as of July, U.N. figures show.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article takes an in depth look at where refugees are going after leaving Syria. It explains that there is enormous pressure on the EU to step up and take in more refugees. Several countries in the EU have stepped up and are taking in more refugees than they anticipated, however they need help. They have taken about as many refugees as they can handle. It's time that the United States' fulfills its global obligation and takes in more refugees. You can also argue, as the affirmative, that we have been battling on the home front about this issue, and we've turned it into a social issue, when it's a political issue and people are dying. They need our help. Since the attacks in France, it is even more imperative that we take in more refugees. There's no excuse for our lack of action.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article examines the number of refugees fleeing Syria. It addresses where the refugees went, how many have fled to other countries, and current trends in number of refugees. As the affirmative you should ask the question: If we're not going to show more support for a crisis of this magnitude, when will we? This article says that, the "United States has resettled 1,500; that amounts to about 0.03% of Syria's 4.1 million refugees." If you argue in affirmation of this bill, it's imperative that you really hit home the devastation of the crisis, and elevate the United States' moral imperative to step up and take in more refugees. We can't sit on the sidelines and allow European countries, who are our allies, to take on the full burden of this issue. We can't be scared of admitting terrorists into our country, either, because there are ways to solve that issue without ignoring the problem altogether. Beyond that, these are people, civilians, who need help and are trying to escape a war zone. It is imperative that we help, and take some of this burden away from our allies in Europe.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – The European Union has Taken Direct Action to Support Syria

BBC News “Migrant crisis: EU plan offers more money for Turkey camps” Lachlan Carmichael, October 6, 2015

<<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34451660>>

“European Council President Donald Tusk said earlier that, according to Ankara's estimates, three million more people could head to Europe from Aleppo and the surrounding area.

But the International Organization for Migration (IOM) says it has so far had no reports of more people leaving Syria, and that Mr Tusk's comments were "speculative".

In Brussels, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and EU leaders agreed to finalise an action plan with Turkey in the coming days to deal with the refugee crisis.

The draft document includes proposals for the EU to:

§ Provide up to €1bn (£0.74bn) for this year and next to help Turkey cope with refugees from Syria and Iraq

§ Resettlement of some refugees already in Turkey

§ Reinforce the Turkish coast guard to help it tackle smugglers

§ Build on plans for lifting visa requirements for Turks travelling to the EU

In exchange, Turkey would undertake various measures including implementing asylum procedures and giving priority to "the opening of the six refugee reception centres built with the EU co-funding.”

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'We need Turkey'

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker earlier hailed Turkey for having admitted 2.2 million Syrian refugees.

"It is clear that we need Turkey. The Commission will come to its aid," he said. However, Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci was sceptical about the plan, according to Reuters.

His country would welcome a financial contribution from the EU to ease the strain of hosting migrants, but that funding would "not be a solution" to the crisis, Mr Zeybekci was quoted as saying.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains certain actions that the European Union has taken to help support the refugees fleeing from Syria. One of the primary purposes of the EU is to deal with crises like this. If you argue in negation, you can list the support that Turkey is providing and argue that we should allow the EU to take control of the situation. The US has no need to further interfere in a matter that does not directly affect the safety of its people. The refugees from Syria are able to lean on the support of the neighboring countries. The current relationship the US has the EU should not be altered when the EU is already showing its effectiveness in dealing with the Syrian refugee crisis. As the negative, you should argue that this isn't our responsibility, and it's already being solved in the status quo. In fact, you find*

evidence on the fact that the EU recently gave Turkey monetary compensation for taking in so many refugees. Things like that are a step in the right direction. Putting American lives at risk is never the answer, which is why we shouldn't pass this legislation.

NEG – US already supplying \$500 Million in Aid to Syria

Huffington Post “U.S. Commits \$507 Million For Syrian Aid, Leads Pledges At International Conference” Kuwait City, March 31, 2015, < http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/31/us-syria-aid_n_6977440.html >

“The United States pledged \$507 million in humanitarian aid at an international donors' conference for Syria on Tuesday as the United Nations issued an appeal for \$8.4 billion in commitments this year — the organization's largest appeal yet for the war-ravaged country.

Kuwait, which is hosting the third annual conference, pledged \$500 million at the start of the meeting. The European Commission and EU member states pledged close to \$1.2 billion total, double the overall EU pledge at last year's conference...

...U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power said that despite the U.N. making its largest humanitarian appeal in history, "many countries are giving the same amount, or even less than they have in the past." Tuesday's roughly half-billion-dollar U.S. pledge is in addition to nearly \$3.2 billion the country has provided since the conflict began, she said.

"Years from now, when Syrians and the world look back on the country's horrific crisis, they will remember which countries stepped up to help people in dire need, and which countries did little or nothing at all," she told the conference.

Some 78 countries and 40 international aid organizations are present at this year's conference.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article takes a look at some of the current aid that the U.S. is giving to Syria to support the refugee crisis. According to the article The United States had pledged \$507 million in humanitarian aid to support the Syrian refugees. If you speak in negation of this legislation, you should argue that the current aid we are supplying to Syria is substantial enough to not require more aid from the U.S. You should further argue the implications of allowing that many refugees into our country and the public safety harms that would arise. We shouldn't risk the safety of our citizens to support the refugees, but we should continue to support them financially, like we have done. As the negative, you can also argue that allowing Syrian refugees into our country would leave us open to an attack, referencing what happened in France. If we knowingly put American lives in danger, we are acting recklessly. Monetary compensation is enough to support our European allies, and that's exactly what we should do.*

Negative Takeaways

The first article explains certain actions that the European Union has taken to help support the refugees fleeing from Syria. One of the primary purposes of the EU is to deal with crises like this. If you argue in negation, you can list the support that Turkey is providing and argue that we should allow the EU to take control of the situation. The US has no need to further interfere in a matter that does not directly affect the safety of its people. The refugees from Syria are able to lean on the support of the neighboring countries. The current relationship the US has the EU should not be altered when the EU is already showing its effectiveness in dealing with the Syrian refugee crisis. As the negative, you should argue that this isn't our responsibility, and it's already being solved in the status quo. In fact, you find evidence on the fact that the EU recently gave Turkey monetary compensation for taking in so many refugees. Things like that are a step in the right direction. Putting American lives at risk is never the answer, which is why we shouldn't pass this legislation.

The second article takes a look at some of the current aid that the U.S. is giving to Syria to support the refugee crisis. According to the article The United States had pledged \$507 million in humanitarian aid to support the Syrian refugees. If you speak in negation of this legislation, you should argue that the current aid we are supplying to Syria is substantial enough to not require more aid from the U.S. You should further argue the implications of allowing that many refugees into our country and the public safety harms that would arise. We shouldn't risk the safety of our citizens to support the refugees, but we should continue to support them financially, like we have done. As the negative, you can also argue that allowing Syrian refugees into our country would leave us open to an attack, referencing what happened in France. If we knowingly put American lives in danger, we are acting recklessly. Monetary compensation is enough to support our European allies, and that's exactly what we should do.

Legislation – A Bill to Oversee Permanent Residents in the United States Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Permanent Citizens Are Committing Crimes

The Nation, “Why Has President Obama Deported More Immigrants Than Any President in US History?” Alejandra Marchevsky, Beth Baker, March 31, 2014, < <https://www.thenation.com/article/why-has-president-obama-deported-more-immigrants-any-president-us-history/> >

“In 2012, Obama told the Spanish-language television network Univision that, “We try to focus our enforcement on people who generally pose a threat to our communities, not to hardworking families who are minding their own business and oftentimes have members of their family who are US citizens.”

As proof that it is weeding out the “bad guys,” Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) recently reported that 59 percent of deportations in fiscal year 2013 involved noncitizens with criminal records...

“Smart enforcement” strategies have led to an unprecedented level of cooperation between ICE, the FBI and local police agencies as they seek to target “terrorists” and “criminal aliens.” Not surprisingly, the proportion of criminal to non-criminal deportations has grown steadily over the past decade.

TAKEAWAY – *This piece of evidence talks about how 59% of deportations in 2013 were because of non-citizens criminal records. The proportion of criminal to non-criminal deportations has grown steadily over time. As the affirmative, you have to argue that permanent citizens committing crimes is a real problem. It’s a threat to our nation. We aren’t trying to punish people who are hard-working and passionate about pursuing citizenship, but we do want to decrease our criminal population. We should pass this bill so that we have an entire force dedicated to weeding out the criminals and helping the hard working permanent residents gain citizenship. Right now, the DHS is dealing with all immigrants the same, and that ineffective and unfair. We must pass this bill for fairness and for public safety.*

AFF – Permanent Residents Are Currently Being Deported for Past Crimes

NYSDA Immigrant Defense Project, “ALERT FOR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP,” Accessed October 18, 2015, < http://www.sikhcoalition.org/documents/pdf/03_citizenalert.pdf >

“Any lawful permanent resident who has ever been arrested and charged with a crime, no matter how minor or how long ago, should proceed carefully...the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (“BCIS”) may place such a permanent resident in removal proceedings (formerly called deportation proceedings).”

TAKEAWAY – *This piece of evidence says that permanent residents are being deported for crimes no matter how minor or how long ago they were committed (the NEG articles talk a little about this too). In the status quo, The Department of Homeland Security searches the pasts of Permanent Residents to see if they have a criminal past. This is unfair and unjust. This bill allows for the DHS to only check permanent residents if they commit a crime. It’s a small but important distinction. In the current system, The DHS can literally look up a permanent residents name to fish for a criminal background. People are being deported for crimes they committed years ago. As the Aff, you should argue that rather than persecute people for their*

past, we should focus on stopping criminals who are a current threat. This bill would allow the DHS to detain and deport criminals in real time. Many Americans have pasts that they aren't proud of, but they're able to move on and move forward. Why aren't we allowing permanent residents the same fresh start?

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first piece of evidence talks about how 59% of deportations in 2013 were because of non-citizens criminal records. The proportion of criminal to non-criminal deportations has grown steadily over time. As the affirmative, you have to argue that permanent citizens committing crimes is a real problem. It's a threat to our nation. We aren't trying to punish people who are hard-working and passionate about pursuing citizenship, but we do want to decrease our criminal population. We should pass this bill so that we have an entire force dedicated to weeding out the criminals and helping the hard working permanent residents gain citizenship. Right now, the DHS is dealing with all immigrants the same, and that ineffective and unfair. We must pass this bill for fairness and for public safety.

The second piece of evidence says that permanent residents are being deported for crimes no matter how minor or how long ago they were committed (the NEG articles talk a little about this too). In the status quo, The Department of Homeland Security searches the pasts of Permanent Residents to see if they have a criminal past. This is unfair and unjust. This bill allows for the DHS to only check permanent residents if they commit a crime. It's a small but important distinction. In the current system, The DHS can literally look up a permanent residents name to fish for a criminal background. People are being deported for crimes they committed years ago. As the Aff, you should argue that rather than persecute people for their past, we should focus on stopping criminals who are a current threat. This bill would allow the DHS to detain and deport criminals in real time. Many Americans have pasts that they aren't proud of, but they're able to move on and move forward. Why aren't we allowing permanent residents the same fresh start?

Negative Evidence

NEG – Permanent Residents Are Already Being Monitored and Deported

American Immigration Council, “The Ones They Leave Behind: Deportation of Lawful Permanent Residents Harm U.S. Citizen Children,” April 26, 2010, <

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/ones-they-leave-behind-deportation-lawful-permanent-residents-harm-us-citizen-children> >

“Thousands of long-term legal immigrants are deported each year. While some are deported for committing serious crimes, many more are deported for committing minor, nonviolent crimes, and judges have no discretion to allow them to stay in the U.S.—even if they have U.S. citizen children...

More than 100,000 children were affected by parental deportation between 1997 and 2007.

- At least 88,000 of these children were U.S. citizens.
- 217,000 other immediate family members were affected by the deportation of LPRs.

68% of the LPRs who are deported are deported for minor, non-violent offenses.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how permanent residents are already being deported for crimes. The majority of them are being deported for minor, non-violent crimes. However, their deportations are affecting their children in a real and severe way. This article presents several possible arguments for a negative speech. One, clearly permanent residents are already being monitored in the status quo, so there’s no reason to pass this bill. Secondly, we are deporting long term residents without a real trial. They have no right to contest their deportation, and that’s a criminal oversight on the part of our judicial system. You can argue that the bill doesn’t solve for people getting deported without question. Third, the deportation of permanent residents hurts their children. This bill will leave more innocent children hurt. You can argue one or all of these points in a negative speech.*

NEG – DHS Has Several Methods in Place to Arrest and Deport Permanent Residents

Immigration Defense, “San Francisco and San Jose Criminal Immigration Defense Lawyers Returning Legal Permanent Residents with Prior Crimes: Avoiding Traps and Pitfalls,” Daniel Shanfield, Accessed October 18, 2015, < <http://www.immigration-defense.com/Immigration-Defense/Permanent-Resident-with-Crimes.aspx> >

“HS is subjecting legal permanent residents to an ever-tightening noose, with the goal of identifying, detaining, and removing those non-citizens convicted of, or who are suspected to have committed, crimes in the U.S. or abroad.

In addition to actively investigating certain priority criminal violators, DHS has set up a series of passive "checkpoints" to identify non-citizens with criminal backgrounds. For instance, LPRs are required to submit to biometrics when applying for permanent residency, renewing an expiring I-551 green card, applying for a re-entry permit for extended foreign travel, when applying to remove the condition on permanent residency, or pursuing naturalization. They are also subject to investigation as petitioners for family members under the Adam Walsh Act, which prohibits citizens and permanent residents

convicted of certain sex offenses from petitioning family members for an immigrant visa, but in the course of DHS investigation, may also be found-out in connection with other offenses, and thereby subject to possible removal.

As federal and state law enforcement agencies have in the last several years effectively linked up their offender databases, these checkpoints have become extremely effective at identifying LPRs with law enforcement records, and at mistakenly sweeping up immigrants who do not.

The most perilous checkpoint however for LPRs is the Customs and Border Protection window at the U.S. airport or port of entry. Now, under US Visit and the DHS Northern Hemisphere Travel Initiative, returning LPRs must present their passports and I-551 green cards to gain entry into the United States, as well as submit a fingerprint scan. Now linked to the massive (and massively inaccurate) federal-state law enforcement database, LPRs who previously came and went in and out of the U.S. are now finding themselves being referred for deferred inspection and even being referred for removal and deportation proceedings, based on long ago arrests and convictions.”

TAKEAWAY – *This piece of evidence talks about the many ways that the Department of Homeland Security is already controlling permanent residents with criminal records. They have even combined databases in order to track permanent residents with criminal pasts. As the negative this is a huge status quo argument. The Department of Homeland Security is already monitoring permanent residents’ activities through several different methods. They’re tacking criminal activity and monitoring crime. There is absolutely no reason to pass this bill or put funding towards it.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how permanent residents are already being deported for crimes. The majority of them are being deported for minor, non-violent crimes. However, their deportations are affecting their children in a real and severe way. This article presents several possible arguments for a negative speech. One, clearly permanent residents are already being monitored in the status quo, so there's no reason to pass this bill. Secondly, we are deporting long term residents without a real trial. They have no right to contest their deportation, and that's a criminal oversight on the part of our judicial system. You can argue that the bill doesn't solve for people getting deported without question. Third, the deportation of permanent residents hurts their children. This bill will leave more innocent children hurt. You can argue one or all of these points in a negative speech.

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Legislation – A Resolution to End Single-Sex Education Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Single-Sex Education does not Generate Better Performing Students

Huffington Post “Single-Sex Education Does Not Improve Girls’ Self-Esteem, Math Achievement: STUDY”
Rebecca Klein, February 5, 2014 < http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/05/single-sex-education-research_n_4732906.html>

“Do students really learn better when separated by gender? New research indicates that they do not.

Study results released this week by the American Psychological Association found that students do not perform better in math, science or verbal subjects when they attend single-sex schools, or single-sex classes within coeducational schools. The research, which analyzed 55 years worth of data, refutes theories that adolescent girls thrive when separated from boys, and that boys perform better when they have a curriculum specifically tailored to them.

The research looked at data collected from 1.6 million students in 21 countries. A separate analysis of data from the U.S. was consistent with the rest of the findings.

According to the study, proponents of single-sex education argue that single-sex schools empower female students, especially in the math and science arena, as classrooms without males are more “supportive of girls’ academic achievement in counterstereotypic domains.” However, researchers found that single-sex education does not impact girls’ or boys’ math achievement, ideas about stereotyping or body image.

“Proponents of single-sex schools argue that separating boys and girls increases students’ achievement and academic interest,” study author Janet Shibley Hyde, Ph.D., of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said in a written statement. “Our comprehensive analysis of the data shows that these advantages are trivial and, in many cases, nonexistent.”

The researchers also attempted to measure whether or not single-sex e

TAKEAWAY – *This article gives some information that can be summarized by one sentence. “Do students really learn better when separated by gender? New research indicates that they do not.” As the AFF you should read the article and then argue that the purpose of having single-sex education has not proven to be successful. If there has been no sound benefit to this style of education, then this Congress has no reason to support it. You should pair the article with another argument to better instill why we should pass this Bill.*

AFF –Single-Sex Education is “Terrifically Difficult and Expensive”

University of Wisconsin-Madison “Study challenges claims of single-sex schooling benefits” David Tenenbaum, February 3, 2014 < <http://news.wisc.edu/22504>>

“Data was scarce regarding one disputed area: possible benefits for minority boys, Hyde says. “There has been some thinking that this would help ethnic minority boys, but we

did not find enough studies covering that topic. We urgently need high-quality study of these programs that make careful comparisons with coed schooling, comparing students with equal resources, to see if the single-sex configuration really makes a difference."

If single-sex schooling does not have demonstrable benefits, it does have downsides, Hyde says. "There is a mountain of research in social psychology showing that segregation by race or gender feeds stereotypes, and that's not what we want. The adult world is an integrated world, in the workplace and in the family, and the best thing we can do is provide that environment for children in school as we prepare them for adulthood."

On a practical level, Hyde adds that single-sex schooling is "terrifically difficult and expensive. If you have a single-sex 8th grade math class for girls, you need another for boys, and a third that's coed. Public schools have better places to put their money."

The study has other policy implications, Hyde says. "Federal regulations permit single-sex schooling in public schools only if there is a compelling educational interest. The kids would have to perform better and the evidence does not show that they do."

TAKEAWAY – *This article shows that single-sex education does not prepare students for the adult world, because it tries to simplify sex education, which is not a conducive way to learn. We live in an integrated world, and if students are only learning one side of equation, how can they be expected to understand the other side? As the AFF you should bring up the ways that single-sex education is more costly and difficult to manage. These can be the foundation of your argument and then add in the information from the article about the style of education not preparing students for the adult world. This will create a multi-leveled argument that is perfect for the affirmative side of this legislation. Beyond that, you can also argue that single-sex education promotes misconceptions about sex and sexual identity, because students are not able to empathize with the other sex.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article gives some information that can be summarized by one sentence. “Do students really learn better when separated by gender? New research indicates that they do not.” As the AFF you should read the article and then argue that the purpose of having single-sex education has not proven to be successful. If there has been no sound benefit to this style of education, then this Congress has no reason to support it. You should pair the article with another argument to better instill why we should pass this legislation.

The second article shows that single-sex education does not prepare students for the adult world, because it tries to simplify education, which is not a conducive way to learn. We live in an integrated world, and if students learning in environments with students of the opposite sex, how can they be expected to understand and work with them in the adult world? As the AFF you should bring up the ways that single-sex education is more costly and difficult to manage. These can be the foundation of your argument and then add in the information from the article about the style of education not preparing students for the adult world. This will create a multi-leveled argument that is perfect for the affirmative side of this legislation. Beyond that, you can also argue that single-sex education promotes misconceptions about gender roles, because students are not able to empathize with the other gender, because they have no experience with them.

Negative Evidence

NEG – Single-Sex Education Promotes more Effective Learning Atmospheres

Forbes “Single-Sex Education Belongs In The 21st Century” Nick Morrison, April 30, 2014 <
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/nickmorrison/2014/04/30/single-sex-education-belongs-in-the-21st-century/>>

“But while the nature of the study – analyzing 55 years’ worth of data – gives it authority, other work paints a different picture. Research in South Korea, for example, where students are randomly assigned to single-sex or co-ed schools, points to higher test scores and a higher rate of college attendance among single-sex school students.

Other research shows more localized effects. After looking at test and exam results from every state school in England, researchers at Bristol University [suggested](#) boys might do better in English if they were taught in single-sex classes, but maths and science were best taught in co-ed classes.

And the example of two English schools shows it is through localized interventions that single-sex education is being given a new lease of life.

At David Young Community Academy in the northern city of Leeds, pupils are taught in single-sex classes for English, maths and sciences. Principal Ros McMullen says the decision to move away from co-ed was taken to tackle a culture of low aspirations among girls. The school identified one of the key reasons for this was that the girls were more interested in impressing the boys than in studying.

“It is all contextual,” she says. “It is about the culture that the children come from. We needed to break that culture and allow girls to be clever.”

The solution was to remove the distraction – boys – in core subjects and the result is that while achievement overall has risen, among girls it has “rocketed”, says McMullen. Behaviour has also improved, although McMullen is wary of attributing too much effect to a single cause.

Around 60 miles further south, the Haywood Academy near Stoke-on-Trent has also introduced single-sex classes, although in this case solely in maths and only for middle-ability pupils. Assistant headteacher Mel Roberts says staff had identified that while boys were vocal in group work they were less enthusiastic about independent working. For girls, worried about looking stupid in front of the boys, it was the other way around.

The result of splitting pupils into all-boy and all-girl classes is that boys are more prepared to knuckle down to work on their own and the girls are more involved in group work. The project is still in its first year at the school but early signs are both genders are making better than expected progress.

As at David Young, the introduction of single-sex teaching was a response to a specific situation, in Haywood’s case the reluctance of girls to speak out in class. “It is making sure we get the balance right, and the balance was not necessarily right for both sets of students in mixed groups,” Roberts says. “Now the girls will do group work because they don’t feel intimidated.”

...Even so, she says it works only because of the school's particular circumstances. "It all depends on the aspirations and culture of the children," she adds. At Haywood, it is maths that is the factor. "I'm not saying it wouldn't work in other subjects," Roberts says. "But in maths, especially at that level, girls aren't particularly confident."

While debate will continue to rage about the merits of single-sex teaching, and research will no doubt continue to support one side or the other, it is perhaps in the solutions found by these two schools that a way forward appears. All-boys' and all-girls' schools will retain their devotees – and their detractors – but as a response to particular circumstances the future of single-sex teaching looks bright."

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains how there have been higher test scores and a higher rate of college attendance among single-sex school students. The result of splitting pupils into all-boy and all-girl classes is that boys are more prepared to knuckle down to work on their own and the girls are more involved in group work. As the NEG you can argue this point from several different angles. It might be easier to recall personal experience or just still directly with the information from the texts. Either way, you should show the other people in the Chamber that test scores and college attendance are the two largest factors measuring a school's success. And Single-sex education has other schools beat in this regard.*

NEG – Single-Sex Education Provides an Open and Secure Classroom Setting

NY Times "The Freeing Powers of Single-Sex Education" Edward Fergus-assistant professor of educational leadership and policy at New York University, March 10, 2015<
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/03/10/are-same-sex-colleges-still-relevant/the-freeing-powers-of-single-sex-education>>

"Years ago, during a classroom visit, I observed a small group of black and Latino high school boys sitting at their desks looking into handheld mirrors. They were tasked with answering the question, "What do you see?" One boy said, "I see an ugly face." Another said, "I see a big nose."

It was one of the many moments I observed in single-sex schools where black and Latino boys felt comfortable, and allowed, to express their emotions, changing notions about a one dimensional image of masculinity. Our society is partly responsible for the ways in which gender-based expectations can be reinforced and, over time, those expectations can help create vulnerable situations that lead to limited economic mobility, job opportunity and leadership development.

Single-sex schools allow black and Latino boys to feel comfortable and express their emotions, changing notions about a one dimensional image of masculinity. A benefit of single-sex environments is the opportunity for cognitive expansion that can exist alongside multifaceted displays of masculinity and femininity. In single-sex education, teachers make an understanding of race, ethnicity, linguistic diversity, masculinity, femininity and sexuality a profound part of their educational mission. Such identity-driven missions create protective environments, like the ones found in single-sex high schools like Urban Prep Academy and Eagle Academy, and colleges like Bryn Mawr, Spelman and Morehouse.

Overall, the closing of single-sex colleges like Sweet Briar may be more indicative of economic and demographic dynamics – stagnant high school graduation and college readiness, increasing college costs and the rise in online education – rather than a drop

in importance and relevance for environments where “Who I am” and “Who I want to be” take center stage. Those questions, safely explored, allow students to develop in healthy cognitive, social and emotional ways, with gender nonconforming values.

TAKEAWAY – *This article how single-sex education was designed to help students feel more comfortable in the classroom. Much like the first article, you can use personal experiences or just the text to prove how this is happening. As the NEG you should then argue that you need to ensure that students are comfortable before they will be successful. This is the same in the workplace and schools. Single-sex education allows that.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article explains how there have been higher test scores and a higher rate of college attendance among single-sex school students. The result of splitting pupils into all-boy and all-girl classes is that boys are more prepared to knuckle down to work on their own and the girls are more involved in group work. As the NEG you can argue this point from several different angles. It might be easier to recall personal experience or just still directly with the information from the texts. Either way, you should show the other people in the Chamber that test scores and college attendance are the two largest factors measuring a school's success. And Single-sex education has other schools beat in this regard.

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Legislation – A Bill to Legalize a Citizen’s Ability to Use Marijuana Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Marijuana Legalization Does Not Increase Teen Use

Washington Post “Teen pot use holds steady in first year of legal weed, new federal data show”

Christopher Ingraham, September 10, 2015 <

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/09/10/teen-pot-use-holds-steady-in-first-year-of-legal-weed-new-federal-data-show/>>

“Many opponents of legalization have warned that legal weed would lead to a spike in the number of teenagers using and abusing the substance. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has frequently said that legalization would “send the wrong message” to kids. Federal drug czars have often echoed a similar refrain.

But these numbers suggest that so far, national conversations about marijuana legalization haven’t led to an increase in teen use. This comports with the best available research on marijuana laws, which finds that marijuana laws have so far had little impact on overall teen use trends.

Nationally, 7.4 percent of kids age 12 to 17 use marijuana monthly, according to SAMHSA’s new numbers. That’s up by 0.3 percentage points from the prior year, a change that SAMHSA says is not statistically significant, but still significantly lower than levels seen in the early 2000s. There has, however, been a significant increase in the number of adults age 26+ smoking weed monthly, from 5.6 percent in 2013 to 6.6 percent in 2014.

The implication is that marijuana legalization in Colorado and Washington has had little to no effect on national teen marijuana use trends, but perhaps has contributed to the increase seen in adult marijuana use. SAMHSA will release state-level numbers later this year, which will give a clearer picture of what’s happening in Colorado and Washington.

If you’re an advocate of loosening marijuana laws , this is exactly what you want to see -- more adults using a substance that’s now legally available to them, with little impact on teen use.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how marijuana legalization has not affected teen use. While adult numbers have increased, one of the biggest arguments against marijuana legalization would be that it increased the use of marijuana with teenagers and pre-teens. That hasn’t been the case. Legalization of marijuana has had major effects on local economies, in a positive way, but have not had the negative effects that the negative would like you to believe. As the affirmative, you should argue that national legalization wouldn’t increase teen use, either, but would do a lot to increase jobs, pump money into our local economies, and lower the national debt.*

AFF – National Legalization Would Make a Thriving Business Even More Successful

CBS News, 60 Minutes Interview “The Marijuana Effect” Bill Whitaker, January 11, 2015 <
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/colorado-pot-marijuana-60-minutes/>>

“Update: According to new data released by Colorado and analyzed by the Marijuana Policy Group, Colorado's recreational dispensaries are estimated to ring up \$295 million in sales and \$51 million in tax revenue in 2014...

... Bill Whitaker: I mean, you say you're a business person. I think some parents would look at this and say, "She's just peddling drugs."

Meg Sanders: I can tell you that the drug dealer, illegal drug dealer on the corner in any state in this nation isn't carding, isn't checking your ID, isn't making sure you have a medical marijuana card or you're over 21. This industry does it every day, the stats show it. We've done a phenomenal job.

Mindful expects to rake in \$18 million this year, but it's not easy money. Colorado requires every plant grown by a licensed operator to be tracked from seed to sale. Each one has a barcoded radio frequency ID tag and is logged into a statewide database. Cameras watch it all. The goal is to keep every bud and bit off the black market...

... But the biggest cloud over the industry is banking. As long as the federal government continues to count pot proceeds as illegal drug money, most banks won't touch it. So Colorado's billion dollar marijuana industry is conducted almost entirely in cash: that's why Meg Sanders keeps a two-ton safe.

Bill Whitaker: So your payroll was in cash?

Meg Sanders: Payroll, rent.

Bill Whitaker: Taxes?

Meg Sanders: Taxes, licensing fees, Home Depot, vendors, you name it, our - our electrician, absolutely.

Bill Whitaker: All in cash?

Meg Sanders: Absolutely. From a public safety standpoint, it's definitely the number one issue that this industry faces...

... Today, you can walk into a Mindful dispensary and buy a joint for \$14.53. Business is good. Sanders is planning to expand.

Meg Sanders: We're creating. We're saying, "Please, trust us. We know that we can do this right."

Bill Whitaker: I do I remember when this was rolled out everyone thought that the sky was going to fall.

Meg Sanders: It's still there. (laugh) It didn't fall. And business is thriving. And the customers are still coming through the door. So clearly, if I'm looking at my business and I'm looking at those around me, the consumer is saying, "Yeah, this works."

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how much money marijuana legalization has brought into the state of Colorado, and how profitable marijuana is. Of course, that’s an easy sell. We know that marijuana legalization would bring in a lot of money, and would help solve a lot of the economic issues the United States is facing. As the affirmative, you should also argue that the state of Colorado would be even more profitable and free from corruption, thus free to grow and prosper, with national support. If the entire country were to legalize marijuana, we could increase job growth, increase money going into the economy, and decrease the national debt. On top of that, it would make a thriving business (like the one in Colorado) even more successful! Overall, it’s a win-win situation for this Congress, and we should be in affirmation of this bill.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how marijuana legalization has not affected teen use. While adult numbers have increased, one of the biggest arguments against marijuana legalization would be that it increased the use of marijuana with teenagers and pre-teens. That hasn't been the case. Legalization of marijuana has had major effects on local economies, in a positive way, but have not had the negative effects that the negative would like you to believe. As the affirmative, you should argue that national legalization wouldn't increase teen use, either, but would do a lot to increase jobs, pump money into our local economies, and lower the national debt.

The second article talks about how much money marijuana legalization has brought into the state of Colorado, and how profitable marijuana is. Of course, that's an easy sell. We know that marijuana legalization would bring in a lot of money, and would help solve a lot of the economic issues the United States is facing. As the affirmative, you should also argue that the state of Colorado would be even more profitable and free from corruption, thus free to grow and prosper, with national support. If the entire country were to legalize marijuana, we could increase job growth, increase money going into the economy, and decrease the national debt. On top of that, it would make a thriving business (like the one in Colorado) even more successful! Overall, it's a win-win situation for this Congress, and we should be in affirmation of this bill.

Negative Evidence

NEG – Negative Effects of Legal Pot

Fox News “Federally funded agency warns states considering legal pot” Kelly David Burke, October 7, 2015 < <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/10/07/federal-agency-warns-states-considering-legal-pot/>>

“States considering legalizing recreational marijuana should think again. That is the message of a federally funded agency which recently released a report on the negative effects of legal pot in Colorado.

"[Traffic] fatalities related to marijuana, it showed about a 28 percent increase [since legalization]," said Tom Gorman, director of the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, which compiled the report.

He said it also showed hospitalizations went up about 36 percent while "marijuana-related ER" visits went up around 30 percent. "Poison control calls [had] about a 72 percent increase. And all of this is within a year's period of time," he said.

RMHIDT is a federal grant program administered by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy that works with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to fight the trafficking of illegal drugs. For its report, "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado, The Impact," it compiled statistics from local, state and national databases.

Gorman said what was found should make other states considering legalization reconsider. "Look at Colorado really close and say ... is that something we want to do?" ...

... Gorman notes the report is always candid about the limitations of the data it uses, but says the overall trend the report shows is likely not what Colorado voters were hoping for when they passed an amendment to the state Constitution allowing recreational marijuana sales.

"I don't really think they thought about a whole industry growing up. I don't think they thought about the home grows in neighborhoods. If you look at the number of jurisdictions [in Colorado] who have now banned retail stores you're talking around 70 percent, so what is that telling you?"

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about the many negative effects of marijuana legalization in Colorado, which is a place where we can learn a lot about this particular issue. The information is pretty damning. As the negative, you should argue that we need to think about this more seriously before just passing it for financial reasons. While this is a cash-cow, what would it do to our national population? Do we need another legal drug on the street? Do we need to profit from the loss of people's lives? People legalized alcohol for the same reason, but as we know, driving under the influence of alcohol impairs perception. Marijuana does the same thing. This isn't something we should consider unless we're willing to deal with those consequences.*

NEG – Marijuana Legalization in Colorado Paints a Bleak Picture for National Legalization

Newsweek “The Unexpected Side Effects of Legalizing Weed” Marjorie Haun, June 6, 2015 <
<http://www.newsweek.com/unexpected-side-effects-legalizing-weed-339931>>

“Amendment 64 was approved of by 55 percent of Colorado voters in 2012. Promoted as a revenue-generating “regulate marijuana like alcohol” measure, its passage and ensuing repercussions caught many by surprise. Regulating marijuana like alcohol, it appears, is a breathtaking oversimplification of what is required to turn an illegal intoxicant into a viable commodity.

The citizen-led ballot initiative behind Amendment 64 went beyond simple decriminalization and created a new civil right by encoding the possession and use of pot into the Colorado State Constitution...

... Some farmers have expressed alarm over the potential of marijuana growing operations in close proximity to established crops. Plans for a medical marijuana facility in Palisade, a tiny farming town whose main crop is peaches, have peach growers worried about the potential spread of pests, molds and fungi from cannabis to their established orchards. The agricultural implications of the cannabis industry, it seems, were not a consideration at the time it became a legal crop.

The wave of enthusiasm following the passage of Amendment 64 has given way to a drip, drip, drip of unintended consequences. Law-enforcement issues, such as marijuana-intoxicated driving and the illegal movement of vast amounts of cannabis product into other states, are the tip of the iceberg.

Social and law-enforcement issues resulting from the Colorado interstate pot pipeline prompted Nebraska and Oklahoma to file lawsuits against the state, citing the fact that marijuana commerce violates federal law and increases the burdens of law enforcement in other states.

Other symptoms of Colorado’s pot culture include increased use among teens, resulting in educational problems in middle schools and high schools, a spike in “edibles”-related emergency room visits, consumption by children and pets resulting in illness and death and regulatory confusion surrounding public consumption and enforcement.

Colorado’s addiction to cannabis revenue may prove to be the most harmful implication of all. Towns such as De Beque, where cannabis is replacing coal and cattle as a means of income, imperil themselves by staking the future on a substance that is still illegal in most states and that half of Americans still regard as a social evil.

In 2014 and 2015, nearly \$6 million in pot revenues have been distributed to local governments. But the cost of increased law enforcement, drugged-driving incidents, fatal crashes, loss of productivity and a huge spike in gang-related crime bring into question the cost-benefit of those dollars.

Teen drug-related school expulsions are also on the rise. And the notion that prisons filled with minor drug offenders would be relieved of overcrowding—a selling point of legalizing marijuana—has been blown to smithereens.

Denver's homeless population has exploded since Amendment 64 went into effect. And there are indications that finite tourist dollars are going more to pot and less to Colorado's iconic natural wonders.

Cannabis is an intoxicant, proven to be dangerous to adolescents who use regularly, as well as to adults who are addicted to its calming, high-producing chemical, THC. But building a tax empire on a narcotic substance may be a dangerous proposition for the Centennial State.

Colorado's Cannabis-Industrial Complex cannot sustain a complex economy traditionally built on natural resources, agriculture, innovation and family-friendly tourism. The eyes of other states eager to legalize pot should be firmly fixed on the unfolding saga of towns such as Denver, Boulder and De Beque, Colo.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about the unintended consequences of legalizing marijuana in Colorado, and how it paints a not-so-flattering picture of national legalization. From increased use among teens, that leads to suspensions and lack of motivation, to overdosing on edibles, and traffic accident-related fatality increases, to creating an economic environment that solely depends on marijuana sales, to the complicated law processes that had to be invented after marijuana legalization, the federal government would have a lot to deal with if we passed this bill. If we think about the situation in Colorado as a pilot study of whether or not this will work, then we should argue that we shouldn't pass this bill, because there have been a lot of negative effects of legalization that the general public didn't perceive originally. In fact, it would also be a very unpopular decision, with support for legalization split right down the middle. This isn't a decision this congress should feel comfortable about making. There isn't enough information from the affirmative to prove this would be a worthy endeavor. But there's a lot of evidence from the negative side that proves it would be an unwise decision.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about the many negative effects of marijuana legalization in Colorado, which is a place where we can learn a lot about this particular issue. The information is pretty damning. As the negative, you should argue that we need to think about this more seriously before just passing it for financial reasons. While this is a cash-cow, what would it do to our national population? Do we need another legal drug on the street? Do we need to profit from the loss of people's lives? People legalized alcohol for the same reason, but as we know, driving under the influence of alcohol impairs perception. Marijuana does the same thing. This isn't something we should consider unless we're willing to deal with those consequences.

The second article talks about the unintended consequences of legalizing marijuana in Colorado, and how it paints a not-so-flattering picture of national legalization. From increased use among teens, that leads to suspensions and lack of motivation, to overdosing on edibles, and traffic accident-related fatality increases, to creating an economic environment that solely depends on marijuana sales, to the complicated law processes that had to be invented after marijuana legalization, the federal government would have a lot to deal with if we passed this bill. If we think about the situation in Colorado as a pilot study of whether or not this will work, then we should argue that we shouldn't pass this bill, because there have been a lot of negative effects of legalization that the general public didn't perceive originally. In fact, it would also be a very unpopular decision, with support for legalization split right down the middle. This isn't a decision this congress should feel comfortable about making. There isn't enough information from the affirmative to prove this would be a worthy endeavor. But there's a lot of evidence from the negative side that proves it would be an unwise decision.

Legislation – A Resolution to Restore Free and Fair Elections in the United States
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Unlimited Campaign Contributions Exclude Minorities and Decreases Trust in Government

NBC, “Supreme Court needs to uphold campaign contribution limit,” Raul A. Reyes, October 2013, <

<http://nbclatino.com/2013/10/07/opinion-supreme-court-needs-to-uphold-campaign-contributionlimits/>>

“The federal limits on political contributions have been upheld in the courts for nearly forty years. These limits ensure that the voices of Latinos and other Americans are not drowned out by the influence of wealthy individuals. They also promote public confidence in government and guard against corruption...

A Huffington Post poll this year found that only 12 percent of Americans think there should be no limit on the amount of money a person can donate to political candidates. The government does have a compelling interest in preserving the integrity of our electoral process. Money already gives the rich an oversized voice in politics.

Consider that in the 2004 presidential election, one wealthy zip code on Manhattan’s Upper East Side gave more cash to candidates than the 365 U.S. zip codes with the largest number of Hispanics combined. Or that the cap on giving...is more than twice the 2012 U.S. median household income of \$57,009, and more than three times the Hispanic median household income of \$39,005...

A 2011 CNN poll found that two-thirds of Americans believed that elections are for sale to candidates who raised the most money. Eighty six percent of the public thought elected officials in Washington D.C. were mostly influenced by their contributors. Unfortunately, the more disillusioned people become with our political process, the greater the chance there that they become apathetic about participating in it. This outcome could potentially be acute among Latinos, considering that only 48 percent of Hispanics turned out to vote in 2012.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how in terms of fairness, campaign contribution caps are necessary. This gives the voice to many members of our society, instead of just one. Think about it this way: most Americans have zero say in who becomes their party leader. Most Americans don’t know who the Presidential candidates will be until they appear on television, in front of a podium, debating with their opponents. Putting campaign caps takes the money out of politics, to an extent. It requires more people to be smarter and more widespread about their campaigns. This way allows more Americans of lower income to have the same economic impact on a campaign as someone who has a lot of money. As it stands now, a lot of Americans don’t trust the election system, because they feel under-represented. Passing this legislation would allow the state and federal government to investigate these concerns and either confirm or refute them with concrete evidence.*

AFF – Experts Agree, No Campaign Limits Puts Power in a Small Group’s Hands

The Leonore Anneberg Institute for Civics, “Should there be a limit on campaign donations from individuals?” Jeremy Quattlebaum, October 2013

< <http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/speakouts.aspx?name=should-there-be-a-limit-oncampaign-donations-from-individuals&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>>

“Attorney Fred Wertheimer, a proponent of campaign finance laws, argues that without the limit, ‘the speaker of the House or the Democratic leader of the House could go to Mr. McCutcheon and ask him for a check for well over \$2 million. It is that relationship – that \$2 million solicited by a powerful officeholder and given by a donor – that creates the corruption relationship that the court says Congress can prohibit.’

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr., representing the Obama administration, which supports campaign donation limits, argued before the court that if the limits were struck down, there would be a real risk of having ‘a government by and for the 500 people’ who will write the \$3 million checks to party officials.

‘It would be terrible for our democracy ... if one politician could directly solicit \$3.6 million from a single donor,’ said Lawrence Norden, an election-law expert with the Brennan Center, a liberal legal advocacy group in New York. ‘That is 70 times the median income for an American family. It would mean a tiny, tiny group of donors would wield unprecedented power and influence.’”

TAKEAWAY – *This article extends on an argument in the first article. Allowing people to give endless amounts of money gives too much power to those that can afford it. If you’re paying for someone’s campaign, you’re financing their entire campaign or a majority of it, then you could have a say in what they advocate. OR, people who can donate large sums of money will donate to those that have their same ideals. Like it or not, money plays a HUGE part in elections here in the United States. Too many people, in that case, aren’t represented by their elected officials. Campaign caps promote democracy – take the money out of politics, at least a little bit. As the affirmative you have to argue that there is strong evidence to support that campaign donations are a big enough problem to investigate and this piece of evidence helps to make that argument.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how in terms of fairness, campaign contribution caps are necessary. This gives the voice to many members of our society, instead of just one. Think about it this way: most Americans have zero say in who becomes their party leader. Most Americans don't know who the Presidential candidates will be until they appear on television, in front of a podium, debating with their opponents. Putting campaign caps takes the money out of politics, to an extent. It requires more people to be smarter and more widespread about their campaigns. This way allows more Americans of lower income to have the same economic impact on a campaign as someone who has a lot of money. As it stands now, a lot of Americans don't trust the election system, because they feel under-represented. Passing this legislation would allow the state and federal government to investigate these concerns and either confirm or refute them with concrete evidence.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – Campaign Limits Infringe on First Amendment

The Leonore Anneberg Institute for Civics, “Should there be a limit on campaign donations from individuals?” Jeremy Quattlebaum, October 2013

< <http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/speakouts.aspx?name=should-there-be-a-limit-oncampaign-donations-from-individuals&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> >

“The case, *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, pits wealthy Alabama businessman Shaun McCutcheon against the federal agency that monitors and enforces the laws concerning campaign finances...

McCutcheon likes to give money to candidates and political committees. He has donated thousands of dollars to campaigns; campaign finance laws prevent him from contributing more. Federal law limits the total amount that an individual can give during an election cycle.

McCutcheon argues that the money he spends on campaigns is how he voices his public opinion and that his right to free expression is protected by the First Amendment. He says the limit on the aggregate amount, or total amount, of donations infringes on his rights. In 2010, the Supreme Court decided in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that ‘independent’ spending on elections was a form of free speech protected by the Constitution. The decision allowed corporations and unions to spend an unlimited amount on candidate elections.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how campaign donations are a productive and positive way to express your political affiliation and public opinion. How do you support the person you want to win? You vote for them and you donate to their campaign, because they stand for the same thing you stand for. If you have more money to give than the average person, that’s not your fault and you shouldn’t be penalized for it. On top of that, in a Supreme Court case in 2010, it was found that campaign donation sizes were protected under the free speech amendment of the Constitution. If you can donate a lot of money, that’s your prerogative. If you can’t afford to donate, there are other ways to voice and show your support. Everyone does their part. American citizens shouldn’t be penalized because they’re able to do more. As the negative you should argue that there is no need to investigate campaign donations and spending, because it’s all part of the democratic process.*

NEG – No Harm in Big Donations as Long as the Public Knows - Limiting Donations Will Not Fix Corruption

Daily News, “Should There Be Any Limits on Campaign Finance? RedBlue America,” Ben Boychuk, Joel Mathis, October 2013 <<http://www.dailynews.com/opinion/20131011/should-there-be-anylimits-on-campaign-finance-redblue-america>>

“The Supreme Court ruled in its famous *Buckley v. Vallejo* decision in 1976, the government has an interest in regulating campaign contributions to guard against ‘quid pro quo’ corruption. Is government any less corrupt today as a result of an arbitrary cap? Are the candidates any better for it? To ask the questions is to answer them...

Fact is, the system favors the connected. Liberal justices may fret over far-fetched scenarios of hundreds of political action committees colluding to elect their favored candidates if individual contribution limits should fall. In reality, incumbency remains firmly entrenched.

Ninety-one percent of incumbents were re-elected to Congress last year.

And after more than a century of campaign finance “reform” aimed at taking “big money” out of politics, politics remains awash in the stuff. Total campaign spending in 2012 topped \$7 billion in 2012. When Justice Antonin Scalia dismisses \$3.5 million as not ‘a heck of a lot of money,’ this is clearly what he has in mind.

If we’re so worried about corruption in the process, then blast open the process. People already believe American government is the best democracy money can buy. Remove the limits. Let the money flow freely and transparently. If Shaun McCutcheon wants to give \$1,776 or \$177,600 to his favorite few dozen candidates, or bogeymen like George Soros and the Koch Brothers want to give millions to politics, so be it.

Just make sure everyone knows about it — and let voters judge accordingly.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how the caps never did what they were intended to do. Limits haven’t solved any of the problems. The original goal was to take the money out of politics, but US elections are still full of money. On top of that, taking money out of politics won’t fix corruption. First, there are ways around the campaign limitations that the morally-corrupt would obviously use if they were truly acting from a corrupted state of mind. Second, the people that give a lot of money still have an inordinate amount of influence on politics, whether you take their money out of it or not. Campaign caps are not how you fix politics. Let people donate what they want. Let the American public know what is being donated. Let Americans make that decision on their own. As the negative you have to argue that an investigation would make Americans even more doubtful of their government. Beyond that, campaign donations aren’t the problem—transparency is. Instead we should be talking about making a more transparent election system all around-not just investigating one tiny portion.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how campaign donations are a productive and positive way to express your political affiliation and public opinion. How do you support the person you want to win? You vote for them and you donate to their campaign, because they stand for the same thing you stand for. If you have more money to give than the average person, that's not your fault and you shouldn't be penalized for it. On top of that, in a Supreme Court case in 2010, it was found that campaign donation sizes were protected under the free speech amendment of the Constitution. If you can donate a lot of money, that's your prerogative. If you can't afford to donate, there are other ways to voice and show your support. Everyone does their part. American citizens shouldn't be penalized because they're able to do more. As the negative you should argue that there is no need to investigate campaign donations and spending, because it's all part of the democratic process.

The second article talks about how the caps never did what they were intended to do. Limits haven't solved any of the problems. The original goal was to take the money out of politics, but US elections are still full of money. On top of that, taking money out of politics won't fix corruption. First, there are ways around the campaign limitations that the morally-corrupt would obviously use if they were truly acting from a corrupted state of mind. Second, the people that give a lot of money still have an inordinate amount of influence on politics, whether you take their money out of it or not. Campaign caps are not how you fix politics. Let people donate what they want. Let the American public know what is being donated. Let Americans make that decision on their own. As the negative you have to argue that an investigation would make Americans even more doubtful of their government. Beyond that, campaign donations aren't the problem—transparency is. Instead we should be talking about making a more transparent election system all around-not just investigating one tiny portion.

Legislation – A Resolution to Include Hazing and Sexual Assault Training in Military Basic Training Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Sexual Assault is a Huge Cultural Problem in The Military

Common Dreams “Pentagon Hiding Data on Military Sexual Assault: Report” Nadia Prupis, May 4, 2015 < <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/05/04/pentagon-hiding-data-military-sexual-assault-report> >

“Sexual assault in the U.S. military is occurring at a much higher rate than the Defense Department has previously admitted, a new report released Monday revealed.

After investigating more than 100 sexual assault cases that took place on four large domestic military bases, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), a ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, released a damning critique of the Pentagon's response to the problem, which included what she said were lenient punishments and a culture of disbelief of the victims.

In the report, titled Snapshot Review of Sexual Assault Report Files at the Four Largest U.S. Military Bases in 2013 (pdf), Gillibrand looked at cases which occurred at the Army's Fort Hood base in Texas, the Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton in California, and the Air Force's Wright-Patterson Base in Ohio.

She found that nearly half of survivors who filed unrestricted reports later dropped their cases in the process of filing. And according to the DoD's most recent sexual assault report (pdf), “62 percent of women who reported a sexual assault perceived some form of retaliation—a rate unmoved from previous reports despite a commitment to change the climate,” the report states.

“I don't think the military is being honest about the problem,” Gillibrand told the Associated Press on Monday.

Spouses of military members and civilian women who live near military bases are also vulnerable to sexual assault, Gillibrand found. But they “remain in the shadows” because they are not counted in Defense Department surveys that assess the prevalence of sexual assault within the ranks.

In addition to its narrow scope, the Pentagon spent nearly a year hampering Gillibrand's effort to investigate sexual assault cases, the senator said.

In February 2014, she asked then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel for cases investigated and adjudicated at those four bases between 2009 and 2014.

It took until December for the Pentagon to supply Gillibrand with any data. Even then, the department only gave her files for 2013, which were heavily redacted.

“We requested this data to understand what happens when reports are filed, how they are investigated and move forward within the military justice system and needless to say, the more we learn, the worse the problem gets,” Gillibrand stated in a press release. The Pentagon's response “calls into question the department's commitment to transparency and getting to the root of the problem,” she continued in the report.

Of the cases analyzed, less than 25 percent went to trial, and only 11 of those resulted in a conviction. But those results differed vastly from the Defense Department's own report on sexual assault in the military, released Friday, which "estimated that sex crimes are decreasing and more victims are choosing to report them," the AP reports."

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how reports that show that rape in the military was on the decline may not be true, because a study that delved into reports showed that the military still wasn't reporting completely accurate numbers. Beyond that, the article also discusses the rate of people backing out after coming forward, and the rate of convictions are abysmally low. Overall, this article represents how large of an issue sexual assault in the military really is. It's not just that it's happening. There are issues with people reporting. There are issues with how it's being handled in military court. There are issues with retaliation once a report is made. It's indicative that the issue of sexual assault is engrained in military culture. The only way to fix culture is through reeducation. If we ever want to solve the military sexual assault epidemic we have to implement it into training. There is no easy fix when you're dealing with such a huge issue, but the best way to address it is from the ground up, which is why we must pass this resolution.*

AFF – 9 Examples of Military Hazing

The Richest, "10 Brutal Cases of Military Hazing," June 11, 2014, < <http://www.therichest.com/rich-list/most-shocking/10-brutal-cases-of-military-hazing/?view=all> >

"From news sources including The Military Times, The Navy Times, Vice and The Daily Mail, we've collated ten cases of the most bizarre, horrific – and sometimes fatal – military hazing rituals have entered the public sphere. Note that some graphic descriptions follow.

10. Sexual Humiliation

In April 2014, Cpt. Gregory McWherter was discharged from Naval Base Coronado in San Diego, and eventually reassigned. According to The New York Times, members of the Blue Angels' Aviators squad filed complaints that the Captain tolerated multiple incidences of lewd conduct. These were inappropriate comments, explicit humour, and even overt sexual "displays". It was reported the Captain encouraged such behaviour among the troops, a serious matter the navy has promised to investigate.

9. March Of The Humiliated

As reported in The Military Times, a Chief hazed female sailors by forcing them to march on board the Jason Dunham destroyer ship with bags of their own feces. The hazing was meant to be a form of punishment after a few of the sailors attempted to use toilets that were not working. When sailors ignored warnings not to use the toilets, all females were ordered to clean them, and 13 were ordered to march across the pier to dispose of the waste. The sailors were screened for infection because they were forced to clean the toilets without proper gear, such as gloves or mouth covers. As a result of the bizarre hazing, Cmdr. Kenneth Rice and Command Master Chief Stephen Vandergriff were fired for witnessing the activity without filing any reports.

8. Total Blackout

Aboard a Naval ship in San Diego, 8 officers were videotaped abusing and choking fellow sailors in a bizarre hazing ritual. The ritual was part of a rite of passage when a sailor was transferred to a new department. The sailor was choked so severely that he blacked out and had to be treated for injuries. As a result of the abuse, the 8 sailors involved were reported and discharged.

However, a number of the men told reporters the choking was merely “play wrestling” and “boys being boys”. David, a 20-year old junior officer, told reporters that he believed the Navy’s zero-tolerance policy on hazing is too strict.

7. Taking A Beating

Firefighters often experience the same kinds of camaraderie and brotherhood as soldiers do, as both groups must trust each other in high-pressure, dangerous and potentially life-threatening situations. In a ritual caught on video, new recruits to the Wuda District Firefighting No. 2 Battalion were physically assaulted by senior firefighters. The videos showed shirtless men kicking and slapping recruits, and smashing uniformed recruit’s heads on the wall. Although the recruits were also hit in the face with belts, they did not yell, scream, or ask the senior members to stop as they took their “rite of passage” beating.

6. Collapsing In Pain

In Battle Creek, Michigan, Sgt. Phillip Roach collapsed to the ground and suffered multiple seizures. He was participating in a military hazing ritual that forced him to take a blow to the chest with a large wooden mallet. Roach came forward about the hazing and was given duties that were below his rank. As a result of the blow, Roach suffered bruising, staples in his skull sustained from the fall, and a heart condition called commotio cordis that can be fatal “up to 65 percent of the time.” The Sergeant who hit Roach with the mallet faced reprimands.

5. Branding Military Students

Many reports of hazing come from the active soldiers in the military. But there are also reports of incidences that occurred in military schools that enroll teenage students. At the St. John’s Military School in Kansas, 339 students reported being subject to hazing and abuse by senior cadets. One student, Michael Kelly, testified in court that he was subject to beatings. He also stated that he was branded, a method of body modification usually for cattle where a symbol, word or shape is permanently burned into the skin. Andy England, the president of the school, told reporters that some students see branding as “a badge of honor.”

4. Machine Gun Suicide

Lance Cpl. Harry Lew, 21-years old, shot himself with a machine gun after a group of fellow soldiers hazed him one evening in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Jacoby was accused of kicking and punching Lew in the head and threatening bodily harm. Witnesses reported that Jacoby slapped the back of Lew’s head and threw sand in his face. Lew, a Chinese-American, was also the subject of racial insults and slurs. Jacoby and the other Marines involved were charged under Article 32 with “wrongfully humiliating and demeaning” Lew.

3. Harassment and Physical Abuse

Pvt. Danny Chen of the U.S. Army committed suicide just one day before he was going to be transferred to Afghanistan. According to witnesses, Chen suffered from severe stress due to prolonged hazing and harassment that took a significant toll on his mental health and on the performance of his regular duties. Sgt. Adam Holcomb is just one of the soldiers accused of hazing Chen. Allegedly, he referred to Chen using the racial nickname “Dragon Lady”, dragged him over sharp rocks, and forced him to crawl over dangerous terrain while beating him with rocks. Chen was only 19-years old when he took his own life.

2. Sexual Assault by Fellow Soldiers

In Fort Hood, Texas, Special Sergeant Jarrett Wright was sexually assaulted and violated by two Sergeants. According to Wright, all soldiers experience some form of initiation – but the same attack he experienced had been reported by several other specialists, indicating that sexual assault doesn't occur in isolated instances. Sgt. Josue A. Nunez-Byers, Sgt. Brian S. Cornell, and Sgt. Shane M. Newitt have all been court-martialed for crimes that include sexual assault, hazing, and breaking-and-entering. Wright insisted his name be printed in the Army Times where the story first appeared in order to “prevent future attacks” on other soldiers.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article gives 9 examples of hazing in the military. (The source itself isn't the most reliable, but they took these stories from The Military Times, The Navy Times, Vice, The Daily Mail, and other news sources). You could include any of these stories in an affirmative speech. They give insight to the horrific reality of hazing, and they help to give reasons why we must pass this resolution.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how reports that show that rape in the military was on the decline may not be true, because a study that delved into reports showed that the military still wasn't reporting completely accurate numbers. Beyond that, the article also discusses the rate of people backing out after coming forward, and the rate of convictions are abysmally low. Overall, this article represents how large of an issue sexual assault in the military really is. It's not just that it's happening. There are issues with people reporting. There are issues with how it's being handled in military court. There are issues with retaliation once a report is made. It's indicative that the issue of sexual assault is engrained in military culture. The only way to fix culture is through reeducation. If we ever want to solve the military sexual assault epidemic we have to implement it into training. There is no easy fix when you're dealing with such a huge issue, but the best way to address it is from the ground up, which is why we must pass this resolution.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – New Defense Bill Solving for Sexual Assault

Military Times “Rape cases to be handled differently” Patricia Kime, January 7, 2015
< <http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/capitol-hill/2015/01/07/sexual-assault-defense-department-national-defense-authorization-act/21390395/> >

“Among the changes to military personnel policy included in the fiscal 2015 defense policy law signed Dec. 22 are provisions to change the way the Pentagon handles sexual assault and rape cases.

The changes grant additional protections for victims and revamp administrative and legal procedures to ensure that commanders and investigative bodies take allegations of sexual assault seriously and properly handle criminal procedures...

... "This legislation further builds on our sweeping, bipartisan reforms that are changing how the military handles sexual violence," said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., a key proponent of overhauling the Defense Department's sexual assault prosecution procedures...

Pentagon officials reported in December that the estimated number of sexual assaults is down to 20,000 while reports increased in 2014 by 8 percent to 5,983 — a rise they say shows that progress is being made, both in preventing attacks and encouraging victims to come forward.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how the new defense bill signed last year, has new provisions that are reducing sexual assault in the military, and improving conditions in the armed forces altogether. The new regulations force commanders to be evaluated on whether they promote an environment where people can come forward, and also allows people to be charged more harshly for crimes of sexual assault. As the negative, you should argue that the new defense bill is already solving to decrease sexual assault cases in the military. This issue isn't in the training—the issue was in the institution, and the institutional flaws are already being addressed in the status quo.*

NEG – Hazing Is Bonding and Isn't Bullying

The Dogtag Chronicles, “Hazing In The Military,” Peter Sessum, March 29, 2012,
<<http://thedogtagchronicles.com/2012/03/29/hazing-in-the-military/> >

“One Infantry platoon I was in had a different tradition of hazing. They would grab the new guy, tape him up, cover him in talcum powder and shaving cream and drag him to one end of the hall. By the latrine door would be a knife so he could cut himself free.

Every time the new soldier would be giggling while trying to get down the hall. As soon as he would get loose, someone would slap a beer in his hand, pat him on the back and welcome him into the platoon then clear the way so he could go take a shower.

It is childish and stupid, but it was part of the process of becoming one of us...Hazing in many forms is a way of welcoming soldiers into the unit. On paper, hazing seems abusive and mean spirited, but it is in fact good natured and fun. Hazing is not abusive. I will say that again so there is no mistake, hazing is not abusive. When it becomes abuse, it is bullying. And there is a distinct difference...

The spirit of hazing is inclusive, it is one of those stupid things that bring units together. Messing with the new guys also lets you know what kind of man they are. If you can't take being told to get chem light batteries, a can of squelch for the radio, a box of grid squares, an exhaust sample for the mechanics, find soft spots in the armor or find some T-R double E (tree) batteries how are you going to handle it when the bullets start flying?

Everyone should be smiling, if not laughing, through the whole "hazing" process. It should be a bonding moment. It should not, however, make the subject feel bad. If the soldier feels bad about himself, the unit or the Army, someone screwed up big time...

Outright abuse is also not hazing, it is abuse. What Pvt. Danny Chen went through in Afghanistan last fall prior to him taking his own life was not hazing. That was harassment, abuse and assault. What his fellow soldiers did to him was a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and the code of values that military members are supposed to uphold."

TAKEAWAY – *This article was written by a soldier. He talks about the difference between hazing and downright abuse. Hazing is a rite of passage that bonds soldiers together. It's fun and necessary. There are examples of abuse in the military, and those are not okay. Abuse and hazing, however, are totally different things. Hazing is often a silly (like in the first 2 paragraphs), but it bonds soldiers together. This legislation confuses hazing and abuse. As the negative you should argue that hazing isn't an issue, and it shouldn't be included in the legislation.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how the new defense bill signed last year, has new provisions that are reducing sexual assault in the military, and improving conditions in the armed forces altogether. The new regulations force commanders to be evaluated on whether they promote an environment where people can come forward, and also allows people to be charged more harshly for crimes of sexual assault. As the negative, you should argue that the new defense bill is already solving to decrease sexual assault cases in the military. This issue isn't in the training—the issue was in the institution, and the institutional flaws are already being addressed in the status quo.

The second article was written by a soldier. He talks about the difference between hazing and downright abuse. Hazing is a rite of passage that bonds soldiers together. It's fun and necessary. There are examples of abuse in the military, and those are not okay. Abuse and hazing, however, are totally different things. Hazing is often a silly (like in the first 2 paragraphs), but it bonds soldiers together. This legislation confuses hazing and abuse. As the negative you should argue that hazing isn't an issue, and it shouldn't be included in the legislation.

Legislation – A Bill to Reform Sexual Education in Schools to Include a More Rounded Curriculum Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Sex Education in the US Inefficient and Ineffective

Aljazeera America “Comprehensive sex education is a human right” Erika L. Sanchez, September 28, 2015
< <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/9/comprehensive-sex-education-is-a-human-right.html>>

“Sex education continues to be under attack in the United States despite the overwhelming amount of evidence that a comprehensive curriculum can save young people’s lives. Teaching children about the importance of using condoms and getting tested for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, can keep them from making detrimental choices. Experts estimate that one person age 15 to 24 in the U.S. is infected with HIV every hour of every day. But while some developing countries such as Guatemala and Indonesia are taking important steps to improve their sex-education programs, our country keeps gutting them indiscriminately.

According to a new report from the Guttmacher Institute, only 22 states and the District of Columbia require that public schools teach sex education. Additionally, parents are allowed to opt their children out of sex education programs in 35 states and in D.C., while three states require parents to consent in order for their children to participate in such programs...

... To withhold critical, lifesaving medical information from young people is a violation of their human rights. Sexuality education should be mandatory, shame-free and medically accurate. No matter how much politicians, parents and educators wring their hands, adolescents will continue to have sex – and teaching them abstinence isn’t going to deter them from it. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 44 percent of female teenagers and 47 percent of male teenagers between the ages of 15–19 have had sex. If legislators keep chipping away at sex education programs, adolescents will not be equipped to make the best choices for themselves.

It’s essential to give children age-appropriate information about their sexual development. There are so many things I wish I had learned about sex when I was a girl: what bodily changes to expect, the mechanics of sex, STD prevention, masturbation. Instead, my sex education was full of shame and double standards. At school, some teachers judged the girls who became pregnant. I once asked an administrator why there weren’t any programs to educate students about safe sex, and he replied that it wasn’t the school’s place, that it should be taught at home. Meanwhile, at home, I was taught that sex outside of marriage was immoral.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how current sex education in the United States doesn’t give nearly enough information to teenagers to provide them with a healthy, medically-accurate view of their own sexuality, and sexuality in general. The writer of the article shares her own personal experience, and talks about how, when given accurate, comprehensive information, she could make more informed decisions about sex and pregnancy. While the negative might argue that this sort of thing should be taught at home, it isn’t being taught there. Unfortunately, sex is something that is shamed both at home and at schools. When teen pregnancy rates and teen STD-rates are running rampant, it disrupts the learning process, which makes it a bigger priority for schools. The status quo isn’t working, but comprehensive*

sex ed does work, and would improve the lives of millions of American teenagers and young adults.

AFF – Abstinence-Only Education Doesn't Work

ABC News “Study: Abstinence-Only Sex Ed Up” Accessed 10/10/2015 <

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=117935&page=1>>

“An increasing percentage of public school sexual education instructors are teaching students to “just say no to sex” as the only way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, a new study says.

Abstinence-only sex education now comprises 23 percent of sex education in the public schools the United States, up from 2 percent of the total in 1988, according to a survey of 4,000 seventh- to 12th-grade teachers by the Alan Guttmacher Institute survey, a non-profit health research organization in New York City and Washington D.C.

The study also found sex education today is much less likely to cover birth control, abortion, obtaining contraceptive and sexually transmitted diseases services, and sexual orientation, than it did in the late 1980s.

“Abstinence messages are very important, but clearly the coverage of contraceptive topics is also crucial in helping our youth prevent unplanned pregnancy and STDs,” says Sara Seims, president of the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

“Our findings are particularly disheartening considering that abstinence accounted for about one-quarter of the recent drop in the U.S. teenage pregnancy rate, while improved contraceptive use was responsible for the rest.”

Teachers apparently feel abstinence-only courses are not getting the message across, the study reveals. The vast majority of the teachers surveyed think students need to learn more, and at a younger age, about sexually transmitted diseases, correct condom use and how to resist peer pressure, as well as abstinence...

... While everyone agrees abstinence is clearly the most effective method for preventing pregnancy and STDs, many experts are worried the increase in abstinence-only instruction will leave many kids who are already sexually active in the dark about how to protect themselves.

There is no scientific evidence that abstinence-only programs work, according to Debra Hauser, vice president of Advocates for Youth, an international non-profit which provides information about adolescent reproductive and sexual health. A 1993 World Health Organization study on abstinence-only programs around the world that found they proved to be less effective than comprehensive sexual education programs.

“The [increase in abstinence only programs] is quite frustrating in an era of HIV and rampant STDs,” Hauser says.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about the valid point that, while abstinence is the best way to prevent unwanted pregnancy and std's, it doesn't always work. Some believe it isn't proven to work at all. Teenagers, despite being taught to remain abstinent, are still having sex. As a result, teenagers aren't prepared to protect themselves. Sex is something that is very*

complicated, and requires more than just a seminar, where someone repeats over and over again that you “shouldn’t have sex.” First, teenagers shouldn’t be shamed for their desire to have sex or for having sex. Second, teenagers need to be able to resist peer pressure, and to understand how their bodies and how other people’s bodies work. Third, teenagers should know how to use protection if they DO have sex, while understanding the best way to prevent std’s and unwanted pregnancy is NOT to have sex. Last, we should promote sex education that promotes shame and relies on unrealistic expectations. If teenagers are going to be sexually active, they should at least know how to protect themselves and understand the many intricacies of sex.

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how current sex education in the United States doesn't give nearly enough information to teenagers to provide them with a healthy, medically-accurate view of their own sexuality, and sexuality in general. The writer of the article shares her own personal experience, and talks about how, when given accurate, comprehensive information, she could make more informed decisions about sex and pregnancy. While the negative might argue that this sort of thing should be taught at home, it isn't being taught there. Unfortunately, sex is something that is shamed both at home and at schools. When teen pregnancy rates and teen STD-rates are running rampant, it disrupts the learning process, which makes it a bigger priority for schools. The status quo isn't working, but comprehensive sex ed does work, and would improve the lives of millions of American teenagers and young adults.

The second article talks about the valid point that, while abstinence is the best way to prevent unwanted pregnancy and std's, it doesn't always work. Some believe it isn't proven to work at all. Teenagers, despite being taught to remain abstinent, are still having sex. As a result, teenagers aren't prepared to protect themselves. Sex is something that is very complicated, and requires more than just a seminar, where someone repeats over and over again that you "shouldn't have sex." First, teenagers shouldn't be shamed for their desire to have sex or for having sex. Second, teenagers need to be able to resist peer pressure, and to understand how their bodies and how other people's bodies work. Third, teenagers should know how to use protection if they DO have sex, while understanding the best way to prevent std's and unwanted pregnancy is NOT to have sex. Last, we should promote sex education that promotes shame and relies on unrealistic expectations. If teenagers are going to be sexually active, they should at least know how to protect themselves and understand the many intricacies of sex.

Negative Evidence

NEG – Abstinence-Only Education Works Better Than Alternatives

The Heritage Foundation “Evidence on the Effectiveness of Abstinence Education: An Update” Christine Kim, Robert Rector, February 19, 2010 <
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/02/Evidence-on-the-Effectiveness-of-Abstinence-Education-An-Update>>

“Teen sexual activity is costly, not just for teens, but also for society. Teens who engage in sexual activity risk a host of negative outcomes including STD infection, emotional and psychological harm, and out-of-wedlock childbearing. Genuine abstinence education is therefore crucial to the physical and psycho-emotional well-being of the nation's youth. In addition to teaching the benefits of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage, abstinence programs focus on developing character traits that prepare youths for future-oriented goals. When considering effective prevention program aimed at changing teen sexual behavior, lawmakers should consider all of the available empirical evidence and restore funding for abstinence education.

Teen sexual activity remains a widespread problem confronting the nation. Each year, some 2.6 million teenagers become sexually active--a rate of 7,000 teens per day.[1] Among high school students, nearly half report having engaged in sexual activity, and one-third are currently active.[2]

Sexual activity during teenage years poses serious health risks for youths and has long-term implications. Early sexual activity is associated with an increased risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), reduced psychological and emotional well-being, lower academic achievement, teen pregnancy, and out-of-wedlock childbearing. Many of these risks are avoidable if teens choose to abstain from sexual activity. Abstinence is the surest way to avoid the risk of STDs and unwed childbearing...

... This paper discusses 22 studies of abstinence education. Sixteen studies examined abstinence programs that were primarily intended to teach abstinence. Of these 16 studies, 12 reported positive findings. The other six studies analyzed virginity pledges, and of these six studies, five reported positive findings. Overall, 17 of the 22 studies reported statistically significant positive results, such as delayed sexual initiation and reduced levels of early sexual activity, among youths who have received abstinence education. Five studies did not report any significant results...

... Abstinence-only Intervention. A 2010 study in the medical journal Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, published by the American Medical Association, concludes that an "abstinence-only intervention reduced sexual initiation" as well as recent sexual activity among a group of African-American adolescents.[16] Two years after attending an eight-hour abstinence program, about one-third of the participants had initiated sexual activity, compared to nearly one-half of the non-participants who enrolled in a general health program. That is, the abstinence program reduced the rate of sexual initiation by one-third. Moreover, abstinence program participants who became sexually active were not less likely to use contraception.

By contrast, the study also evaluated two alternative interventions, one that only taught contraception (i.e., the "safe sex" approach) and another that contained both abstinence

and contraception content (i.e., comprehensive sex education), and found that neither program delayed or reduced teen sexual activity.[17] Furthermore, these programs, whose main emphasis is on contraception, failed to increase use among adolescents...

... Although 80 percent of parents want schools to teach youths to abstain from sexual activity until they are in a committed adult romantic relationship nearing marriage--the core message of abstinence education--these parental values are rarely communicated in the classroom.[65]

In the classroom, the prevailing mentality often condones teen sexual activity as long as youths use contraceptives. Abstinence is usually mentioned only in passing, if at all.[66] Sadly, many teens who need to learn about the benefits of abstaining from sexual activity during the teenage years never hear them, and many students who choose to abstain fail to receive adequate support for their decisions.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about the reasons why abstinence-only education is so important, and how well abstinence-only programs work. According to many studies, including comparative studies, abstinence-only education works better than alternatives, including comprehensive sex education studies, at preventing sex initiation and teen pregnancy or std transmission. The article also goes on to discuss the toll that teenage sex has on the teens in question and on our society. The results are devastating, and if more teenagers were taught the importance of abstinence, and truly understood the value, then we teenagers would have a healthier view on sexuality and on abstaining from sex until marriage.*

NEG – Most Parents Agree, Sex Should Not Be Taught in Schools

Teaching Times, Imaginative Minds Group “Sex Education Should Not Be Taught In Schools” 2008-2015, Accessed 10/10/2015 < <http://www.teachingtimes.com/news/sex-education-schools.htm>>

“More than half of parents do not think sex education should be taught to children at school, according to a new survey.

Many think it is inappropriate to teach children about sex, whilst others think it should be a parents' choice to inform their own child, according to a poll by baby product website babychild.org.uk.

The survey, which questioned more than 1,700 parents of children aged five to 11, found that 59 per cent do not agree with the fact that sex education is often taught to children in schools, even from a young age.

Almost half (48 per cent) of those questioned said children should be at least 13 years old before it is appropriate to teach them about sex, the survey found.

Of those that don't agree that sex education should be taught in schools, 41 per cent said it was inappropriate to teach youngsters about the subject, while one in four (28 per cent) said it should be the parents' choice to teach their own child.

A similar proportion (27 per cent) said there was no need for children to know about sex...

... Babychild.org.uk co-founder Andy Barr said: 'I am not surprised by the results of the study, with the majority of parents against the idea of sex education in a school environment.

"This is a sensitive subject and parents have their own way to approach it and want to control what their children know, even more so at a young age."

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about a survey taken that shows that most parents believe that sex should not be taught in schools. The results aren't that surprising, since most parents like to have a hand in what their children know and learn about sex, without the opinions of teachers, school districts, local and state governments, and the federal government interfering with that. The government should stay out of such matters, and leave "sex talk" up to parents. It is not the government's place to teach teenagers and children about sex, and shouldn't be taught in schools at all.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about the reasons why abstinence-only education is so important, and how well abstinence-only programs work. According to many studies, including comparative studies, abstinence-only education works better than alternatives, including comprehensive sex education studies, at preventing sex initiation and teen pregnancy or std transmission. The article also goes on to discuss the toll that teenage sex has on the teens in question and on our society. The results are devastating, and if more teenagers were taught the importance of abstinence, and truly understood the value, then we teenagers would have a healthier view on sexuality and on abstaining from sex until marriage.

The second article talks about a survey taken that shows that most parents believe that sex should not be taught in schools. The results aren't that surprising, since most parents like to have a hand in what their children know and learn about sex, without the opinions of teachers, school districts, local and state governments, and the federal government interfering with that. The government should stay out of such matters, and leave "sex talk" up to parents. It is not the government's place to teach teenagers and children about sex, and shouldn't be taught in schools at all.

Legislation – A Resolution to Encourage the Creation of a Federal Shield
Law
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Media Privilege is Essential for Sensitive Information

Journalists and Confidential Sources, “Pros and Cons of the Federal Shield Law,” Accessed October 13, 2015, < <https://welfelaj13.wordpress.com/federal-shield-law/pros-and-cons-of-the-federal-shield-law/> >

“The most obvious reason for a shield law is encouraging anonymous sources to continue to confide and trust in reporters. She said, “Promises of confidentiality, protected by a shield law, allow journalists to obtain and report information from sources who only speak on condition of anonymity – information that might otherwise never be revealed. The accounting fraud at Enron and abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib are but two recent national stories that required confidential sources.”

In addition, proponents of the shield law cite the hundreds of journalist who have been issued subpoenas, and the list of journalists who have received jail time as a consequence of their unwillingness to participate in court hearings.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about the importance of journalist protection. If journalists don't have the promise of confidentiality, people will not report information. This information is sometimes critical and important info, like the fraud at Enron or the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. People have always relied on the press to release information that they wouldn't otherwise release. We must pass this resolution to ensure that the freedom of the press continues.*

AFF – Even In The Most Extreme Cases-Anonymity and Protection Are Important

The University of Chicago Law School, “We Need a Federal Journalist-Shield Law NOW,” February 21, 2007, < http://uchicagolaw.typepad.com/faculty/2007/02/we_need_a_feder.html >

“So how would a qualified privilege work at the federal level? The issue most often arises over matters of national security. Suppose, for example, a journalist reports that she has been informed by a reliable source that an unidentified major building in New York City will be blown up by terrorists the following day. It would seem irresponsible, indeed insane, to allow the reporter to refuse to disclose the identity of the source. Certainly, the government has a compelling interest in forcing the reporter to reveal the name of the source so it can attempt to track him down and possibly prevent the attack.

The trouble is that even in this situation, the matter is not free from doubt. Without the protection of an absolute privilege, the source might not have been willing to disclose the information to the reporter in the first place. Public officials are certainly better off knowing that a threat exists, even if they do not know the identity of the source, than knowing nothing at all. Thus, breaching the privilege in even this seemingly compelling situation might in the long-run prove counterproductive to protecting national security.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article presents a great point for an affirmative speaker. Negative speakers will probably try to say that in issues of national security, journalists should be forced to name their sources. This piece of evidence provides a rebuttal for that. Let's say a terrorist tells a reporter that they plan to bomb a building. The reporter lets the police know,*

but refuses to name the bomber. The journalist shouldn't have to name the bomber, because had there not been a promise of anonymity the bomber likely wouldn't have told the journalists about his plans. A Federal Shield Law would ensure that journalists could use their own discretion to determine what information to release to law enforcement. Without anonymity, there would inevitably be several dangerous secrets that would never be released.

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about the importance of journalist protection. If journalists don't have the promise of confidentiality, people will not report information. This information is sometimes critical and important info, like the fraud at Enron or the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. People have always relied on the press to release information that they wouldn't otherwise release. We must pass this resolution to ensure that the freedom of the press continues.

The second article presents a great point for an affirmative speaker. Negative speakers will probably try to say that in issues of national security, journalists should be forced to name their sources. This piece of evidence provides a rebuttal for that. Let's say a terrorist tells a reporter that they plan to bomb a building. The reporter lets the police know, but refuses to name the bomber. The journalist shouldn't have to name the bomber, because had there not been a promise of anonymity the bomber likely wouldn't have told the journalists about his plans. A Federal Shield Law would ensure that journalists could use their own discretion to determine what information to release to law enforcement. Without anonymity, there would inevitably be several dangerous secrets that would never be released.

Negative Evidence

NEG – Three Reasons Journalists Oppose a Federal Shield Law

Southern Methodist University, “Pederson discusses pros and cons of reporter privilege,” Tony Pederson, SMU’s Belo Distinguished Chair in Journalism, November 15, 2007, <

<http://blog.smu.edu/forum/2007/11/15/pederson-discusses-pros-and-cons-of-reporter-privilege/> >

“The first is that many journalists historically have said that the First Amendment is sufficient – and in fact that even to acknowledge a need for a shield law essentially admits that the First Amendment is not sufficient to protect reporter privilege.

The second argument typically has been that any shield law has to define a journalist – and once that is defined in any type of statute, there is a tendency on the part of governments to limit who can be a journalist. If you look at Asia, Latin America, at many countries in Europe, there are licensing provisions concerning who can be a journalist and processes in place that are necessary to complete before anyone can be a journalist. This has never been the tradition in the United States, which has been very open. No one needs any type of education credentials or to pass a test. No one needs to do anything except go to work. That is a very strong free-press tradition, and one that is very important when looking at the history of reporter privilege.

The third argument has been that anything a legislative body grants, it can take away. We have seen this in a number of issues dealing with access to information, as well as with various other laws that have impacted the free flow of information.”

TAKEAWAY – *This piece of evidence presents reasons why JOURNALISTS don’t want a federal shield law. The first reason is that by admitting that there is a need for a shield law, we are admitting that press privilege isn’t covered in the first amendment. A federal Shield Law is superfluous when the first amendment already says that the press has privilege. Beyond that, the press will have to admit that the constitution isn’t enough and cling to a law which can change with time. The constitution is historically much harder to change. Secondly, passing this resolution would inevitably require defining journalists and media professionals. Journalism and free media has always been an industry free of labels and requirements. It’s based totally on skill and work ethic. If we pass a Federal Shield Law it will require us to define these professionals (i.e., a journalist is defined as someone who has a Bachelor’s Degree or higher in journalism, etc.). Third, while already touched on a bit, if a Federal Shield Law is passed, it can easily be amended or taken away, leaving the press with nothing, not even the first amendment to stand on. If you speak in negation you can argue that journalists and free media don’t want a Federal Shield Law.*

NEG – Everyone Can Be a Journalist and a Federal Shield Law Would Need to Protect Every Citizen—Not Just Journalists

Gigaom, “Acts of journalism: Why we need to be skeptical of a shield law for professional journalists,”

Mathew Ingram, October 21, 2013, < <https://gigaom.com/2013/10/21/acts-of-journalism-why-we-need-to-be-skeptical-of-a-shield-law-for-professional-journalists/> >

“Free Press, staffer Josh Stearns goes into some depth on this topic, providing a number of tangible examples of how difficult it is to come up with legal definitions that cover all of the potential ways in which individuals can act as journalists – without fitting what we normally think of as the journalist label:

- **Nineteen-year-old Karina Vargas** was taking the train home in California when she saw police using excessive force on a young man at the station in Oakland — so she pulled out her cellphone and recorded a video of the conflict, which resulted in the shooting of Oscar Grant. Police tried to confiscate the video but she refused, and the footage was later used in a courts case against the officer who shot Grant.
- **Justin Auciello of New Jersey** — an urban planner with no background or experience in journalism — started a Facebook page about hurricane damage on the Jersey Shore that evolved into a full-fledged news site for journalism about the under-covered area, one that has been honored by the White House for its community service and is used by other media outlets for research in the area.
- **Lee Roy Chapman, an amateur historian** in Oklahoma, started researching the founder of Tulsa and discovered information about him that had never been reported before, and spent years digging through public records in several states to pull together a story about the violence and racism of the city’s founder that no mainstream media outlet in the state would likely ever have printed.

The point about videotaping or recording police and other authorities and then making that information public is a crucial aspect of this issue, since there have been a number of cases in which the police have confiscated such videos under the mistaken impression that they are legally allowed to do so. In a decision in one such case, Justice Kermit Lipez of the First Circuit Court of Appeals described why the First Amendment’s protections for free speech need to apply to everyone, not just accredited journalists.”

TAKEAWAY – *This piece of evidence talks about how in today’s age everyone’s a journalist. (It gives 3 examples of non-traditional journalists). Someone recording a video and posting it online is a form of journalism. A Federal Shield Law is silly, because in today’s world, we need legislation that will protect everyone. That legislation already exists in the constitution. Free media DOES need protection, but a Federal Shield Law will inevitably only extend protection to a certain group of journalists, and that is limiting.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first piece of evidence presents reasons why JOURNALISTS don't want a federal shield law. The first reason is that by admitting that there is a need for a shield law, we are admitting that press privilege isn't covered in the first amendment. A federal Shield Law is superfluous when the first amendment already says that the press has privilege. Beyond that, the press will have to admit that the constitution isn't enough and cling to a law which can change with time. The constitution is historically much harder to change. Secondly, passing this resolution would inevitably require defining journalists and media professionals. Journalism and free media has always been an industry free of labels and requirements. It's based totally on skill and work ethic. If we pass a Federal Shield Law it will require us to define these professionals (i.e., a journalist is defined as someone who has a Bachelor's Degree or higher in journalism, etc.). Third, while already touched on a bit, if a Federal Shield Law is passed, it can easily be amended or taken away, leaving the press with nothing, not even the first amendment to stand on. If you speak in negation you can argue that journalists and free media don't want a Federal Shield Law.

The second piece of evidence talks about how in today's age everyone's a journalist. (It gives 3 examples of non-traditional journalists). Someone recording a video and posting it online is a form of journalism. A Federal Shield Law is silly, because in today's world, we need legislation that will protect everyone. That legislation already exists in the constitution. Free media DOES need protection, but a Federal Shield Law will inevitably only extend protection to a certain group of journalists, and that is limiting.

Legislation – A Resolution to Repeal the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States and Japan

Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Japan-US Relations in Good Shape

Foreign Policy “How Strong Is the U.S.-Japan Relationship?” Bruce Stokes, April 14, 2015 <
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/14/united-states-japan-relationship-poll-washington-tokyo/>>

“Looking ahead, Americans generally support keeping the U.S. relationship with Japan about where it is, both economically and strategically. When asked whether they would prefer the United States to be closer to Japan, less close, or about as close to Japan as it has been in recent years, 38 percent say closer, 45 percent say about as close, and only 13 percent would like to distance the United States from Japan. There is, however, a generation gap in viewing the future of the relationship: 41 percent of younger Americans would like to see closer ties, but only 27 percent of older Americans would. And there is partisan disagreement on the trajectory of the relationship with Japan: Democrats (41 percent) are more likely than Republicans (30 percent) to support closer ties.

China looms large in the minds of both Americans and Japanese in their consideration of the U.S.-Japan relationship. Only 30 percent of Americans and just 7 percent of Japanese trust China. One reason Americans may trust China more is that only 16 percent say they have heard a lot about territorial disputes between China and neighboring countries...

... At the same time, the American public is divided over whether Japan should play a more active military role in helping to maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region: 47 percent would like to see Tokyo take a more active role and 43 percent would prefer that Japan limit its role. Americans who trust Japan are more likely to want to see Tokyo play a greater strategic role in the region. And Americans who do not trust China are also more likely to want to see Japan take on more of the military burden in Asia...

Japan and the United States have deeply rooted economic and strategic bonds. But, since both nations are functioning democracies, those ties also depend on the attitudes of the Japanese and American people. Seven decades after a horrific war, and despite serious trade frictions in the past and a new challenge posed by China, Americans and Japanese share a mutual trust and respect that is the glue of the relationship.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about public opinion of US-Japan relations, and also talks about the actual state of relations between the two countries. Japan is one of the United States’ biggest allies, and we work hand-in-hand on many fronts. The act in question holds our relationship back, and doesn’t allow Japan to have more control over its own defenses. To show that we are confident in our relationship with Japan, we must repeal this act as a sign of solidarity, and reinforce the trust we have in their nation.*

AFF – Japan is Held Back by American Control

Japan Times “Dependence day: Japan’s lopsided relationship with Washington” Karel Van Wolferen, August 15, 2015 <
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/08/15/national/history/dependence-day-japans-lopsided-relationship-washington/#.Vhs4AflVhBd>>

“Of all the post-World War II changes in Japan, the most momentous is that it never regained the status of a genuinely independent country.

Tokyo cannot act freely by choosing what is likely to be most beneficial for itself or the region. Productive diplomacy between Japan and its neighbors is obstructed because of limitations imposed by a United States that treats Japan as if it were a protectorate rather than a sovereign country. Having followed the dynamics of the U.S.-Japan relationship for more than half a century, I can only conclude that Japan bends to American wishes because its representatives do not insist that it be treated as a sovereign state. Washington can get away with bullying Japan because it knows that national pride is not a problem with either media or political representatives. Some scrutiny of recent history makes that again very obvious...

... The lopsided relationship of the two nations and Japan’s fundamental subservience, which Hatoyama had wanted to do something about, had for decades worked very well. It is unlikely that Japan would have had its proverbial economic miracle without it. Washington allowed Japan to wall off its financial system from the rest of the world, and allowed full-speed expansion of Japanese market shares in the U.S. to the considerable disadvantage of American domestic industry...

... The world that witnessed the birth of the Cold War alliance no longer exists. Most importantly, Japan’s foreign affairs and defense bureaucrats, and politicians who make it to the U.S.-Japan interface are no longer dealing with the same country they dealt with and could manipulate to a considerable extent for decades.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how Japan has their hands tied by American control over their policy making, including militarily. Japan hasn’t been allowed to become a true independent country again, since this agreement was put in place. The article also goes on to say that the two countries are completely different than they used to be, and it’s important now for Japan to develop itself as a prominent figure in the international community. This agreement, and ones like it, were important to keep Japan secure and to build the relationship between the United States and Japan. That job is done, and it’s time to move on.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about public opinion of US-Japan relations, and also talks about the actual state of relations between the two countries. Japan is one of the United States' biggest allies, and we work hand-in-hand on many fronts. The act in question holds our relationship back, and doesn't allow Japan to have more control over its own defenses. To show that we are confident in our relationship with Japan, we must repeal this act as a sign of solidarity, and reinforce the trust we have in their nation.

The second article talks about how Japan has their hands tied by American control over their policy making, including militarily. Japan hasn't been allowed to become a true independent country again, since this agreement was put in place. The article also goes on to say that the two countries are completely different than they used to be, and it's important now for Japan to develop itself as a prominent figure in the international community. This agreement, and ones like it, were important to keep Japan secure and to build the relationship between the United States and Japan. That job is done, and it's time to move on.

Negative Evidence

NEG – US Presence in Japan Important

Council on Foreign Relations “The U.S.-Japan Security Alliance” Beina Xu, July 1, 2014 <
<http://www.cfr.org/japan/us-japan-security-alliance/p31437>>

“At the time, the United States was keen on keeping its presence in Japan and using the alliance to bolster its strategic presence in East Asia. It faced a divided Korean peninsula in the wake of the Korean War, and a Cold War climate in which Chinese and Soviet militaries were expanding their breadth and capabilities. Against this security backdrop, Yoshida's government created the Self-Defense Force (SDF) in 1954, despite strong domestic objections based on Article Nine of the postwar constitution, which eschews the maintenance of military forces or the use of those forces to settle international disputes.

"With the ebb and flow of what's going on in the region, these are two countries that are highly incentivized to make this work." —Jennifer Lind

Japan had assumed a minimal military role within the alliance in the early post–World War II years, interpreting the constitution to prevent the overseas deployment of Japanese troops. The value of the security pact to Washington, however, was the use of Japanese bases that allowed for the forward deployment of U.S. forces in Asia. The U.S. military used Japanese bases for combat operations during the Vietnam War, which drew vehement opposition in Japan and triggered fears of entrapment within the security alliance. In 1967, then prime minister Sato Eisaku enacted the Three Non-Nuclear Principles—no possession, production, or introduction—in part to allay concerns that the presence of nuclear arms on U.S. bases in Japan would expose the country to attacks. Since then, Japan has relied on the U.S. nuclear umbrella for extended deterrence.

In the 1970s, Japan began to increase its role within the alliance, while the United States disengaged from the Vietnam War. In 1976, Japan put out a National Defense Program Outline, its first comprehensive postwar defense strategy. Two years later, the 1978 Guidelines for Defense Cooperation it signed with the United States established a framework for the roles between the two militaries for Japan's defense. Washington and Tokyo began joint studies on interoperability and, most notably, launched joint training and exercises. The 1990–91 Gulf War prompted a new debate in Japan about SDF participation in UN-sponsored peacekeeping operations. A new law was adopted stipulating the conditions for SDF deployment abroad in UN peacekeeping operations, and the first SDF unit was sent to Cambodia...

... Some experts have defined the modern-day alliance to be more inclusive, advocating initiatives such as trade and energy cooperation as the road to a future framework. "This is bigger than just the military. These are instruments we use to improve our own national prosperity and security, and that's fundamentally what this alliance should be about," Smith says.

The multilateral Trans-Pacific Partnership has been a highly promising economic development that observers hope will tighten the alliance. After the Fukushima nuclear disaster forced Japan to reconsider its energy policies, Washington agreed to a long-term

liquefied natural gas export deal with Japan that could see the United States become a supplier for the island country.

"This is the most relevant the alliance has been in a long time," says Lind. "With the ebb and flow of what's going on in the region, these are two countries that are highly incentivized to make this work."

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan is necessary to a continued relationship with Japan. First, it is important to maintain a presence in Asia, and this allows us to do that. Second, we utilize our military umbrella to continue a positive and healthy relationship with Japan that reaches farther than just military. Beyond that, Japan does have a military, and it should remain a priority of the United States to keep a stronghold in Asia and to continue to help protect Japan.*

NEG – New Agreement with Japan Solves for Legislation Issues

USNI News “Inside the New U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines” Kyle Mizokami, April 29, 2015 <
<http://news.usni.org/2015/04/29/inside-the-new-u-s-japan-defense-guidelines>>

“On Monday the United States and Japan agreed to the most sweeping changes to their bilateral alliance in more than fifty years. The so-called “2+2” Security Consultative Committee (SCC), consisting of the U.S. secretary of state, and secretary of defense, and Japan’s foreign minister and defense minister agreed to a series of initiatives that will draw the two allies even closer in defense and security matters.

The SCC agreed on the so-called Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation, which will supplement the 1960 Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America. The overall goal is tighter, more seamless cooperation between the two countries on a raft of security issues, from ballistic-missile defense to mutual logistical support and cyber warfare.

The primary benefit to the United States will be a more capable alliance partner, as the Japan Self-Defense Forces (SDF) will be empowered to protect American assets and work more closely with their American counterparts. On the Japanese side, the agreement will help Japan break out of constraints on the SDF and the use of force, in line with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s vision of normalizing Japan’s security situation...

...The cornerstone of the U.S.-Japan alliance continues to be a joint dedication to the defense of Japan. Under the guidelines, in the event Japan were to come under some form of attack, Japan would assume primary responsibility for its own defense, including its surrounding waters and airspace, and air and maritime approaches. This also includes chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) attacks. The United States would provide a supporting and supplementary role.

The guidelines allude to an offensive role for United States forces in wartime. “The United States will take actions to shape the regional environment in a way that supports the defense of Japan and reestablishes peace and security.” That is a reference to offensive action leading to a termination of hostilities, activities the SDF cannot constitutionally provision themselves to conduct.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how there is a new agreement in place between the United States and Japan that allows Japan to be more responsible for its own defense. This is necessary in the current political climate, but also solves for the issues presented in this legislation. There is no point in repealing the act in question, because it doesn't present the same issues illustrated in the status quo.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan is necessary to a continued relationship with Japan. First, it is important to maintain a presence in Asia, and this allows us to do that. Second, we utilize our military umbrella to continue a positive and healthy relationship with Japan that reaches farther than just military. Beyond that, Japan does have a military, and it should remain a priority of the United States to keep a stronghold in Asia and to continue to help protect Japan.

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Finals
Legislation – A Resolution to Mandate the Labeling of Genetically Modified
Foods
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Labels on Food Containers Increases Consumer Confidence

Huffington Post “GMO Labels May Reassure, Encourage Sales, Not Scare Consumers Away” David Ropeik, Author of 'How Risky Is It, Really?', May 15, 2015

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-ropeik/gmo-labels-may-reassure-e_b_7288390.html

“Opponents of genetically modified food claim that their demand for labeling is only intended to provide choice for consumers. In truth, as many of them have said, they hope that labels will scare people away from buying such products and kill GMO technology itself. But a new survey suggests that by giving consumers choice, labels might actually reassure and encourage sales, more than scare and dissuade.

The monthly Food Demand Survey by Jayson Lusk at Oklahoma State asks several questions about labeling and choice that I proposed to Lusk, based on the risk perception research of Paul Slovic and others who have found that when we engage in a potential risk voluntarily, the very fact that we are taking a possible risk by choice makes the risk feel less scary. Slovic's research on risk perception has also established that if we trust the government agencies that are supposed to protect us, we'll be less afraid, which suggests that a government/FDA label should also reassure, since we trust FDA food labels in general. Lusk asked about that too.

His survey asked whether "requiring mandatory labels on genetically modified food would increase the confidence I have in the safety of genetically engineered food. On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) a majority of respondents (3.49) said that labels would reassure. And he asked whether "The presence of a 'contains genetically engineered ingredients label', by providing choice, would encourage me to consider buying a product. A slight majority (3.14) said yes...

...To be sure, the results are equivocal. Lusk also asked if "Seeing a label indicating the presence of genetically engineered ingredients on a food product would increase the likelihood I'd buy the product." A slight majority said no, it wouldn't. And the numbers were not overwhelmingly clear for any question (except for the one about whether people support labeling in general, which got a 3.86 out of 5).

But the results do suggest that GMO labels won't produce the fear and rejection of products that GMO opponents hope. This supports the case that I and others have made, that the fear of lost sales on the part of food companies is overblown, and that while labels might cost some sales, the overall effect of labels would be to encourage purchases more than scare them away.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains how an accurate and accountable label on containers help ensure customer confidence. As the AFF you should argue that by passing this legislation, we are supporting the built-in incentive of companies gaining customer trust and in return increasing their profitability. This bill not only addresses the issue of consumer safety, but does so in a way that benefits the companies in question. That’s a win-win.*

AFF – Congress has Promoted the Use of GMO’s, Consumers Deserve to be Informed

International Business Times, “Monsanto Protection Act: 5 Terrifying Things To Know About The HR 933 Provision” Connor Sheets, March 27, 2013

<http://www.ibtimes.com/monsanto-protection-act-5-terrifying-things-know-about-hr-933-provision-1156079>

“The "Monsanto Protection Act" is the name opponents of the Farmer Assurance Provision have given to this terrifying piece of policy, and it's a fitting moniker given its shocking content.

President Barack Obama signed a spending bill, HR 933, into law on Tuesday that includes language that has food and consumer advocates and organic farmers up in arms over their contention that the so-called "Monsanto Protection Act" is a giveaway to corporations that was passed under the cover of darkness.

There's a lot being said about it, but here are five terrifying facts about the Farmer Assurance Provision -- Section 735 of the spending bill -- to get you acquainted with the reasons behind the ongoing uproar:

1.) The "Monsanto Protection Act" effectively bars federal courts from being able to halt the sale or planting of controversial genetically modified (aka GMO) or genetically engineered (GE) seeds, no matter what health issues may arise concerning GMOs in the future. The advent of genetically modified seeds -- which has been driven by the massive Monsanto Company -- and their exploding use in farms across America came on fast and has proved a huge boon for Monsanto's profits.

But many anti-GMO folks argue there have not been enough studies into the potential health risks of this new class of crop. Well, now it appears that even if those studies are completed and they end up revealing severe adverse health effects related to the consumption of genetically modified foods, the courts will have no ability to stop the spread of the seeds and the crops they bear.

2.) The provision's language was apparently written in collusion with Monsanto. Lawmakers and companies working together to craft legislation is by no means a rare occurrence in this day and age. But the fact that Sen. Roy Blunt, Republican of Missouri, actually worked with Monsanto on a provision that in effect allows

them to keep selling seeds, which can then go on to be planted, even if it is found to be harmful to consumers, is stunning. It's just another example of corporations bending Congress to their will, and it's one that could have dire risks for public health in America.

3.) Many members of Congress were apparently unaware that the "Monsanto Protection Act" even existed within the bill they were voting on. HR 933 was a spending bill aimed at averting a government shutdown and ensuring that the federal government would continue to be able to pay its bills. But the Center for Food Safety maintains that many Democrats in Congress were not even aware that the provision was in the legislation:

“In this hidden backroom deal, Sen. [Barbara] Mikulski turned her back on consumer, environmental and farmer protection in favor of corporate welfare for biotech companies such as Monsanto,” Andrew Kimbrell, executive director of the Center for Food Safety, said in a statement. “This abuse of power is not the kind of leadership the public has come to expect from Sen. Mikulski or the Democrat Majority in the Senate.”

4.) The President did nothing to stop it, either. On Tuesday, Obama signed HR 933 while the rest of the nation was fixated on gay marriage, as the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral argument concerning California's Proposition 8. But just because most of the nation and the media were paying attention to gay marriage doesn't mean that others were not doing their best to express their opposition to the "Monsanto Protection Act." In fact, more than 250,000 voters signed a petition opposing the provision. And Food Democracy Now protesters even took their fight straight to Obama, protesting in front of the White House against Section 735 of the bill. He signed it anyway.

5.) It sets a terrible precedent. Though it will only remain in effect for six months until the government finds another way to fund its operations, the message it sends is that corporations can get around consumer safety protections if they get Congress on their side. Furthermore, it sets a precedent that suggests that court challenges are a privilege, not a right.

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains how certain legalities made by congress allows companies to alter organisms in accordance with FDA regulations. As the AFF you should read over this article; explain the way the congress has allowed and supported the use of GMOs and argue that it is now our responsibility to ensure the consumer of informed. This bill is only mandating that information is shared to the customer and if this Congress continues to allow the use of GMOs; the customers have the right to know.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article explains how an accurate and accountable label on containers help ensure customer confidence. As the AFF you should argue that by passing this legislation, we are supporting the built in incentive of companies gaining customer trust and in return increasing their profitability. This bill not only addresses the issue of consumer safety, but does so in a way to benefits the companies in question. That's a win-win.

The second article explains how certain legalities made by congress allows companies to alter ingredients in accordance with FDA regulations. As the AFF you should read over this article and explain the way the congress has allowed and supported the use of GMOs and argue that it is now a reasonability to ensure the consumer of informed. This bill is only mandating that information is shared to the customer and if this Congress continues to allow the use of GMOs; the customers have the right to know.

Negative Evidence

NEG – Use of GMO’s is Meant to Support the Economy, Not Our Food Supply

National Geographic “Is Genetically Engineered Food A Fraud?” Simon Worrall, April 22, 2015

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/150422-genetically-modified-food-agriculture-health-ngbooktalk/>

“An estimated 85 percent of all food consumed in the United States now contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs)—from the cereal you feed your children to the milk you put in your coffee to the sweet corn you chomp on in summer. But because there’s no labeling requirement, we don’t know which foods have GMOs and which don’t. We also have no hard facts about the possible health effects. In his new book, *Altered Genes, Twisted Truth: How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science, Corrupted Government, and Systematically Deceived The Public*, public interest attorney Steve Druker takes the science community, the food industry, and the FDA to task for what he claims are their lax and irresponsible policies.

Talking from a parking lot in Michigan during his book tour, he explains how the debate about GMOs has undermined science and democracy, why the two Bills, Clinton and Gates, have got it wrong, and what advice he would give an African farmer trying to feed his starving child...

... First, the subversion of science has been much deeper than most people could imagine. There has been a consistent degradation of science and twisting of the truth on the part of numerous eminent scientists and scientific institutions on behalf of genetically engineered foods. The aggregate fraud to promote genetically engineered foods is by far the biggest fraud in the history of science. The corruption of government has also been very deep and multifaceted.

Probably the worst example occurred when the U.S. executive branch became convinced back in the mid 1980s, during the administration of President Reagan, that the biotechnology industry was going to be one of the main ways in which the U.S. economy would come out of its doldrums. A policy was adopted to promote the biotech industry without any new regulations. It was reported to be science-based, but scholars who studied it concluded it was not science based. It was framed and motivated by economic and political considerations. The FDA broke that law and lied about the facts in order to get GMOs on the market.

James Watson, the co-discoverer of DNA, has called the dangers imputed to GMOs an imaginary monster.” He’s right, isn’t he?

He’s quite wrong, actually, because there have been risks, but from the beginning these risks have been systematically misrepresented by the mainstream scientific

establishment in order to avoid regulation by governments and keep control of the research. But the risks have been well recognized, even by the FDA's own scientists. They did a thorough study back in 1990-92, and the overwhelming conclusion was that genetic engineering differs from conventional breeding to a great degree, that the foods it generates entail different risks, and that none can be presumed safe until they have been demonstrated to be safe by rigorous scientific testing. But these tests have never been done."

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains the economic benefit that the development of GMOs has had in the US. The food industry is a backbone in America and has led to more scientific development than any other industry. As the NEG you should argue that we cannot compromise the stability of the US food industry for something as simple as a choice made by the consumer. We already have a set of strict standards that the food industry abides by and this bill is not necessary to ensure the health of our citizens.*

NEG – GMO's have Become a Necessity to Sustain our Species

Huffington Post "GMOs or No GMOs -- Is That Really the Question?" [Nyree Zerega](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nyree-zerega/gmo-crop-diversity_b_7554264.html), Director of Plant Biology and Conservation Graduate Program at Northwestern University, June 11, 2015
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nyree-zerega/gmo-crop-diversity_b_7554264.html

"A quick review of some recent events shows public opinion saying no to genetically modified food. The USDA's establishment of a voluntary certification process to label foods free of GMOs, worldwide protests against Monsanto, and Chipotle's announcement to remove GMOs from their food menu are just a few examples.

A recent Pew survey leads to the same conclusion, finding that while 88 percent of scientists agree GM foods are safe to eat, only 37 percent of the public believes this to be the case.

The highly polarized GM debate too often devolves into good vs. evil, or corporate vs. small and organic farmers. The barrage of information and misinformation out there makes it difficult for people to separate fact from fiction and to think about the use of genetic technology on a case-by-case basis, as we should, rather than as an all or nothing proposition, as it is often presented. It also obscures a much more critical question about food security and the future of agriculture. Are global crops (GM or not) diverse enough?

The answer is no. More than 10,000 plants have been cultivated for food over the course of human history, yet the world largely relies on less than 1 percent of that diversity to meet 90 percent of all global food needs, and only three crops (wheat, corn, and rice) to meet nearly 60 percent of global food demands. And among those few crops - whether they are genetically modified or not - increasingly smaller amounts of genetic diversity are utilized.

So if our major crops have served human civilization well for thousands of years, what's the problem?

It leaves global food production vulnerable to major crop failure. While there are many instances of such failures, including the corn blight of 1970 and diseases that lead to the commercial demise of Gros Michel and now possibly Cavendish bananas, the most well known example is the potato blight that started the Great Famine in Ireland in 1845. Throughout the country one type of potato was grown. They were all genetically identical with no defense against the fast spreading late blight fungal pathogen that ultimately laid waste to the potato harvest. Nearly 170 years later, a genetically modified potato has been shown in field trials to be resistant to the same late blight pathogen.

And where did we turn to find the gene that could confer this resistance in the potato? A wild Andean potato relative.

Crop wild relatives, like the wild Andean potato, represent enormously diverse and largely untapped resources for advancing food security. Even concerns about lack of diversity in cultivated coffee has led to increased focus on its wild relatives. By using traditional breeding, genetic tools, or both, crop wild relatives can be used to help adapt agriculture to changing climate, pest, and disease pressures. For example, a combination of genomic tools and conventional breeding were used to introduce a gene from an ancient rice variety into a popular high-yielding rice variety to develop flood tolerant scuba rice, a critical trait in increasingly flood prone areas.

In addition to the importance of crop wild relatives to diversify the utility of major crops, it is also critical to advance the use of underutilized and neglected crops. In many cases, these crops are better adapted to local environments, are less energy-intensive to grow than crops like corn or wheat, and match or exceed major crops in both yield and nutrition. Many of them are also tropical plants with potential to play an important role in areas where food insecurity and reliance on food imports is highest...

... At a time when we should be safeguarding and utilizing diverse plant genetic resources, there are estimates that the survival of up to 30 percent of plant species are threatened. Some of these include crop wild relatives and potential new crops. International organizations like Crops for the Future, the Crop Trust, and the Land Institute are working toward development of new crop resources. There are also hundreds of gene banks around the world conserving crop diversity, but they face many threats.

Feeding the growing population in a changing climate without increasingly degrading our environment will be challenging and complex. It does not have to mean eating more of the same few crops (GM or not) and minimizing our ability to react to changing pressures, at the cost of losing valuable diversity.

The answer will be multifold. Developing new crops and improving existing ones will be crucial. Careful consideration of potential benefits as well as possible

ecological consequences of utilizing genetic tools can be part of a responsible approach.

For the sake of food security and sustainability, it is time to move beyond the polarizing debate of pro- and anti-GM and focus efforts on crop diversification. While the future is uncertain, there is no doubt that the success of agriculture depends on the conservation and use of diverse plant genetic resources.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains that as our society grows and changes, our food supply must do the same. A problem arose with maintaining our food supply and GMO’s were a solution. As the NEG you should argue that labeling products that contain GMO’s is like labeling every vehicle that has Anti-lock brakes. Almost all cars made now a day have them anyway, and it’s because locking brakes were known to fail us every once in a while. As a species we need to eat and as a society we need a consistent food source. GMO’s allow us to have that.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article explains the economic benefit that the development of GMOs has had in the US. The food industry is a backbone in America and has led to more scientific development than any other industry. As the NEG you should argue that we cannot compromise the stability of the US food industry for something as simple as a choice made by the consumer. We already have a set of strict standards that the food industry abides by and this bill is not necessary to ensure the health of our citizens.

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Legislation – A Resolution to End Depleted Uranium Munition Usage by the United States Military Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Uranium Causes Cancer and Birth Defects in Iraq

RT “Depleted uranium used by US forces blamed for birth defects and cancer in Iraq” July 23, 2013
<<https://www.rt.com/news/iraq-depleted-uranium-health-394/>>

“The US military’s use of depleted uranium in Iraq has led to a sharp increase in Leukemia and birth defects in the city of Najaf – and panicked residents are fearing for their health. Cancer is now more common than the flu, a local doctor tells RT.

Tags

Children, Health, Military, Scandal, Iraq, War witness, Rory Suchet, Matt Trezza, Lucy Kafanov, War

The city of Najaf saw one of the most severe military actions during the 2003 invasion. RT traveled to the area, quickly learning that every residential street in several neighborhoods has seen multiple cases of families whose children are ill, as well as families who have lost children, and families who have many relatives suffering from cancer...

...“After the start of the Iraq war, rates of cancer, leukemia and birth defects rose dramatically in Najaf. The areas affected by American attacks saw the biggest increases. We believe it’s because of the ‘illegal’ weapons like depleted uranium that were used by the Americans. When you visit the hospital here you see that cancer is more common than the flu,” Nsaif told RT’s Lucy Kafanov.

“The war isn’t over. Yes, the Americans are gone, but we are still suffering from the Consequences,” said Leila Jabar, whose three children died because they were born with congenital deformities. She blames radioactive ammunition used by American forces during the war for the health problems of her children. Her only surviving 8-months-old son Ahmed has a nervous system disorder and doctors don’t expect him to survive his first birthday.

Dr. Chris Busby has researched the effects of depleted uranium (DU) in detail. He says the only source of uranium in Iraq was used by American-led forces.

“We went to Fallujah and we found the levels of cancer. We looked at the parents of children with congenital malformation and we did analysis of their hair to see what was inside their hair that might be genotoxic, that might be the sort of thing that can cause congenital malformation. The only thing that we found was uranium. We found uranium in the mothers of the children with congenital malformations,” he told RT.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article says that the United States’ use of depleted uranium in the War in Iraq has caused lasting side effects for the citizens of Iraq. Since the violence in particular areas ended, children with birth defects and people with cancer are on the rise. When the mothers of those children were tested, they found uranium as the other abnormality present in their bodies. The United States cannot use these weapons, if they then cause devastation for the areas after the conflict has ended. We must end the use of this terrible weapon. Don’t we have enough ways to kill people?*

AFF – US Guilty of Using Depleted Uranium in Iraq

The Guardian “US fired depleted uranium at civilian areas in 2003 Iraq war, report finds” Rob Edwards, June 19, 2014 <<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/19/us-depleted-uranium-weapons-civilian-areas-iraq>>

“US forces fired depleted uranium (DU) weapons at civilian areas and troops in Iraq in breach of official advice meant to prevent unnecessary suffering in conflicts, a report has found.

Coordinates revealing where US jets and tanks fired nearly 10,000 DU rounds in Iraq during the war in 2003 have been obtained by the Dutch peace group Pax. This is the first time that any US DU firing coordinates have been released, despite previous requests by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Iraqi government.

According to PAX's report, which is due to be published this week, the data shows that many of the DU rounds were fired in or near populated areas of Iraq, including As Samawah, Nasiriyah and Basrah. At least 1,500 rounds were also aimed at troops, the group says...

...PAX estimates that there are more than 300 sites in Iraq contaminated by DU, which will cost at least \$30m to clean up. DU is a chemically toxic and radioactive heavy metal attractive to weapons designers because it is extremely hard and can pierce armour.

The author of the PAX report, Wim Zwijnenburg, said the US Air Force knew the harm that could be done by DU weapons and should not have used them in populated areas. "The use of DU against these targets questions the adherence of coalition forces to their own principles and guidelines," he argued. "They should be held accountable for the consequences." ...”

TAKEAWAY – *This article says that the United States was guilty of using depleted uranium munition in Iraq, which extends on the argument presented in the first article. As the affirmative, you need to argue whether it was necessary to use this kind of weaponry, and whether the side effects of these weapons are worth it. The United States shouldn't use weapons that will destroy the futures of the people we're fighting – the civilians who have been hurt by DU use is ridiculous, and something needs to be done about it. Didn't we learn anything from dropping the atomic bomb in World War II?*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article says that the United States' use of depleted uranium in the War in Iraq has caused lasting side effects for the citizens of Iraq. Since the violence in particular areas ended, children with birth defects and people with cancer are on the rise. When the mothers of those children were tested, they found uranium as the other abnormality present in their bodies. The United States cannot use these weapons, if they then cause devastation for the areas after the conflict has ended. We must end the use of this terrible weapon. Don't we have enough ways to kill people?

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Negative Evidence

NEG – Iran Nuclear Deal Poses Threat to US

US News “Obama's Unforgivable Betrayal” Mortimer B. Zuckerman, April 17, 2015

<<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2015/04/17/obamas-iran-nuclear-deal-is-an-unforgivable-betrayal-of-israel>>

“Flash forward to the Obama administration. Now the president is no longer trying to stop Iran from going nuclear. “Never” has been slimmed down to 13 years – at best! The Iranians have secured enough nuclear fuel to make the first generation bomb small enough to be dropped from a transport plane. The former International Atomic Energy Agency inspector, Olli Heinonen, reckons the proposed agreement from the Lausanne talks leaves Iran “a threshold breakout nuclear state for the next 10 years.” But we may have only the mirage of an agreement since Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates are producing tons of ambiguity about what was agreed – and on our side, where unity is essential in dealing with a very slippery adversary, there are troubling discrepancies between the French and U.S. understandings...

...But none of Iran’s nuclear facilities, including the Fordow center will be closed, as The Washington Post noted. Not one of the country’s 19,000 centrifuges will be dismantled. Tehran’s existing pile of enriched uranium will be “reduced” but not necessarily shipped out of the country. In effect, then, Iran’s nuclear infrastructure will remain intact even though some of it will be mothballed for 10 years. But when the accord lapses the Islamic Republic will instantly become a threshold nuclear state.

Most upsetting is that even with much greater restriction the deal would not be permanent but instead one or more sunset clauses whereby all limits would ultimately be lifted.

Congress fears it has no substantive input, which means a deal would be implemented without its consent. The vote and voice of Congress is vital to the credibility and durability of a final deal that would be acceptable to the U.S. and not just to this administration.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article discusses the Iran Nuclear Deal and how the United States made a mistake by essentially giving Iran the freedom to create nuclear weapons. As the negative, you should argue that this is not the time for the United States to get rid of any weaponry. While nuclear capabilities and this depleted uranium doesn’t compare to a nuclear weapon, why are we trying to disarm ourselves in times when war could be imminent?*

NEG – DU Used Only in Extreme Circumstances, When Necessary

The Guardian “US fired depleted uranium at civilian areas in 2003 Iraq war, report finds” Rob Edwards, June 19, 2014 <<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/19/us-depleted-uranium-weapons-civilian-areas-iraq>>

“This conflicts with legal advice from the US Air Force in 1975 suggesting that DU weapons should only be used against hard targets like tanks and armoured vehicles, the report says. This advice, designed to comply with international law by minimising deaths and injuries to urban populations and troops, was largely ignored by US forces, it argues.

A six-page memo by Major James Miles and Will Carroll from the international law division of USAF's Office of the Judge Advocate General concluded in March 1975 that DU weapons were legal. But it recommended imposing restrictions on how they were used.

"Use of this munition solely against personnel is prohibited if alternative weapons are available," the memo stated. This was for legal reasons "related to the prohibitions against unnecessary suffering and poison".

The memo also pointed out that DU weapons were "incendiary" and could have indiscriminate impacts in urban areas. "They may cause fires which spread thereby causing potential risks of disproportionate injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects," it said. "Precautions to avoid or minimise such risks shall be taken in the use of this weapon or alternate available weapons should be used."

TAKEAWAY – *This article discusses the restrictions already in place for the use of depleted uranium. As the negative, you should argue that we shouldn't stop using something that is helpful in destroying weaponry like tanks and armored vehicles. The goal in war is to win, with as few casualties as possible on our side. The more effective we are at fighting the enemy, the more likely we are to win. Depleted uranium is something that the United States uses in extreme conditions, and it helps the United States succeed. Beyond that, you should argue that the fact that we only use them in extreme situations should be enough to appease the affirmative.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article discusses the Iran Nuclear Deal and how the United States made a mistake by essentially giving Iran the freedom to create nuclear weapons. As the negative, you should argue that this is not the time for the United States to get rid of any weaponry. While nuclear capabilities and this depleted uranium doesn't compare to a nuclear weapon, why are we trying to disarm ourselves in times when war could be imminent?

The second article discusses the restrictions already in place for the use of depleted uranium. As the negative, you should argue that we shouldn't stop using something that is helpful in destroying weaponry like tanks and armored vehicles. The goal in war is to win, with as few casualties as possible on our side. The more effective we are at fighting the enemy, the more likely we are to win. Depleted uranium is something that the United States uses in extreme conditions, and it helps the United States succeed. Beyond that, you should argue that the fact that we only use them in extreme situations should be enough to appease the affirmative.

Legislation – A Resolution to Urge States to Mandate the Appointment of Special Prosecutors in the Case of Officer-Involved Fatal Shootings Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Over 90% of Complaints Regarding Police Go Uninvestigated

Huffington Post “99 Percent Of Police Brutality Complaints Go Uninvestigated In Central New Jersey”, Jan 7, 2014

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/07/police-brutality-new-jersey-report_n_4555166.html

“A whopping 99 percent of all complaints regarding police brutality are left uninvestigated in central New Jersey, according to a Courier News and Home News Tribune report published this week.

Between 2008 and 2012, citizens "filed hundreds of complaints alleging brutality, bias and civil rights violations by officers in more than seven dozen police departments in Central Jersey," the report reads. However, it adds that only 1 percent of these complaints -- seven percentage points below the national average of 8 percent -- were "upheld by the internal units tasked with investigating complaints against their colleagues."

In the majority of cases, the police agencies reportedly "either 'exonerated' the officers, dismissed the complaints as frivolous, determined that they did not have sufficient evidence or simply never closed the investigation..."

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains that almost all police brutality complaints go uninvestigated. As the AFF you should read the article and argue that a civilian should be confident in their own safety regarding police officers. However, people do not have this confidence. People have resorted to personally recording interacting with police officers out of fear and lack of trust. You should urge that this bill would help instill people’s confidence in police officers by holding the officers accountable for their actions.*

AFF – Police Shooting Prosecution Requires Careful Consideration and Depth of Knowledge

National Police Misconduct Reporting Project “National Police Misconduct NewsFeed Daily Recap”

Jonathan Banks, July 23, 2015

<http://www.policemisconduct.net/>

“National Police Misconduct NewsFeed Daily Recap 07-23-15

Here are the nine reports of police misconduct tracked for Thursday, July 23, 2015:
Buffalo, New York: An officer was indicted on federal civil rights charges for initiating a false arrest of a person. ow.ly/PZhAm

Chicago, Illinois: An officer was arrested for DUI after allegedly striking a pedestrian while off duty. ow.ly/PZs27

Española, New Mexico: An officer was placed on leave and charged with battery. He has a history of excessive force complaints in two police departments. ow.ly/PZunY

Maricopa County, Arizona: The sheriff's office settled the discrimination and racial profiling lawsuit brought by the U.S. Department of Justice. [ow.ly/PZwA3](https://www.ow.ly/PZwA3)

Austin, Texas: An officer was fired for failing to report injuries on a call. This is his second termination from the department. He was fired previously for failing to report, but was reinstated by a labor arbitrator. [ow.ly/PZxlO](https://www.ow.ly/PZxlO)

Update: Maypearl, Texas: The chief was terminated and charged with sex crimes against a minor. [ow.ly/PZFWu](https://www.ow.ly/PZFWu)

Pocatello, Idaho: An officer was charged with assault. [ow.ly/PZy8g](https://www.ow.ly/PZy8g)

Weston, West Virginia: An officer was placed on leave after a man died from injuries sustained during an arrest. State authorities declined to launch an independent investigation so it was referred to the FBI. [ow.ly/PZKLf](https://www.ow.ly/PZKLf)

Update: Houston, Texas: A now-former officer pled guilty to aiding and abetting drug distribution. She faces 40 years in prison. She is scheduled to be sentenced in October. [ow.ly/PZMPq](https://www.ow.ly/PZMPq)

National Police Misconduct NewsFeed Daily Recap 07-22-15

Here are the eight reports of police misconduct tracked for Wednesday, July 22, 2015:
Bibb County, Georgia: A deputy was arrested on dog fighting charges. [ow.ly/PWamv](https://www.ow.ly/PWamv)

Dallas, Texas: An officer was fired after his arrest for sexual assault of a child.

Summerville, South Carolina: An officer was arrested for assault and battery of a woman.

Anderson, Indiana: An officer was arrested for OWI in Noblesville. [ow.ly/PWdts](https://www.ow.ly/PWdts)

Update: Sacramento, California: A now-former officer was convicted for repeatedly raping an elderly woman in a senior living facility. [ow.ly/PWe77](https://www.ow.ly/PWe77)

San Francisco, California: A now-former was officer convicted of bribery. He accepted roughly \$25,000 in bribes over a two-year period. [ow.ly/PWf6Q](https://www.ow.ly/PWf6Q)

New York, New York: Two officers were shown on security footage beating a man who had his hands up. [ow.ly/PX7Pf](https://www.ow.ly/PX7Pf)

Habersham County, Georgia: A now-former deputy was indicted for lying on an affidavit and search warrant. The subsequent SWAT raid seriously injured a toddler when a flash-bang grenade was thrown into the child's crib. [ow.ly/PXdJq](https://www.ow.ly/PXdJq)

TAKEAWAY – *This article gives several examples of police misconduct in different situations. These include fatal and non-fatal incidences. As the AFF you should read the article to see the variation in police misconduct and argue that the ability to address each situation correctly, requires a council. In some cases, there are far too many variables for a single person or typical jury to decide what is justified. With such a wide range of possible scenarios and situations, the use of an office of prosecution is the best system to ensure a just punishment for the crime.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article explains that almost all police brutality complaints go uninvestigated. As the AFF you should read the article and argue that a civilian should be confident in their own safety regarding police officers. However, people do not have this confidence. People have resorted to personally recording interacting with police officers out of fear and lack of trust. You should urge that this bill would help instill people's confidence in police officers by holding the officers accountable for their actions.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – Prosecution Councils have been Known to be Full of Bias

St Louis Post “Police Are Learning To Accept Civilian Oversight, But Distrust Lingers” Martin Kast, February 5, 2015
<http://www.npr.org/2015/02/21/387770044/police-are-learning-to-accept-civilian-oversight-but-distrust-lingers>

“Late last month, during a meeting of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, a shoving match broke out among members of the public — some of them off-duty police officers.

The cause of the tension was a proposal to create a new civilian oversight authority for the police. Advocates of police reform like civilian oversight, but police officers say the boards are often politicized and unfair to them.

The concept of civilian police oversight isn't new. In 1965, New York Mayor John Lindsay proposed including civilians on a review board as a way to address complaints from minority groups about police misconduct. But the move backfired; the police union and conservatives such as William F. Buckley rallied against civilian oversight, and voters later defeated the idea in a city-wide vote, returning the the board to police only. It took more than two decades for civilian oversight of police to be restored in New York...

.. "You need to have an appropriate mindset towards policing," says Jim Pasco, the national executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police. He believes civilians just aren't qualified to judge whether a cop followed a department's rules governing use of force.

"The fact of the matter is, an officer has to make a split-second decision involving life or death," Pasco says. "And the civilian review boards tend to, by definition, be made up of civilians who have no particular experience or insight into what went through that officer's mind, what the circumstances were and how desperate things can become in that nanosecond."

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains a situation where members of the public started shoving each other due to a difference in opinion of police misconduct. This is one of the first attempts to implement a specials council for police misconduct cases. As the NEG you should read the article and argue that a civilian cannot judge every situation involving the action of a police officer. Police officers are required to make split-second, life-threatening decisions that carry consequences that most people will never have to deal with. A council like this will bring along numerous prejudices and a lack of understanding for the officers. Every action has a reaction, and your average Joe does not have experience with life threatening situations, and that can yield disastrous reactions.*

NEG – Police Over-Sight is Key to ensure Just Punishment for Crimes

Channel 3 News “Civilian board set to get more police oversight” Stephanie Spurlock, July, 29, 2015
<http://wreg.com/2015/07/29/civilian-board-set-to-get-more-police-oversight/>

“MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The review board overseeing police complaints is set to have more power after citizens speak up.

This week there's been intense planning to restart the citizens board and give it some real authority.

The Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board, or CLERB, will now be the Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board.

That wasn't the only change.

It's undergoing a big change that would give it more power.

Memphis United, the group pushing for more oversight over police complaints, walked away from the bargaining table with a win.

"We were very encouraged by what was said here today, but saying is one thing. Doing is another," said Bradley Watkins, Memphis United.

Earlier this week it looked as if Mayor A C Wharton flip-flopped on his original support to give the group more authority.

The mayor said to be clear he supports changes to CLERB.

"It was a gross mischaracterization to say that we had withdrawn our support for enhancing the CLERB," Wharton said.

If the City Council approves the recommended ordinance change, the Civilian Review Board may no longer be a lame duck board.

"This document allows the internal affairs process to not linger on for one and two, three years. It sets out a minimum of 45 days. This document also outlines the do's and don't's of the organization. The fact that they will have subpoena authority through the City Council," said Wanda Halbert, with the Memphis City Council.

However, the union representing officers argued the group's new authority goes too far.

"We feel as if they don't really need subpoena power because we have a policy in place right now that gives them the ability to review any investigations that IAB or security squad may handle," said Marcus Tucker with the Memphis Police Association"

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains how a civilian oversight board was ultimately the best solution for a council to review police misconduct cases. As the NEG you should read the article to see the changes made to the board to make it more effective and argue that this bill is will not be as effective as a council of civilians. This Congress should not support or pass any legislation that will not make a direct change to the way civilians view and interact with police officers. By having a civilian board we are able to better instill civilian confidence in our police officers.*

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The first article explains a situation where members of the public started shoving each other due to a difference in opinion of police misconduct. This is one of the first attempts to implement a special council for police misconduct cases. As the NEG you should read the article and argue that a civilian cannot judge every situation involving the action of a police officer. Police officers are required to make split-second, life-threatening decisions that carry consequences that most people will never have to deal with. A council like this will bring along numerous prejudices and a lack of understanding for the officers. Every action has a reaction, and your average Joe does not have experience with life-threatening situations, and that can yield disastrous reactions.

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Legislation – A Resolution to Manage Specialty Drugs to Stem Pharmacy
Costs
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Pharmaceutical Companies Hike Prices

PBS NewsHour “Why some prescription drugs are so expensive” Julie Appleby, October 19, 2015 <
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/prescription-drugs-expensive/>>

“When Turing Pharmaceuticals raised the price of an older generic drug by more than 5,000 percent last month, the move sparked a public outcry. How, critics wondered, could a firm charge \$13.50 a pill for a treatment for a parasitic infection one day and \$750 the next?”

The criticism led Turing’s unapologetic CEO to say he’d pare back the increase – although no new price has yet been named – and the New York attorney general has launched an antitrust investigation. The outcry has again focused attention on how drug prices are set in the United States. Aside from some limited government control in the veterans health care system and Medicaid, prices are generally shaped by what the market will bear.

A jump in the number of new expensive drugs hitting the market – along with moves by drugmakers like Turing to raise the price on older and generic drugs – have helped make prescription drugs the fastest-growing segment of the nation’s health care tab. Prescription drugs account for about 10 percent of all health care spending. Two ideas for curbing that spending surface every time a price spike renews interest in drug costs: Letting consumers buy products from other countries with lower prices set by government controls, and allowing Medicare administrators to negotiate drug prices, from which they are currently barred.

Both proposals are getting an airing in Washington and on the campaign trail, pushed by Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Opposition is heavy, particularly to Medicare negotiations, and neither is likely to gain much traction.

Drugmakers and some economists argue that price controls or other efforts aimed at slowing spending by targeting profits mean cutting money that could go toward developing the next new cure. Because many pharmaceutical companies spend more on marketing than research, some lawmakers counter that the industry could spend less on promoting its products. Health insurers, in turn, blame drugmakers for high prices, even as they shift more cost to consumers, who then fear they won’t be able to afford their medications.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article explains how the price of an older generic drug jumped up by more than 5,000 % in just a month and resulted in a public outcry. It goes on to say that every time there is a large spike in drug costs, there are two ideas that are brought up to Congress: “Letting consumers buy products from other countries with lower prices set by government controls, and allowing Medicare administrators to negotiate drug prices, from which they are currently barred.” As the AFF you should argue that since we have failed to curb the spikes in prescription drug costs, that we must take direct action. If we cannot give consumers an alternative to these high costs, we must prevent cost spiking within our own borders.*

AFF – Specialize Drug Costs Drains Medicaid and Medicare Budget

The Fiscal Times “Medicare Sees Striking Increase in Specialty Drug Costs” Eric Pianin, October 19, 2015
< <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/10/19/Medicare-Sees-Striking-Increase-Specialty-Drug-Costs>>

“In the latest indication that government spending on costly new specialty drugs is soaring, a new analysis by ProPublica finds that Medicare has already spent \$4.6 billion this year on two breakthrough drugs for treating the deadly hepatitis-C virus – or almost as much as the hepatitis treatment program spent during all of last year. Rebates should reduce the final cost this year, but spending is expected to move higher on a year-over-year basis nonetheless.

Those two drugs, Sovaldi and Harvoni, manufactured by Gilead Sciences, are in hot demand for treating the serious liver disease thanks to a success rates of well over 90 percent. The new specialty drugs are far superior to older drug treatments and in many cases obviate the need for costly and dangerous liver transplants. But the pills can cost as much as \$1,000 a day – or \$84,000 for a 12-week course of treatment, before rebates.

The surge in cost for treating the illness has shocked officials of Medicare and Medicaid, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the federal prison system and other government institutions that treat patients and inmates for the illness. In some cases, providers have been forced to ration the drugs and treat only the most seriously ill patients.

While Gilead and other pharmaceutical companies offer rebates to insurers that operate the Medicare Part D beneficiary drug program, ProPublica’s latest figures suggest that Medicare is on course to double its spending from last year on the hepatitis-C drug treatments, and that Medicaid and other federal agencies may incur similar spending increases.

According to ProPublica’s findings, also published by The Washington Post, pharmacies filled more than 183,000 prescriptions for the drugs between January and June, and they appeared on track to eclipse the roughly 288,000 prescriptions that were filled in all of 2014. Medicare Part D spent an additional \$157 million last year on an older generation of hepatitis-C drugs, which brought total expenditures for hepatitis drugs to more than \$4.8 billion last year.

Overall spending on specialty drugs is expected to increase by 360 percent between 2012 and 2020. Meanwhile, Medicaid and Medicare will see spending on these new drugs far exceed spending for non-specialty pharmaceuticals, according to an analysis by PricewaterhouseCoopers Health Research Institute.

TAKEAWAY – *This article gives some specific examples of how specialty drugs have cost \$4.6 billion this year on just two breakthrough drugs. It goes on to say that specialty drugs are expected to increase by 360 percent between 2012 and 2020. Meanwhile, Medicaid and Medicare will see spending on these new drugs far exceed spending for non-specialty pharmaceuticals. As the AFF you should argue that with the expanding medical coverage through Obamacare and other social programs, we need to take action against the largest drains on our healthcare budgets. The cost of specialized drugs has gone unchecked for too long and has become a burden on the pockets of our privately insured citizens, as well as their hard earned tax dollars.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article explains how the price of an older generic drug jumped up by more than 5,000 % in just a month and resulted in a public outcry. It goes on to say that every time there is a large spike in drug costs, there are two ideas that are brought up to Congress: “Letting consumers buy products from other countries with lower prices set by government controls, and allowing Medicare administrators to negotiate drug prices, from which they are currently barred.” As the AFF you should argue that since we have failed to curb the spikes in prescription drug costs, that we must take direct action. If we cannot give consumers an alternative to these high costs, we must prevent cost spiking within our own borders.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – There are More Effective Ways to Reduce Cost of Medication

PBS NewsHour “Why some prescription drugs are so expensive” Julie Appleby, October 19, 2015 <
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/prescription-drugs-expensive/>>

“Aside from the perennial ideas, what else is being tried to combat rising prices or at least bring some relief to consumers?”

1) Disclose drug development costs

Lawmakers in several states, including New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, have introduced “transparency” measures that would force drug companies to provide details on how much they spend researching, making and advertising their products. Proponents say public disclosure would force companies to justify their pricing. Skeptics say disclosure alone may not be enough, so some proposals go further. Massachusetts, for example, would gather price information on a set of drugs deemed critical to the state — and create a commission that could set prices for drugs deemed too costly. None of the measures have passed. On the national front, Clinton proposes to require companies that benefit from federal investment in basic science research to invest a certain amount of their own revenue in research and development...

...2) Cap consumer copayments

The growing number of insurers placing certain high-cost drugs in categories in which consumers have to pay a percentage of the cost — often upward of 30 percent — has caught the attention of lawmakers in a handful of states, including Montana, California and Delaware. They’ve passed laws capping the amount insured consumers must pay at the pharmacy counter as their share of a drug’s cost. The pocketbook cost for patients is still high, ranging from \$100 a month to \$250, depending on the state. Still, that’s less than what consumers currently pay for some drugs in many health insurance plans.

...3) Pay up if the product delivers

A drug’s price should reflect its effectiveness, according to new efforts under way. Benefit manager Express Scripts, for example, next year will pay varying amounts for a small set of oncology drugs based on how well the products perform on different types of cancer. The plan will target drugs that work well on one type of cancer — based on clinical data submitted by drugmakers to the Food and Drug Administration — but are less effective against other types. For instance, the drug Tarceva, when given for non-small cell lung cancer, prolongs life an average of 5.2 months, a big advance for lung cancer treatments, said Steve Miller, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Express Scripts. But, when the \$6,200-a-month drug is used to treat pancreatic cancer, it prolongs life an average of only 12 days.

...Meanwhile, consumer groups are cautious, saying such “pay-for-value” ideas hold promise, but only if patients aren’t kept from needed medicines.

These are just three of the proposals being weighed as solutions to combat rising drug prices...”

TAKEAWAY – *This article looks at the rise in drug cost from a market point of view and gives a few different ways that we can try and lower the cost of medication and prevent “spikes” in cost. The three ways that this article says we can curb drug cost is by disclosing drug development costs, only paying up if the product delivers, and capping consumer copayments. As the NEG you can argue that these processes are more effective at reducing costs, because they are driven by education, market, and the effectiveness of the drug. By this Congress directly interfering with drug cost we are not doing the consumer or drug companies any favors. Instead we should promote a natural process of reducing costs that do not require direct government action.*

NEG – Lowering Drug Prices not Require Drastic Government Interference

NY Times “To Reduce the Cost of Drugs, Look to Europe” October 19, 2015 <
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/20/upshot/to-reduce-the-cost-of-drugs-look-to-europe.html>>

“There is a way to keep prices low while encouraging drug companies to innovate: Look to Europe and elsewhere, where drug prices are a fraction of those in the United States. Germany, Spain, Italy and a half dozen other countries have pushed drug prices lower with a system called reference pricing. It has led to drug price decreases and significant savings in the Canadian province of British Columbia as well as in Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden. A study published in the American Journal of Managed Care found that price reductions ranged from 7 percent to 24 percent.

Here’s how it works: Drugs are grouped into classes in which all drugs have identical or similar therapeutic effects. For example, all brands of ibuprofen would be in the same class because they contain the same active agent. The class could include other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents like aspirin and naproxen because they are therapeutically similar. The insurer pays only one amount, called the reference price, for any drug in a class. A drug company can set the price of its drug higher, and if a consumer wants that one, he or she pays the difference.

Setting the reference price low enough puts considerable pressure on drug manufacturers to reduce prices for drugs for which there are good substitutes. If they don’t, consumers will switch to lower-cost products. In British Columbia and in Italy, the reference price is set at the lowest-price drug in the class; Germany uses an average price across drugs; Spain also uses an average, but only of the lowest-priced products that account for at least 20 percent of the class’s market.

In pushing prices down, reference pricing doesn’t suppress innovation; it encourages a different form of it. The market still rewards the invention of a cutting-edge drug with novel therapeutic effects. Such a drug might be placed in a new class and therefore could be priced high. But, within classes, the market also rewards innovations that lead to lower-priced drugs, because consumers switch to them to avoid out-of-pocket costs. In these ways, reference pricing promotes cost-effectiveness.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article shows how Europe has lowered the cost of many pharmaceutical drugs and the effect that it has had on the market. As the NEG you should read the article to get an understanding of this process and argue that the US should adopt something similar. Rather than taking direct action against specialized drugs, we should address the cost of medication as a whole. Specialized drugs will always cost more, but by changing the market as a whole we can level the playing field for consumers and pharmaceutical companies alike. This will better serve the needs of our citizens.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article looks at the rise in drug cost from a market point of view and gives a few different ways that we can try and lower the cost of medication and prevent “spikes” in cost. The three ways that this article says we can curb drug cost is by disclosing drug development costs, only paying up if the product delivers, and capping consumer copayments. As the NEG you can argue that these processes are more effective at reducing costs, because they are driven by education, market, and the effectiveness of the drug. By this Congress directly interfering with drug cost we are not doing the consumer or drug companies any favors. Instead we should promote a natural process of reducing costs that do not require direct government action.

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Legislation – A Bill to Decrease the Cost of College Tuition within Public
Educational Institutions of the United States
Affirmative Evidence

AFF- Rising Tuition Cost Buries Student in Debt

Seattle Time “Crushing’ college costs hurt students, economy” Kyung Song, June 4, 2014
http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2023764919_studentdebt.xml.html

“Runaway college tuition and growing student debt are burdening both borrowers and the U.S. economy, witnesses testified Wednesday at a Senate Budget Committee hearing chaired by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash...

... Tuition and fees at colleges and universities historically have risen faster than the prices of most goods and services. In the past decade, that pace has quickened even further.

Sticker shock has been particularly acute for students and parents in Washington, thanks to the 2008 recession and the Legislature’s decision to cut state funding for higher education and shift more of the cost to students.

In-state tuition for the coming academic year at the flagship University of Washington in Seattle, for instance, will be \$12,394. That’s 2½ times the 2004-05 tuition of \$5,181 and a 426 percent increase from 20 years ago...

... Murray said 16 percent of young households had outstanding student loans in 1989, according to the Pew Research Center. By 2010, 40 percent of families headed by someone under 35 had college debts. A typical college graduate owes an average of \$30,000.

“Crushing student debt isn’t just hurting borrowers,” Murray said. “There is mounting evidence that student debt is also holding back the economy.”

Excessive student loans threaten far-reaching sectors of the economy, said Rohit Chopra, student-loan ombudsman and an assistant director with the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.”

TAKEAWAY- *This article says that the rising cost of tuition has become an obstacle that students cannot get over. The cost of college has grown 2.5 times larger since 2005 and 426 times larger than 20 years ago. As the affirmative, you should argue that this increase in cost generates debt for students that they often cannot recover from. The rising cost also acts as a deterrent for a student to attend college, which decreases the supply of a qualified and educated workforce, which ultimately hurts our economy. If we put a little money into our education in the United States, we could make a huge investment in our future. Whether we’re talking about free undergraduate college or reducing the amount of student loan debt, we’re talking about something positive. This is easy legislation to pass, because it’s obviously the best solution to these growing problems.*

AFF- Student Loan Debt Has Gotten Out of Control

NY Daily News “Americans owe \$1.2 trillion in student loans, surpassing credit card and auto loan debt totals” Dan Freidman May 17, 2014
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/americans-owe-1-2-trillion-student-loans-article-1.1796606>

“Student loans have become the second largest source of personal debt in the United States. Aware of growing public concern over the issue, Senate Democrats are making student loans one of their top election year planks and will vote on legislation to allow refinancing at lower rates.

It’s the reason Tiffany Brown, a Queens College graduate, hasn’t moved out of her parents’ home, and the reason she thinks twice about law school.

It’s the biggest obstacle facing Christina Chaise, 24-year-old a graduate student at Columbia’s Teacher’s College, in her journey from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Brown and Chaise are typical young college graduates in New York — they have student loan debt that will probably affect their choices for decades.

“It scares me,” said Chaise who owes \$20,000 but expects to borrow at least another \$20,000 before finishing graduate school.

“I have been pursuing higher education to raise myself out of poverty,” she said. “I grew up in the projects. There’s nothing wrong with that, but I want a better life. I don’t know if I can do everything I want to do, because I have these bills to pay each month.”...

... Millions of Americans are in the same boat as these New Yorkers. Americans owe \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt, a number that has tripled in the last decade. New York State residents hold \$60 billion of that debt, and college grads in the state owe on average \$27,310 in student loans, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Student loans have passed credit cards and auto loans to become the second biggest source of personal debt in the U.S., trailing only mortgages. Aware of growing public concern over the issue, Senate Democrats are making student loans one of their top election year planks.”

TAKEAWAY- *This article says that student loan debt has grown larger than anyone could have imagined. Student loans have passed credit cards and auto loans to become the second biggest source of personal debt in the U.S. Only Mortgage debt is greater. As the affirmative, you should argue that this climbing debt makes many students afraid to accept government aid to go to school. Since student loan debt has some of the lowest percentage of repayment, what happens when too many students default in their loans? You should argue that if we want a more educated work force we must make college an option without the threat of debt. Debt is holding this country back, and it’s time we did something about it.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article says that the rising cost of tuition has become an obstacle that students cannot get over. The cost of college has grown 2.5 times larger since 2005 and 426 times larger than 20 years ago. As the affirmative, you should argue that this increase in cost generates debt for students that they often cannot recover from. The rising cost also acts as a deterrent for a student to attend college, which decreases the supply of a qualified and educated workforce, which ultimately hurts our economy. If we put a little money into our education in the United States, we could make a huge investment in our future. Whether we're talking about free undergraduate college or reducing the amount of student loan debt, we're talking about something positive. This is easy legislation to pass, because it's obviously the best solution to these growing problems.

The second article says that student loan debt has grown larger than anyone could have imagined. Student loans have passed credit cards and auto loans to become the second biggest source of personal debt in the U.S. Only Mortgage debt is greater. As the affirmative, you should argue that this climbing debt makes many students afraid to accept government aid to go to school. Since student loan debt has some of the lowest percentage of repayment, what happens when too many students default in their loans? You should argue that if we want a more educated work force we must make college an option without the threat of debt. Debt is holding this country back, and it's time we did something about it.

Negative Evidence

NEG- Changing Tuition is a Recruiting Technique of Many Schools

Huffington Post "Private Colleges Cut Tuition Costs To Lure Students Turned Off By High Cost-High Aid Model" Tyler Kingkade December 13, 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/13/private-colleges-tuition-cuts_n_2281477.html

"Roger Williams University recently announced all incoming students at the private university will be given a tuition guarantee, meaning their tuition will not rise during their undergraduate career. "What we're trying to say is we'll take some responsibility here," Farish said. "We'll take on some of the task by not increasing tuition and raise the money some other way."

In recent years, tuition has significantly increased at public universities, driven by state budget cuts and prompting student protests around the country. Yet almost the opposite has happened at private colleges. Their tuition grew at its lowest rate in decades this year and at a slower pace than public university tuition.

Tony Pals, director of communications at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, said he can't remember another time in which so many private schools have held down tuition as he's seen in the past two years. By the association's count, 41 private colleges have cut or frozen tuition, 12 have implemented guarantees that their undergrads will graduate in four years or that their tuition will never go up, and another 16 have instituted tuition increases at or below inflation levels.

Pals predicted the number of private colleges taking similar action on tuition will continue to grow. "Consumers are increasingly price-sensitive," he said, and there's concern that "prospective students may be ruling out applying to a private college simply because of sticker price."...

... Under the high cost-high aid model -- in which more expensive private colleges reserve a large portion of their budget to award generous financial aid, and public universities generally offer little aid -- a low-income student can expect to pay more to attend the University of California than to study at Harvard. In fighting for top students, scholarships and other financial aid are a powerful tool for private schools. Having the top students can lead to better graduation and job placement rates, which in turn can lead to more donations and support from alumni and others.

Farish argues that the high cost-high aid model can't be sustained in the years ahead. "You'll have schools next year crossing the \$60,000 barrier for the first time," he said, referring to annual tuition. "At what point do we price ourselves out of the market?"

He also wants to get out of the business of charging different students different prices, comparing it to how the airline industry operates. "Everyone feels like they've paid too much for their seat and thinks someone else got a better deal," he said. "We decided rather than changing everything completely, at least let's not make the problem any worse."

TAKEAWAY- *This article looks at the increasing cost of public tuition and how it has affected the cost of private universities. Surprisingly enough, as the cost of public universities has risen,*

the cost for private universities has been on the decline. As the negative, you should argue that changing tuition or lowering student loan debt compromises the competitiveness between public and private universities. Universities should be able to charge a tuition that reflects the success of their programs. If a distinguished private University is trying to charge the same as a less competitive state university, let them. Students will reap the benefits. In this case, equality among schools is a bad thing. Cost is a direct correlation to the success of the college in question. We shouldn't change that.

NEG- Tuition Rates will Not Affect Enrollment

NBS News “ College enrollment going down, but will tuition fees follow?” Liz Weston November 19, 2013
<http://www.nbcnews.com/business/personal-finance/college-enrollment-going-down-will-tuition-fees-follow-f2D11620229>

“College enrollment is declining. That may cause students and their parents to hope tuition costs will go down, but they should not count on that.

In classical economics, lower demand typically triggers lower prices, at least until unprofitable companies merge or go out of business and shrink supply. It does not necessarily work that way, though, in the world of higher education.

In the fall of 2012, published tuition and fees for in-state students at four-year U.S. public schools rose just 2.9 percent from a year earlier, the smallest increase in 33 years, the College Board reported. At private schools, published prices rose 3.8 percent, lower than the increases in recent years.

At the same time, the number of students enrolled in colleges and universities fell by nearly half a million after two decades of substantial growth, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Moody's rating service has warned that enrollment declines threaten the finances of many colleges...

...The lower enrollments mostly reflect a better economy, which lured students into the workforce and away from two-year and for-profit schools, said Jennifer Ma, a policy research scientist for the College Board. In coming years, though, there is a more worrisome trend for schools: a smaller pool of high school students.

The number of high school graduates peaked in 2011 at 3.4 million, according to a report by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education.”

TAKEAWAY- *This article says that the average tuition of colleges has dropped over the past few years, but this is more than likely the result of a better economy. As the economy betters, there is more opportunities available to young adults. Despite a decrease in tuition, high school graduates are choosing to go straight to the workforce. The issue isn't tuition-- it's a good job market. Reducing the cost of tuition, like this resolution suggests won't improve enrollments or accessibility if attractive salaries are available. Until we can make college a more viable option than a stable, decent paying job, we won't increase enrollment simply by capping on tuition. As the negative, you should also argue that in the current market, a degree is become less and less valuable, and as a result, people don't believe they need them. We are all taught that a degree is the answer to life's biggest problems, but that's simply not the case.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article looks at the increasing cost of public tuition and how it has affected the cost of private universities. Surprisingly enough, as the cost of public universities has risen, the cost for private universities has been on the decline. As the negative, you should argue that changing tuition or lowering student loan debt compromises the competitiveness between public and private universities. Universities should be able to charge a tuition that reflects the success of their programs. If a distinguished private University is trying to charge the same as a less competitive state university, let them. Students will reap the benefits. In this case, equality among schools is a bad thing. Cost is a direct correlation to the success of the college in question. We shouldn't change that.

The second article says that the average tuition of colleges has dropped over the past few years, but this is more than likely the result of a better economy. As the economy betters, there is more opportunities available to young adults. Despite a decrease in tuition, high school graduates are choosing to go straight to the workforce. The issue isn't tuition-- it's a good job market. Reducing the cost of tuition, like this resolution suggests won't improve enrollments or accessibility if attractive salaries are available. Until we can make college a more viable option than a stable, decent paying job, we won't increase enrollment simply by capping on tuition. As the negative, you should also argue that in the current market, a degree is become less and less valuable, and as a result, people don't believe they need them. We are all taught that a degree is the answer to life's biggest problems, but that's simply not the case.

Legislation – A Bill to Increase Funding for Desalination of Ocean Water Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Desalination is Expensive, and Process is Too Slow to Solve

NPR “Will Turning Seawater Into Drinking Water Help Drought-Hit California?” April 5, 2015 <
<http://www.npr.org/2015/04/05/397659871/will-turning-seawater-into-drinking-water-help-drought-hit-california>>

“Right now, the sources of electricity available to run desalination plants are not environmentally friendly. Really, it's going to require us to find alternative energy sources to power these plants. So as we put more renewables online, it will become more environmentally friendly and more cost-effective,” says Gonzalez.

Cost effectiveness is important, because desalination is expensive. To get the Santa Barbara plant back online, the estimated cost of water for the average resident will increase by about \$20 each month starting this July, even though the plant won't open until 2016.

Gonzalez says that before money goes into desalination projects that may hurt the environment, water conservation needs to become a bigger priority. “The first thing I say to someone who says that we need to do desal[ination] now is, ‘Turn off your sprinklers.’ We don't even know how much we need because we waste so much; we live in a total artificial world of water use and water supply.”

“We don't even know how much we need because we waste so much; we live in a total artificial world of water use and water supply.”

But others insist that conserving water will not be enough. The drought is too severe, they say, and the state has been using too much water for too long.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how desalination is a very expensive process, and at the current rate, it still won't solve for drought or other water crises. The status quo requires faster action, which is why we should subsidize it. If we subsidize such a costly venture, then more investors are likely to jump on board, which would create more plants, more jobs, and increase the US economy. If we continue within the status quo, it'll be too late. Water conservation isn't enough. We must act now. Beyond that, this is one of the best ways to solve for droughts in the United States, given our current technology. We should invest in our own infrastructure, before it's too late.*

AFF – Subsidies Could Fix Cost Issue with Desalination Plants

CNBC “Drought of '15: Desalination won't save California” Jeff Daniels, April 6, 2015 <
<http://www.cnbc.com/2015/04/06/drought-of-15-desalination-wont-save-california.html>>

“Ocean desal is pretty expensive still,” said Ellen Hanak, senior fellow at the San Francisco-based Public Policy Institute of California and director of the Institute's Water Policy Center. “It's probably the most expensive single source that an urban agency can use, but its advantage is it can be reliable, since there's a lot of ocean water out there.” ...

... "Energy is a major cost component of a desalination plant," said Heather Cooley, water program director for the Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based non-profit that focuses on water issues. "And so the cost of energy has a major impact on the cost of water that's proposed."...

... "We have seen the cost of desalination come down over the past 15 to 20 years, in part due to improvements in the (reverse osmosis) membranes," said the Pacific Institute's Cooley. "Most people generally think the plants are as efficient as they're going to get and as low a cost as they're going to get out of seawater desalination."

Read More [Unsafe water only adds to California drought misery](#)

A state report found seawater desalination facilities using reverse osmosis can expect to see as much as half of their total annual costs come from energy consumption; and if energy prices go up that figure could increase.

The nation's largest desalination project is under construction in Carlsbad, California, and it uses reverse osmosis technology. The plant cost nearly \$1 billion and will provide about 50 million gallons of water daily, or about 7 percent of San Diego County's water needs."

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how cost issues are the biggest problems facing the creation of desalination plants. We are talking about a multi-year drought with no end in sight, with millions of people going without the amount of water necessary to live. We have an answer right in front of us that could solve this problem, and if, as the affirmative, we recommended these kinds of incentives, we could genuinely end the drought issues in California and across the United States. Water should be a basic right of US citizens. This article talks about California in depth, but it's one of the reasons that this kind of legislation is so important. Our current efforts to improve water conditions in the United States aren't enough. Desalination is effective, and deserves US funding.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how desalination is a very expensive process, and at the current rate, it still won't solve for drought or other water crises. The status quo requires faster action, which is why we should subsidize it. If we subsidize such a costly venture, then more investors are likely to jump on board, which would create more plants, more jobs, and increase the US economy. If we continue within the status quo, it'll be too late. Water conservation isn't enough. We must act now. Beyond that, this is one of the best ways to solve for droughts in the United States, given our current technology. We should invest in our own infrastructure, before it's too late.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – Salt Water Desalination Already Happening in the Status Quo

The New York Times “For Drinking Water in Drought, California Looks Warily to Sea” Justin Gillis, April 11, 2015 < http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/12/science/drinking-seawater-looks-ever-more-palatable-to-californians.html?_r=0>

“Every time drought strikes California, the people of this state cannot help noticing the substantial reservoir of untapped water lapping at their shores — 187 quintillion gallons of it, more or less, shimmering so invitingly in the sun.

Now, for the first time, a major California metropolis is on the verge of turning the Pacific Ocean into an everyday source of drinking water. A \$1 billion desalination plant to supply booming San Diego County is under construction here and due to open as early as November, providing a major test of whether California cities will be able to resort to the ocean to solve their water woes...

... In California, small ocean desalination plants are up and running in a handful of towns. Plans are far along for a large plant in Huntington Beach that would supply water to populous Orange County. A mothballed plant in Santa Barbara may soon be reactivated. And more than a dozen communities along the California coast are studying the issue.

The facility being built here will be the largest ocean desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere, producing about 50 million gallons of drinking water a day...

... In San Diego County, which depends on imported freshwater supplies from the Colorado River and from Northern California, water bills already average about \$75 a month. The new plant will drive them up by \$5 or so to secure a new supply equal to about 7 or 8 percent of the county’s water consumption.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about how plants for salt water desalination are already popping up in several California towns and cities. This is something that is already happening in the status quo, and the United States shouldn’t increase funding into something that is happening in the private sector, as well as something that is already being funded by the government. We don’t have the budget to throw away on such an expensive process. There’s no point, and it’s a waste of money. Wasteful spending is something that we need to stop, and this would be a prime example of that. Desalination is a great idea, which is why it’s currently happening. This problem is being fixed already, and it should be a very profitable industry, without subsidization.*

NEG – Environmental and Cost Concerns of Desalination

KQED Science “Why Isn’t Desalination the Answer to All California’s Water Problems?” Daniel Potter, March 30, 2015 < <http://ww2.kqed.org/science/2015/03/30/why-isnt-desalination-the-answer-to-all-californias-water-problems/>>

““I’ll say at the outset, I am not a fan of desal generally,” says Burnett.

Apart from concerns about the expense, Burnett has a personal stake in desalination’s environmental challenges. He’s the son of two marine biologists, and his grandfather

David Packard's Silicon Valley fortune was integral to founding the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Burnett himself worked on climate rules for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before becoming Carmel's mayor.

"I've dedicated my professional life to working on climate change," Burnett says. "My family is very dedicated to the health of our oceans. So here I am advocating a project that has a large carbon footprint, and, if not done correctly, can hurt the oceans." ...

... There are three main environmental considerations when building a desalination plant: how seawater is brought in, how the drinkable water is separated out, and what happens to the salt afterward...

The simplest intake is essentially a straw in the ocean -- a design that risks trapping and killing sea life. One solution is to affix a grate to the end of such a pipe, but even then, tiny larvae and fish eggs can still be sucked in...

... An official at a smaller desal facility told me it took \$25,000 of electricity per month to produce enough water for 1,200 homes. In Cal Am's case, they're hoping to reach a deal to power the plant using methane from a nearby landfill...

One other still-tentative design element addresses the third challenge of the desalination process: all that salt has to go somewhere....

... Susan Jordan with the California Coastal Protection Network is a longtime critic of desal. She says, indeed, communities should first exhaust their other options.

"If you're going to do something like desal," Jordan says, "you want to make sure you're doing everything you can in terms of conservation, water recycling, water re-use, and you don't want unsustainable development that just perpetuates your problem, or the state's problem."

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about the concerns of desalination, why it shouldn't be an option we jump to immediately. As the negative, you should use this article separately from the first, because they contradict each other in a way. The cost of this process is ridiculous, and since we haven't exhausted all options, pouring money into this will not only cost communities more money, but it'll cost the government a ton of money. Second, there are significant environmental concerns of this process. First, marine life could be killed in the process. Second, the amount of pressure that is being pushed through could hurt the environment, because it costs a ton of energy. And last, all of the salt that is separated from the water needs to go somewhere. Where is it going to go? We must protect our people. But we must also protect our planet. There are still options that should be exhausted before this Congress jumps on the desalination bandwagon.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about how plants for salt water desalination are already popping up in several California towns and cities. This is something that is already happening in the status quo, and the United States shouldn't increase funding into something that is happening in the private sector, as well as something that is already being funded by the government. We don't have the budget to throw away on such an expensive process. There's no point, and it's a waste of money. Wasteful spending is something that we need to stop, and this would be a prime example of that. Desalination is a great idea, which is why it's currently happening. This problem is being fixed already, and it should be a very profitable industry, without subsidization.

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Legislation – A Resolution to Eliminate the Need to Change our Clocks by
Doing Away with Daylight Savings Time
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Daylight Savings Time Causes Many Problems

National Geographic, “Time to Move On? The Case Against Daylight Saving Time,” Brian Handwerk, November 1, 2013, < <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/11/131101-when-does-daylight-savings-time-end-november-3-science/> >

“The latest Rasmussen Report from March 2013 found that only 37 percent of Americans surveyed thought daylight saving time (DST) is “worth the hassle,” while 45 percent said it was not.

Tufts University professor Michael Downing, author of *Spring Forward: The Annual Madness of Daylight Saving Time*, said such opposition has been around for a century...

From the early, humorous musings of Benjamin Franklin to the first widespread implementation of daylight savings during World War I and into the present day, observing DST has had a foundation in energy savings.

Lighter evenings mean lower demand for illumination and electricity, the theory goes. But studies question whether daylight saving time produces any gains at all—and some suggest it may have the opposite effect...

In their 2008 National Bureau of Economic Research study, the team found that lighting demand dropped, but the warmer hour of extra daylight tacked onto each evening led to more air-conditioning use, which canceled out the gains from reduced lighting ...

Environmental economist Hendrik Wolff, of the University of Washington, and colleagues found that the practice did indeed drop lighting and electricity use in the evenings—but that higher energy demands during darker mornings completely canceled out the evening gains...

Part of the story that is often ignored, he added, is the energy required to get people from place to place—gasoline. In fact the petroleum and automobile industries have always been huge supporters of DST, Downing said.

“When you give Americans more light at the end of the day, they really do want to get out of the house. And they go to ballparks, or to the mall and other places, but they don't walk there. Daylight saving reliably increases the amount of driving that Americans do, and gasoline consumption tracks up with daylight saving.”

Shifting our clocks an hour naturally makes for a few groggy mornings, but some research suggests a far more dangerous impact to our bodies—an increased risk of heart attack. A 2012 study by University of Alabama at Birmingham's Martin Young found that the risk of heart attack surges by 10 percent on the Monday and Tuesday after moving the clocks ahead an hour each spring....

Research suggests that the human body's circadian clock, kept in tune by light and darkness, never adjusts to the changing chronology of DST. “The consequence of that is

that the majority of the population has drastically decreased productivity, decreased quality of life, increasing susceptibility to illness, and is just plain tired," Roenneberg told National Geographic in 2010...

For some reason, many Americans grew up believing that the practice was adopted for farmers, Downing said.

"That's the complete inverse of what's true," he said. "The farmers were the only organized lobby against daylight saving in the history of the country," he said, explaining that the practice left them with an hour less sunlight to get crops to market...Many farmers still don't like DST, including some dairy farmers, who find that cows' natural milking schedules don't adapt easily to a sudden shift...

Downing noted that a number of religions with prayer times depending on sunrise or sunset also object to DST because they don't like to have holy days fooled with—particularly among Orthodox practitioners.

"That echoes the original objections with daylight saving," he said. "The idea that we were fooling around with God's time and this was the mechanized world's way of somehow taking over God's world.

"Another group that's traditionally been opposed to it are organizations like the PTA and people concerned with schoolchildren," Downing noted.

"It has been expanded by a month every 20 years or so since the mid-1960s, and now we start to get daylight saving time in the late winter/early spring and in the very late autumn. This means that our sunrise times are so late that schoolchildren are out on dark streets in the morning, and that raises objections among parents of schoolchildren..."

Because the federal government doesn't require states or territories to observe DST, Arizona—except for residents of the Navajo Nation—Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands will ignore this weekend's switch.

This type of mishmash is common around the globe, creating the confusion that may be one of DST's biggest problems, according to critics. Most Asian and African nations avoid DST altogether. South America features a mix of different DST and non-DST schedules even among neighboring nations.

And while most of North America and Europe observe DST, all those nations don't change clocks at the same time, creating further discrepancies. "Every country tries to make their best switching dates based on their best beliefs," Wolff said.

TAKEAWAY – *This article says that the majority of Americans agree that we should eliminate daylight savings time. This article lists several reasons why Daylight savings time should be eliminated. DST promotes no energy saving and in fact sometimes costs citizens more on electricity. DST also results in more spent on gas, because it's light outside longer, people are driving more in the evening, thus spending more on gas. DST increases the chance of heart attack (immediately following) and results in decreased productivity, decreased quality of life, increased susceptibility to illness, and increased tiredness. DST hurts farmers and offends religious communities. It also harms school children who are awake and going to*

school in the dark thanks to DST. Finally, DST is confusing. Some states do it and some don't. Some countries do it and some don't. Ultimately the confusion of DST leads to discrepancies in time. You can use any or all of these reasons to craft an affirmative speech for this resolution.

AFF – Daylight Savings Time Has Measurable Consequences

The Atlantic, "Time to Kill Daylight Saving," Matt Schiavenza, March 8, 2015, <
<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/03/time-to-kill-daylight-saving/387175/> >

"The simple act of adjusting to the time change, however subtle, also has measurable consequences. Many people feel the effects of the "spring forward" for longer than a day; a study showed that Americans lose around 40 minutes of sleep on the Sunday night after the shift. This means more than just additional yawns on Monday: The resulting loss in productivity costs the economy an estimated \$434 million a year.

Daylight Saving Time may also hurt people who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder, depriving them of light in the mornings. "Our circadian rhythms were set eons ago to a rhythm that didn't include daylight savings time, so the shift tends to throw people off a bit," Nicholas Rummo, the director of the Center for Sleep Medicine at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mt. Kisco, New York, told HealthDay News. The switchover to Daylight Saving Time is also linked to an increase in heart attacks as well as traffic accidents.

Those of us who have lived with Daylight Saving Time our whole lives might feel disoriented without it. But the millions of Americans in Arizona, Hawaii, and territories like Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have survived just fine without it. Not to mention the billions of people throughout Asia, Africa, and South America.

TAKEAWAY – *This article says that the loss of productivity caused by Daylight Savings Time costs the U.S. economy \$434 MILLION a year. DST is linked to sleep disorders, heart attacks, and increased traffic accidents. Americans in Arizona and Hawaii have already made the switch, and have adjusted well. If you speak in affirmation of this resolution, you have to hit on the negatives of DST, but also hit home that many places have already eliminated DST, and it's time for the U.S. to follow suit.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article says that the majority of Americans agree that we should eliminate daylight savings time. This article lists several reasons why Daylight savings time should be eliminated. DST promotes no energy saving and in fact sometimes costs citizens more on electricity. DST also results in more spent on gas, because it's light outside longer, people are driving more in the evening, thus spending more on gas. DST increases the chance of heart attack (immediately following) and results in decreased productivity, decreased quality of life, increased susceptibility to illness, and increased tiredness. DST hurts farmers and offends religious communities. It also harms school children who are awake and going to school in the dark thanks to DST. Finally, DST is confusing. Some states do it and some don't. Some countries do it and some don't. Ultimately the confusion of DST leads to discrepancies in time. You can use any or all of these reasons to craft an affirmative speech for this resolution.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – There are Benefits to Daylight Savings Time

National Geographic, “Time to Move On? The Case Against Daylight Saving Time,” Brian Handwerk, November 1, 2013, < <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/11/131101-when-does-daylight-savings-time-end-november-3-science/> >

“Our health may benefit, however, from a quantifiable boost in recreational activities that goes along with lighter evenings. Hendrik Wolff and colleagues were among several groups to document this phenomenon, in their case using data from a nationwide American time-use study.

"We found that during the period of the 2007 [daylight] extension, people engaged in more outdoor recreation and less indoor-TV watching," he said. "An additional 3 percent of people engaged in outdoor behaviors who otherwise would have stayed indoors..."

Cash is king, and economics have always played a role in the politics of daylight saving time. Over the past 50 years, DST has been stretched from six months to seven months to now eight months in part because several industries have been huge supporters. In the mid-1980s, for example, the golf industry estimated that an extra month of DST was worth \$200 to \$400 million.

During that same time the U.S. barbecue industry pegged their increased profits at \$150 million for that same additional month...

Daylight saving has been credited with speeding up production in industrial plants and lessening eye-strain among school children”

TAKEAWAY – *This article says that there are some clear benefits to Daylight Savings Time. One benefit of DST is that more people are going outdoors and being active rather than watching T.V. Economically, DST helps many industries thrive, especially the recreational industries, like golf and barbecue. DST have been credited with speeding up production in industrial plants and lessening eye strain among school children. As the Negative you can use any or all of these benefits to craft a negative speech.*

NEG – Daylight Savings Time Reduces Electricity and Encourages Outdoor Activity

How Stuff Works, “How Daylight Savings Time Works,” William Harris, Accessed October 10, 2015, < <http://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/everyday-innovations/daylight-saving-time4.htm> >

“Advocates of daylight saving time have always pointed to energy conservation as the most important reason to move clocks forward during summer months. Here's the theory: Because 25 percent of all electricity consumed goes to powering lamps and small appliances, having more daylight hours for at least half the year should reduce the amount of electricity we use for lighting and running TVs, DVD players and stereos [source: Aldrich]. Also, DST should serve as an incentive for people to spend more time outdoors. In other words, there's more daylight available after school and work to go for a walk, play tennis or hit the links. If people are outside, they're not inside turning on lamps, appliances and electronics.

It wasn't until the early 1970s, however, that the power-conservation theory was put to the test. As part of the Emergency Daylight Saving Time Energy Conservation Act of 1973, initiated because of the Arab oil embargo, the U.S. Department of Transportation was required to study the effect of DST on electricity demand. To do this, researchers analyzed electricity load data from 22 different utilities for a period of days before and after transitions in and out of DST. Their report, published in 1975, found that daylight saving time reduced national electricity usage by roughly 1 percent compared with standard time...

The benefits of daylight saving time go beyond energy conservation, if you believe its supporters. Advocates of the practice argue that allowing drivers to return home in the daylight reduces traffic accidents during the evening rush hour. They also suggest that DST prevents crime because it limits a person's exposure to criminals, who usually conduct their business under the cloak of darkness. Finally, the sports and recreation industries are rabid fans of daylight saving time.”

TAKEAWAY – *This article says that daylight savings time decreases national electricity usage by 1 percent. In addition, it encourages outdoor activity, reduces traffic accidents, and reduces crime. By having the daylight extend longer people are encouraged to be outside and be active, drivers can see the roads better during high traffic times, and criminals are discouraged from committing crimes in the daylight. As the negative you have to argue that these benefits outweigh the negatives of DST.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article says that there are some clear benefits to Daylight Savings Time. One benefit of DST is that more people are going outdoors and being active rather than watching T.V. Economically, DST helps many industries thrive, especially the recreational industries, like golf and barbecue. DST have been credited with speeding up production in industrial plants and lessening eye strain among school children. As the Negative you can use any or all of these benefits to craft a negative speech.

The second article says that daylight savings time decreases national electricity usage by 1 percent. In addition, it encourages outdoor activity, reduces traffic accidents, and reduces crime. By having the daylight extend longer people are encouraged to be outside and be active, drivers can see the roads better during high traffic times, and criminals are discouraged from committing crimes in the daylight. As the negative you have to argue that these benefits outweigh the negatives of DST.

Legislation – A Bill to Require all Law Enforcement Officers to Wear Body
Cameras
Affirmative Evidence

AFF – Police Body Cameras Build Trust, Provide Numerous Benefits

Harvard Law Review, Volume 128, Number 6, Considering Police Body Cameras, April 10, 2015
<<http://harvardlawreview.org/2015/04/considering-police-body-cameras/>>

Proponents of body cameras often herald these cameras' unique ability to provide an "unambiguous" account of police-civilian encounters.⁴²×

For example, they claim that, had Officer Wilson been wearing a camera, its footage would have captured the interaction between him and Michael Brown prior to Brown's death. This footage would have provided the jury with a more objective account to use in resolving the discrepancies between Wilson's account and the accounts of eyewitnesses.⁴³×

This technology has also been praised as likely to reveal instances of police misconduct, reform police (and civilian) behavior, and build trust between the police and the community, all of which provide strong justifications for adoption...

...Perhaps the most commonly cited indicator of body cameras' potential to reduce instances of officer-civilian conflict is the "Rialto study." In this study, which ran from February 2012 through July 2013, half of Rialto, California's fifty-four patrol officers were "randomly assigned to wear the TASER AXON body-camera system."⁴⁴×

The results of the study appeared conclusive: "[s]hifts without cameras experienced twice as many incidents of use of force as shifts with cameras," and "the rate of use of force incidents per 1,000 contacts was reduced by 2.5 times" overall as compared to the previous twelve-month period.⁴⁵×

This dramatic reduction in the use of force indicates that body-worn cameras may have had a "civilizing" effect on officers, as the presence of a camera appeared to drastically lower the frequency with which officers "resorted to the use of physical force — including the use of OC spray ('pepper spray'), batons, Tasers, firearms, or canine bites."⁴⁶×

This civilizing effect may also extend to (or stem from) civilians who know they are being filmed, as some police officials believe "the visible presence of a camera [can] . . . compel highly agitated people to calm down more quickly."⁴⁷×

Studies conducted in other locales have also found that body cameras reduce officers' use of force in the field...

...Another benefit, intimately related to reducing instances of officer misconduct, is the ability of camera footage to facilitate efficient resolution of citizen complaints and lower the overall number of complaints filed in the first place.⁵⁰×

Rather than having to resolve a complaint based solely on "a credibility determination as between the complainant and one or more of the officers involved," the supposed objectivity of the camera will ideally lead investigators to "more accurate findings."⁵¹×

Greater accuracy buttresses efficiency, since officers who did not engage in misconduct can be rapidly exonerated.⁵²×

The number of frivolous civilian complaints will likely also be reduced, as people become aware that their actions are on film, making it more difficult for them to prevail on questionable claims...

...Police departments also perceive these cameras as helpful in the context of officer training, because “recordings [can] be used for remedial training or correcting the behavior of individual officers against whom misconduct allegations have been filed.”⁵⁴×

Footage can be incorporated into training programs to demonstrate what actual, on-the-ground civilian encounters should (and should not) look like, and review of body-camera footage may be particularly useful in monitoring new officers. But this benefit does not necessarily require that all officers be outfitted with cameras, as videos taken on certain patrols could be used for training both within and between departments. Still, body cameras may prove most effective as training devices if supervisors are actually able to pull and review officers’ individual footage...

...Footage from body cameras may help both prosecutors and defense attorneys by providing “objective evidence relating to whether a confession was voluntary, a search was consented to or justified, or a physical description matched a ‘lookout.’”⁵⁶×

A recent survey of prosecutors confirms this: ninety-six percent of prosecutors said that video evidence improved their ability to prosecute cases.⁵⁷×

In particular, video evidence has the advantage of “refresh[ing] the officer’s memory” and “verify[ing] the accuracy of written reports and statements surrounding [an] incident.”⁵⁸×

Still, overreliance on video evidence raises several concerns: For one, as discussed below, film is not inherently objective.⁵⁹×

It is also inevitable that video footage will not be available in every case, so creating such an expectation may be dangerous as juries could come to discount “other types of evidence, such as statements from police officers or other eyewitnesses.”...

...Taken all together, the preceding benefits may lead to improved relations between the police and the communities they serve, assuming body cameras do in fact result in more respectful officer behavior and the disciplining of those officers who abuse their power. Especially if citizens are able to request footage of their encounters with the police, or if departments willingly release footage of disputed incidents, the current climate of distrust may improve. That so many Americans feel they would be safer if all police officers wore body cameras speaks to this technology’s potential to increase accountability and transparency. But, as will be discussed below, if increased accountability ultimately leads mostly to increased government surveillance, the public’s trust may instead be undermined.⁶¹×

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about the many benefits of police body cameras. Body cameras would aid in protecting citizens, help reduce police misconduct, provide solutions for complaints made by citizens, provide training material for new police officers, provide evidence for trials, which would make convicting criminals easier, and ultimately improve the relationship between police and civilians, which is heightened at the moment. This piece of evidence is from the Harvard Law Review, and provides every piece of evidence you could need for any affirmative argument in favor of police body cameras.*

AFF - Police Body Cameras Serve Civilians, and Are Advantageous

American Civil Liberties Union “Police Body-Mounted Cameras: With Right Policies in Place, A Win For All” Jay Stanley, Updated Version Published March 2015, Original Published October 2013 <<https://www.aclu.org/police-body-mounted-cameras-right-policies-place-win-all>>

Although we at the ACLU generally take a dim view of the proliferation of surveillance cameras in American life, police on-body cameras are different because of their potential to serve as a check against the abuse of power by police officers. Historically, there was no documentary evidence of most encounters between police officers and the public, and due to the volatile nature of those encounters, this often resulted in radically divergent accounts of incidents. Cameras have the potential to be a win-win, helping protect the public against police misconduct, and at the same time helping protect police against false accusations of abuse.

We're against pervasive government surveillance, but when cameras primarily serve the function of allowing public monitoring of the government instead of the other way around, we generally support their use. While we have opposed government video surveillance of public places, for example, we have supported the installation of video cameras on police car dashboards, in prisons, and during interrogations...

...At the same time, body cameras have more of a potential to invade privacy than those deployments. Police officers enter people's homes and encounter bystanders, suspects, and victims in a wide variety of sometimes stressful and extreme situations.

For the ACLU, the challenge of on-officer cameras is the tension between their potential to invade privacy and their strong benefit in promoting police accountability. Overall, we think they can be a win-win—but only if they are deployed within a framework of strong policies to ensure they protect the public without becoming yet another system for routine surveillance of the public, and maintain public confidence in the integrity of those privacy protections. Without such a framework, their accountability benefits would not exceed their privacy risks.

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about police body cameras and the benefits they have for the civilian population. Essentially, body cameras would be installed to give the American public further respect for authority and would help alleviate tension between the police and citizens. In this case, people wouldn't be afraid of being confronted by police officers, because they'd know the entire interaction would be recorded, and could be used to prove the time and circumstance of events. Beyond that, situations where civilians are killed, and no one is around to verify what happened, would now be solved, because that information would be readily available. The article also argues that while body cameras are a risk because they could invade privacy, it's ultimately a risk worth taking in our current climate.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article talks about the many benefits of police body cameras. Body cameras would aid in protecting citizens, help reduce police misconduct, provide solutions for complaints made by citizens, provide training material for new police officers, provide evidence for trials, which would make convicting criminals easier, and ultimately improve the relationship between police and civilians, which is heightened at the moment. This piece of evidence is from the Harvard Law Review, and provides every piece of evidence you could need for any affirmative argument in favor of police body cameras.

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Negative Evidence

NEG – Body Cameras Are Expensive, and Violate Citizen Privacy

Harvard Law Review, Volume 128, Number 6, Considering Police Body Cameras, April 10, 2015

<http://harvardlawreview.org/2015/04/considering-police-body-cameras/>

This widespread galvanization over body cameras¹⁵ exemplifies the human tendency, in times of tragedy, to latch on to the most readily available solution to a complex problem. But as the outcome of Garner’s case demonstrates, even when high-quality, graphic footage is available, officers may still not be indicted, let alone convicted.¹⁶

Moreover, body cameras are a powerful — and indiscriminate — technology. Their proliferation over the next decade will inevitably change the nature of policing in unexpected ways, quite possibly to the detriment of the citizens the cameras are intended to protect.

So although video footage has the potential to move citizens as it did in the Garner case,¹⁸ proper implementation of this new policing tool requires careful consideration of current policy proposals, rather than the rapid, reactionary adoptions currently taking place nationwide.¹⁹

Their adoption should also not be used as an excuse to stifle continued conversation about the root causes of police violence and fractured community relations, as body cameras alone will never be the hoped-for cure-all...

...Privacy is a counterpoint to access: increasing transparency necessarily means more people will view body-camera footage, which will frequently feature civilians who may not want the recordings of themselves shared. This type of access raises the issue of whether officers must affirmatively warn all citizens that they are being recorded. The ACLU, for one, has called for notice to citizens “wherever practicable,” potentially in the form of “an easily visible pin or sticker saying ‘lapel camera in operation’ or words to that effect.”⁹² But questions remain, especially about the appropriateness of “police recordings made inside private homes” given the footage’s “uniquely intrusive nature.”⁹³ Officers’ ability to review tapes, slow them down, and enhance images means that a recorded search of a home or a vehicle can lead to the discovery of evidence that would otherwise have gone unnoticed...

...As more departments acquire body cameras, and as officers’ cameras roll each day, police departments will inevitably amass a colossal amount of footage, much of it likely irrelevant to any disputes over police-civilian interactions. While the start-up cost of outfitting a force with body cameras is not trivial for cash-strapped departments, the costs of storing and transmitting this data can be particularly staggering: some departments have already spent hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars managing their data.⁹⁶ However, these costs may be offset by savings on litigation, if cameras do in fact lead to fewer complaints and more efficient resolution of police misconduct cases.⁹⁷

Still, this price tag leaves open the question of who exactly will bear the costs of this new technology — especially when politicians are wary of raising taxes while the country recovers from the Great Recession....

...In a post-9/11 world, the addition of yet another form of government surveillance should not go unexamined: recent technological advances have allowed the state to move beyond the use of traditional electronic surveillance devices — like wiretaps and bugs — toward more pervasive surveillance techniques.¹⁰¹ From the Snowden leaks¹⁰² to reports of police drone use,¹⁰³ citizens are more conscious than ever of being watched by their government.¹⁰⁴ Moreover, “mission creep” on the part of camera manufacturers has already begun: at least one city has made plans to outfit its parking attendants with body cameras,¹⁰⁵ and some advocates have called for expanding cameras into other arenas, like the classroom.¹⁰⁶

So although police body cameras have the potential to benefit citizens and officers alike, they nevertheless represent another substantial step toward a surveillance state. Police departments in recent decades have become increasingly militarized,¹⁰⁷ complete with intelligence departments,¹⁰⁸ devices that mimic cell phone towers,¹⁰⁹ and facial recognition software.¹¹⁰ Facial recognition software in particular may pose a threat to civilian privacy when coupled with body cameras:

[T]he increasing effectiveness of facial recognition software, even in consumer products like Facebook, means that simply recording an image of a person (in a private or public space) can lead to further identification. . . . Officer-mounted wearable cameras, paired with facial recognition, could easily become much like the current crop of automated license readers, constantly reading thousands of faces (license plates), interpreting identity (plate number), and cross-checking this information against national and local crime databases in real-time.¹¹¹

While not necessarily “inimical to individual liberty,” this rapid expansion of police oversight may do less to empower civilians to “watch their watchers,” and more to enable the government to effectively track, detain, and arrest individuals.

TAKEAWAY – *This article talks about several key points that are valid when arguing against police body cameras. First, they are very expensive, and shouldering that cost is something that police departments and the federal government can’t afford. Second, there is a large chance that citizen privacy would be violated during recording. It’s an example of being recorded without your express permission, and that should not be allowed. The thought that someone can watch you while you’re going about your day, and all because a police officer was around, is disconcerting. Beyond that, the police officer’s privacy would also be violated, because they couldn’t carry on normal conversations with other officers or talk to their loved ones without the devices on. Last, you could argue that this could perpetuate the surveillance state that currently plagues the United States. We are constantly monitored, and this is just another way for the Government to keep its’ eyes on us.*

NEG – Police Body Cams Hurt Privacy for All

American Civil Liberties Union “Police Body-Mounted Cameras: With Right Policies in Place, A Win For All” Jay Stanley, Updated Version Published March 2015, Original Published October 2013 <<https://www.aclu.org/police-body-mounted-cameras-right-policies-place-win-all>>

Continuous recording would also impinge on police officers when they are sitting in a station house or patrol car shooting the breeze — getting to know each other as humans, discussing precinct politics, etc. We have some sympathy for police on this; continuous recording might feel as stressful and oppressive in those situations as it would for any

employee subject to constant recording by their supervisor. True, police officers with their extraordinary powers are not regular employees, and in theory officers' privacy, like citizens', could be protected by appropriate policies (as outlined below) that ensure that 99% of video would be deleted in relatively short order without ever being reviewed. But on a psychological level, such assurances are rarely enough. There is also the danger that the technology would be misused by police supervisors against whistleblowers or union activists — for example, by scrutinizing video records to find minor violations to use against an officer...

...Police body cameras mean that many instances of entirely innocent behavior (on the part of both officers and the public) will be recorded. Perhaps most troubling is that some recordings will be made inside people's homes, whenever police enter — including in instances of consensual entry (e.g., responding to a burglary call, voluntarily participating in an investigation) and such things as domestic violence calls. In the case of dashcams, we have also seen video of particular incidents released for no important public reason, and instead serving only to embarrass individuals. Examples have included DUI stops of celebrities and ordinary individuals whose troubled and/or intoxicated behavior has been widely circulated and now immortalized online. The potential for such merely embarrassing and titillating releases of video is significantly increased by body cams.

TAKEAWAY – *This article extends on the arguments that citizen and police officer privacy is at stake when we use police body cameras. United States citizens are entitled to a certain level of privacy, and this disturbs that. Beyond that, you can argue that police informants, or people who would like to volunteer information, would be less likely to do so if they didn't have anonymity. Overall, police body cameras have the right intention, because they are intended to bring citizens and police officers closer, but they would end up having the opposite result.*

Negative Takeaways:

The first article talks about several key points that are valid when arguing against police body cameras. First, they are very expensive, and shouldering that cost is something that police departments and the federal government can't afford. Second, there is a large chance that citizen privacy would be violated during recording. It's an example of being recorded without your express permission, and that should not be allowed. The thought that someone can watch you while you're going about your day, and all because a police officer was around, is disconcerting. Beyond that, the police officer's privacy would also be violated, because they couldn't carry on normal conversations with other officers or talk to their loved ones without the devices on. Last, you could argue that this could perpetuate the surveillance state that currently plagues the United States. We are constantly monitored, and this is just another way for the Government to keep its' eyes on us.

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Legislation – A Bill to Require Public Schools to Provide Diverse Fine Arts
Education at All Levels
Affirmative Evidence

AFF- Arts Are Important to Education and Help Low Income Children

Edutopia, “Why Arts Education Is Crucial, and Who's Doing It Best,” Fran Smith, January 2009,
< <http://www.edutopia.org/arts-music-curriculum-child-development> >

"Arts education...does solve problems. Years of research show that it's closely linked to almost everything that we as a nation say we want for our children and demand from our schools: academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunity.

Involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts learning can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.

A 2005 report by the Rand Corporation about the visual arts argues that the intrinsic pleasures and stimulation of the art experience do more than sweeten an individual's life -- according to the report, they "can connect people more deeply to the world and open them to new ways of seeing," creating the foundation to forge social bonds and community cohesion.

And strong arts programming in schools helps close a gap that has left many a child behind: From Mozart for babies to tutus for toddlers to family trips to the museum, the children of affluent, aspiring parents generally get exposed to the arts whether or not public schools provide them. Low-income children, often, do not. "Arts education enables those children from a financially challenged background to have a more level playing field with children who have had those enrichment experiences," says Eric Cooper, president and founder of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education.

It has become a mantra in education that No Child Left Behind, with its pressure to raise test scores, has reduced classroom time devoted to the arts ... Evidence supports this contention...Arts education has been slipping for more than three decades, the result of tight budgets, an ever-growing list of state mandates that have crammed the classroom curriculum, and a public sense that the arts are lovely but not essential.”

TAKEAWAYS – Arts aid in academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunity. Involvement in the arts has proven higher math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skills. The Arts can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. Children from affluent homes often have exposure to the arts outside of school, but for lower income students, the only exposure they have to the arts is in school. Having a strong arts program in the public school system is essential to give lower income students all of the same opportunities and benefits that

wealthier children have.

AFF- Arts Education is Critical to Teens Education and Life Success

The Kennedy Center, “Arts Education Is a Gateway to Your Child’s Future: High School,” <<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/families/at-school/cae/high-school.aspx> >

“Research finds that the arts can be a vital tool for success in high school because they provide positive, enjoyable, creative pathways for teenagers to express their feelings and ideas. This is particularly important at an age when kids are worried about the future and feeling conflicted about many intractable issues, particularly dependence/independence.

Given that, here’s why arts education matters, especially in high school:

The arts help teens enjoy—and stay in—school. Arts keep students engaged in school life. Students can take the skills learned from their arts experiences — discipline, patience, problem-solving—and apply them throughout their lives.

Taking classes in the arts helps teens graduate on time. For example, a recent report from the Center for Arts Education found that New York City high schools with the most access to—and support for — arts education have the city’s highest graduation rates.

Arts education can be a gateway to the future. Arts-related businesses, especially in urban areas, provide jobs in creative fields ranging from advertising and video game design to fashion and theater management. The creative sector needs more than just artists, too— it needs accountants, marketers, computer technicians, lawyers, and many others.

The arts can help in applying to college. The College Board has found that students who take classes in the arts for four years in high school scored substantially higher on the SATs than students with six months or less training in the arts.”

TAKEAWAY – *Research has found that arts can be a vital tool for high school students. They provide a positive environment for self-expression at a critical time in teens’ lives. The arts keep kids in school, thereby decreasing dropout rates. Taking classes in the arts helps teens graduate on time. Arts education is a great gateway for future careers. Arts education also helps students in the college application process.*

AFF- New Studies Show the Importance of Arts Education

Louisiana Partnership for the Arts, “Two New Studies Document The Importance Of Arts Education,” 2012, <<http://lparts.org/2012/04/08/two-new-studies-document-the-importance-of-arts-education/>>

“Two new studies have just been released that document the importance of arts education for young people! Here are some of the highlights:

1. Eighth graders who had high levels of arts engagement from kindergarten

- through elementary school showed higher test scores in science and writing than did students who had lower levels of arts engagement over the same period.
2. Students who had arts-rich experiences in high school were more likely than students without those experiences to complete a calculus course. Also, students who took arts courses in high school achieved a slightly higher grade-point average (GPA) in math than did other students.
 3. In two separate databases, students who had arts-rich experiences in high school showed higher overall GPAs than did students who lacked those experiences.
 4. High school students who earned few or no arts credits were five times more likely not to have graduated than students who earned many arts credits.
 5. Both 8th-grade and high school students who had high levels of arts engagement were more likely to aspire to college than were students with less arts engagement.
 6. Arts-engaged high school students enrolled in competitive colleges—and in four-year colleges in general—at higher rates than did low-arts-engaged students.
 7. Students who had intensive arts experiences in high school were three times more likely than students who lacked those experiences to earn a bachelor's degree. They also were more likely to earn “mostly A’s” in college.”

TAKEAWAYS- *This piece of evidence just further lists benefits of arts education. They can further hit home the importance of passing this bill.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

Since such a huge emphasis is put on test scores, focus and funding towards arts education has declined. Arts education has a wide array of benefits, and we must pass this bill in order to allow all children the opportunity to reap these benefits.

Arts aid in academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunity. Involvement in the arts has proven higher math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skills. The Arts can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.

Children from affluent homes often have exposure to the arts outside of school, but for lower income students, the only exposure they have to the arts is in school. Having a strong arts program in the public school system is essential to give lower income students all of the same opportunities and benefits that wealthier children have.

Research has found that arts can be a vital tool for high school students. They provide a positive environment for self-expression at a critical time in teens' lives. The arts keep kids in school, thereby decreasing dropout rates. Taking classes in the arts helps teens graduate on time. Arts education is a great gateway for future careers. Arts education also helps students in the college application process.

As the affirmative, you can argue that all of our problems with education can be solved with an increased focus on arts education. Increasing art education funding will improve test scores, decrease dropout rates, and help lower income children who are often "left behind."

Negative Evidence

NEG-Arts Have No Practical Application In The Real World- The Focus Should Be on Math, Science, and English

Debate.Org, “Should public high schools start to focus more on teaching practical skill sets, such as balancing checkbooks and investing, versus subjects such as American history and art?” January 2014, <<http://www.debate.org/opinions/should-public-high-schools-start-to-focus-more-on-teaching-practical-skill-sets-such-as-balancing-checkbooks-and-investing-versus-subjects-such-as-american-history-and-art>>

“Schools can only TEST the students on subjects that are objective and require thinking. Since there are computers and the internet, information is cheap and easy to access. This means that memorization of a subject on a test should be very small relative to the analytical thinking part of the test, because in the real world you do not need to know what a simile is or the exact date of the American revolution because you just look it up.

Subjects like math and science require a lot of thinking compared to a whole lot of other subjects like art, history, language arts, and Spanish. Also, subjects like art, history, language arts, and foreign languages do not help out in the world like math and science...

Art does not help in food production or clean water... The subjects that [should be] mandatory in schools are subjects like Math, Science and English... Schools should focus more on mathematics and science; which are the most important subjects to know because they help produce food, clean water, buildings, drugs, weapons, and much more...

Subjects like... arts, and music help the world, but only spiritually...The subjects that the modern world runs on should be the subjects in the school system that are mandatory like math, science...”

TAKEAWAY – *Math and Science should be the primary focus of education. The practical applications of the arts in the real world are limited. Our education system should focus on preparing our students for the real-world. We shouldn't pass this bill, because the problem with our education system is not that there isn't enough arts education, but that there isn't enough emphasis on real-world problem solving skills.*

NEG- Arts Education is Destroying the United States Education System, and Our Economic Success

FIUSM, “Education of the arts, important, but not paramount,” Neda Ghomeshi, February 2011, < <http://fiusm.com/2011/02/23/important-but-not-paramount/> >

“The study of the arts provides students an opportunity to actively participate in an imaginative world and can bring every subject to life, turning abstractions into a concrete

reality. However, the challenges of this half of the century demand more time in the classrooms and less time with the arts...

More time needs to be allocated to textbook education. Unfortunately, the continuously disappointing public education system in the United States promotes the arts while losing focus on textbook education. This is proving to be detrimental to our society as countries such as China and India continue to excel in math and science...

Economic success is dependent on education standards because the global economy is a knowledge-based one. Today, the global economy is becoming much more competitive with more people earning a higher education. Children in our nation need a quality education in order to become engaged, productive and innovative citizens, allowing students to develop ideas that will improve our economy.

President Barack Obama believes that this nation is lagging behind in education, too. During his State of the Union address, he emphasized the importance of education in this rigorous global competition. He said, “We need to win the race to educate our kids.” I believe that in order for the U.S. to compete globally, proper education needs to be enforced and we need to take drastic measures in educating our students with only the necessary material.

Students are dedicating too much of their valuable time to the arts. In the process, they are losing focus on scientific education. According to the Time magazine, the U.S. is ranked 25th in math and 21st in science, putting us behind developing nations. This is a crucial reason why students need to spend more time in the classroom and less time in the art studio. With more focus on reading, science and other vital subjects, our students can comprehend the same concepts and strategies as students abroad.

Ellen Winner of Project Zero, an arts-education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said, “When kids take a lot of art [classes], they don’t improve in their core subject areas.” Although, I do believe the arts are beneficial, it should not dominate a child’s time in school.

Students have become so enamored with the study of arts that they have lost focus on non-art education. Americans are not earning the same education as students abroad because of the added focus on art in classrooms...Unfortunately, the nature of global competition is significantly different than it was half a century ago and the U.S. needs to be more cautious of dominating nations.

In order to excel in this rigorous competition, the U.S. needs to revamp the education system. The U.S. cannot lose focus on the fundamentals of learning and more time needs to be spent on textbook education.”

TAKEAWAYS – *The United States is too focused on arts education. Because of this, we are falling way behind other countries like China and India in education. In order for the U.S. to*

compete globally, our future, children, need to be getting a formal and proper education focused on math and science.

Negative Takeaways:

Math and Science should be the primary focus of education. The practical applications of the arts in the real world are limited. Our education system should focus on preparing our students for the real-world. We shouldn't pass this bill, because the problem with our education system is not that there isn't enough arts education, but that there isn't enough emphasis on real-world problem solving skills.

The United States is too focused on arts education. Because of this, we are falling way behind other countries like China and India in education. In order for the U.S. to compete globally, our future, children, need to be getting a formal and proper education focused on math and science.

You need to say the U.S needs to focus on teaching math and science, because they are more important for the future of our country.

Legislation – A Resolution to Require Military Service Affirmative Evidence

AFF- Mandatory Military Service Forces Military to be Accountable

The Guardian “Bring back mandatory military service in the US and UK” Christopher Yates, August 30, 2013

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/aug/30/bring-back-military-draft>

“Greece could never have gone into Iraq,” said Captain Dimitris, rather firmly. “Because every mother in the country would need to know why.”...

...Greece requires nine months' compulsory military service from all adult males, and though the unit to which we were attached was nominally professional, it still contained a large proportion of conscripts. This gave it an unusual character – to me, at least – especially with respect to the soldiers' level of education...

... Every mother would need to know why. By the time you're reading this, the US and UK may already be bombing Syria, with or without United Nations approval. Readers might be feeling a familiar sense of despair: that whatever the reasons, rights and wrongs, it appears, yet again, that the American and British people have neither the willingness nor the ability to enter into a true debate regarding the use of their armed forces. Our governments order it, and it just happens. We shrug, safe that it's not going to affect us one way or the other”...

...In the case of Greeks (not a people known for stifling their emotions, nor slavishly obeying orders), I have yet to meet one who really hated or regretted their service. Most regard their time with a kind of resigned amusement. As long as it is genuinely universal, the sacrifice may not seem so great: however counter-intuitive it sounds, the only way to keep a rein on our nations' military activities may be to make sure everyone is directly involved in them, and ensure the mothers are always ready to ask why.”

TAKEAWAY- *This article compares the actions of US and UK volunteer military compared to Greece who have a mandated military. Many conflicts and actions taken by US and UK military would not be allowed if we required our citizens to enlist in the military. As the AFF you should argue that when we have a military populated by volunteers, we lose accountability for the actions taken by our military. If we required every adult to enlist, the public would take more interest in why we are requiring our friends and families to put themselves in danger. When the US engages in conflict with another country there is little resistant from the US public because these people losing their lives volunteered. We would take more interest in the actions of our military if everyone was required to be a part of the action.*

AFF- Mandatory Military Service would Strengthen Citizenship

-US News “Compulsory National Service Would Strengthen American Citizenship” William Galston, October 19, 2010

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2010/10/19/compulsory-national-service-would-strengthen-american-citizenship>

“In the past, we have regarded military service as a responsibility of citizenship. After Vietnam, in which the fairness of the draft emerged as a major issue, we turned toward all-volunteer armed forces. In many respects the shift has been a success. The military

has attracted a steady stream of highly qualified recruits, and the skills and discipline of our armed forces have never been higher.

But we have paid a price: A small percentage of Americans do the fighting for the rest of us, creating a wedge between military professionals and average citizens. Many elected officials lack military experience, and few have children in uniform. For most of us, defending our country is something we watch on television. Little in the lives of young Americans helps them understand that citizenship is more than a list of rights to which they are entitled.

Suppose that upon high school graduation or reaching the age of 18, every American were given a randomly selected lottery number based on their birthday and that a certain portion were selected for civic service. They would be offered a choice—two years of either military or civilian service. Those doing civilian service would receive stipends large enough to pay living expenses, as members of AmeriCorps do today.

This system would produce a number of desirable results for the country, as it would benefit from such service, but also for those who perform it. By the time they entered high school, young people would know that they might be asked to serve, and they would begin to talk to their older siblings or relatives about their options. They would begin to understand that there's more to citizenship than simply asserting their rights...

...Some will object to this proposal as an unwarranted limitation on liberty, and surveys probably would show a majority of high school students opposed. But we have to ask ourselves whether we're satisfied with the condition of American citizenship today and, if not, how we're prepared to strengthen it. This is a national debate we should all welcome.”

TAKEAWAY- *This article looks at the current state of American citizenship as well as the benefits of youth knowing that they will be responsible for protecting their citizenship. Currently, US citizens are taking their rights for granted and assuming these rights will always be protected. You should read the full excerpt to get a good understanding of the arguments. As the AFF you should argue the benefits of having a well-trained and educated work force with military experience will benefit many industries as well as bring a stronger sense of ownership to American citizenship.*

Affirmative Takeaways:

The first article compares the actions of US and UK volunteer military compared to Greece who have a mandated military. Many conflicts and actions taken by US and UK military would not be allowed if we required our citizens to enlist in the military. As the AFF you should argue that when we have a military populated by volunteers, we lose accountability for the actions taken by our military. If we required every adult to enlist, the public would take more interest in why we are requiring our friends and families to put themselves in danger. When the US engages in conflict with another country there is little resistant from the US public because these people losing their lives volunteered. We would take more interest in the actions of our military if everyone was required to be a part of the action.

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Negative Evidence

NEG- Serving in Our Military Should be an Honor and a Privilege

The Guardian “Bring back mandatory military service in the US and UK” Christopher Yates, August 30, 2013

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“Every mother would need to know why. By the time you're reading this, the US and UK may already be bombing Syria, with or without United Nations approval. Readers might be feeling a familiar sense of despair: that whatever the reasons, rights and wrongs, it appears, yet again, that the American and British people have neither the willingness nor the ability to enter into a true debate regarding the use of their armed forces. Our governments order it, and it just happens. We shrug, safe that it's not going to affect us one way or the other. If our own apathy troubles us, as it should, it is perhaps our own fault for letting slip one of the core tenets of the world's first democracy. For the ancient Athenians, a non-negotiable prerequisite for citizenship was the completion of compulsory military service and availability in the reserves. To hold public office and voting rights, you had to have skin in the game: quite literally, your own and probably your family's. In short, Athenian citizens could not afford not to care about their foreign policy.

Nowadays, the mere suggestion that developed western nations should revive compulsory military service is liable to strike us as absurd, if not unethical. Modern consumerist society has it as a tacit catechism that it is a gross imposition for anyone, especially the state, to expect us to do anything we don't want to do. So rather than trying to sell the idea, it's more honest to acknowledge that conscription will always be, at very least, a nuisance.

It's a lost year and not intended for the individual's benefit. After all, it's quite natural not to want to live cheek-by-jowl with strangers, to have to get up early, learn to salute, march, run long distances in boots while carrying a heavy pack, sleep in the rain under a poncho. Neither is it an enticing prospect to be posted hundreds of miles from home to a remote outpost, where one can expect a tedious round of guard duty, potato-peeling and toilet-mopping, leavened by a occasional training exercise and border patrols in the cold and heat. And of course, there's always the lurking possibility of having to do it for real, and be ordered into combat against those deemed to be the nation's enemies. It's a safe bet that mothers will not rest easy while their sons are undergoing the same – which, as Captain Dimitris put it, might be the whole idea.”

TAKEAWAY- *This article looks at the effect of mandatory military involvement in Greece. Mandatory military involvement is an ancient idea and was necessary if you wanted to become a citizen or a hold public office. As NEG you should argue that as we have become more evolved, industrialized, and globalized, our military has evolved as well. Serving in our military is a sign of respect and courage, not gift for your 18th birthday. Young adults in the US decide to join the military on their own free will, because they want to protect the rights of their friends and family. The people who put their lives in danger to protect us should be treated with respect and honor, because they did so without obligation.*

NEG- The Harms of Mandating Military Service are too Great

ABC News “What If We Reinstated the Draft?” David Fazekas, June 5, 2014

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/what-if-abc-news/what-if-military-service-became-mandatory-194837736.html>

“Keep in mind, mandatory service means plucking the nation’s youth, 18 to 25-year-olds, out of the economy. That’s 35 million Americans pushing dirt, instead of pushing buttons on a cash register.

“If you took every 18 and 19 year old, you would have a tremendous decline in parts of the labor force,” said Henderson. “It would be harder to get people to work at McDonald's, so wages there would go up for the people that do work, and the prices of those items would go up.”

And eventually, all those dedicated men and women, become veterans, deserving of financial benefits. Right now, the government spends more than \$140 million dollars on our veterans’ services, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. That number would have to balloon if every American became a vet.

“They would have to cut spending elsewhere. They would have to increase taxes. It would come out of somewhere,” said Henderson

More patriotism, a smaller workforce and a bigger military budget. The U.S. would join the ranks of more than 20 countries, including Russia, South Korea, Israel and Switzerland, if we mandated military service.

And alongside the morning reveille, we may hear more wedding bells, if everyone in America was forced to serve.

“Right now in the military with the current incentives there are a lot of things that would motivate a couple that’s already fallen in love to marry and or start a family,” said Scott Stanley, co-director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver. “Better housing, better housing allowance, good childcare subsidies.”

Then again, we may hear Taps played on a number of those marriages.

“I think there you would actually see a net increase in divorce in the country because,” said Stanley. “It’s pretty clear to social scientists that marrying under the age of 23 and especially under the age of 21, so the earlier you go, the more great the odds that the marriage isn’t going to make it.”

TAKEAWAY- *This article looks at the effect of requiring every eligible citizen to join the military. This would lead to more people making a living off of taxes, a smaller work force in private industries, and more people getting married and starting a family at a young age. As the NEG you should argue that since we currently have over 1 million active military men and woman currently serving, there is no need to force people to enlist in the military and doing so would yield less benefits for veterans, increased taxes, and more social issues. The negative results just outweigh any possible benefit*

Negative Takeaways:

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