



Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Isabel Levine and Grace Gorant

2016 Middle School Model Congress



Middle School Model Congress

Committee: Health Education Labor & Pensions

Principal Authors: Grace Gorant, Izzy Levine

Bill No: None

Co-Authors: None

Title of Bill: An Act to Rid America of Standardized Testing

Be It Enacted By Middle School Model Congress Assembled

1 **Preamble:** *Whereas* standardized tests cause anxiety for students of all ages
2 (Huffington Post); *whereas* standardizes tests rarely if not never reflect what has
3 been taught by teachers; *whereas* these tests often sway teachers' lesson plans
4 solely to prepare their students for the tests (ProCon); *whereas* certain students
5 are poor test takers and are considered lesser than other students based on their
6 scores on these tests (Richards); *whereas* standardized tests take up class time
7 that could be used for actual teaching (FairTest); *whereas* these tests do not allow
8 for students to show their creativity; *whereas* these tests have biases against
9 students of lower socioeconomic statuses (Washington Post).

10

11 **Section 1:** There will be no nationwide or statewide standards for curriculum in the
12 United States.

13

14 **Section 2:** States will no longer be required to perform standardized tests.

15

16 **Section 3:** This bill will go into effect 1 year after passage.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Brief

In the United States it is expected that students learn specific sets of information outlined in nationwide or state standards, and that they take standardized tests to measure these skills. These tests are used to ensure that teachers across the country are teaching to the standards outlined. A lot of people in this country, including this bill's author, will tell you that they hate standardized testing. They argue that it's unfair, and that it judges students based on a very specific skill set instead of their general knowledge and learning. Arguments are similar against standard curricula, as many find that it discourages students creativity and curiosity to learn and replaces it with strict and rigid learning. However, many others believe that these two things are necessary to ensure that everyone in America is getting the education they deserve. Children in low-income communities are often left behind when their school systems do not teach them the information they need to get to the next grade, to college, and to survive in the real world. For these students, core curriculum is the only way their school systems can improve and be held to a standard that allows them to be prepared for the future. Your job is to research these two sides, and be ready to prove which one is right at Middle School Model Congress. Here's a starting point:

Middle School Model Congress

Committee: Health Education Labor & Pensions

Principal Authors: Grace Gorant, Izzy Levine

Bill No: None

Co-Authors: None

Title of Bill: An Act to Abolish Tipping in America

Be It Enacted By Middle School Model Congress Assembled

1 **Preamble:** *Whereas* “tipped minimum wage” is the federal minimum that waiters
2 and waitresses that make at least \$30 a month in tips must be paid; *whereas*
3 according to current United States legislation, if a waitresses or waiter’s wages
4 and tips do not equal the federal minimum wage, the employer must compensate
5 by paying the employee at least the minimum wage; *whereas* this does not always
6 happen in practice; *whereas* the current tipped minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour;
7 *whereas* the current federal minimum wage is \$7.25; *whereas* tipping puts a
8 waiter/waitress’s salary largely in the hands of the public (Huffington Post);
9 *whereas* restaurant employees are currently subject to racial, gender, and other
10 forms of discrimination in regards to tip quantity (Cornell University); *whereas*
11 several countries including Japan, Italy, and China, have abolished the system of
12 tipping; *whereas* a waiter or waitress’s salary is dependent on the salaries of their
13 customers and the area that their restaurant is located (The Guardian).

14

15 **Section 1:** United States restaurant employees will not be allowed to accept tips
16 from customers.

17

18 **Section 2:** Tipping minimum wage will be abolished.

19

20 **Subsection A:** All restaurant employers must pay their employees the federal
21 minimum wage or higher.

22

23 **Section 3:** This bill will go into effect 3 months after passage.

24

25

26

27

Brief

Not everyone is feeling the vibes of tipping. Many who work in the restaurant industry are paid as little as \$2.13 per hour for their work and are expected to make the rest from tips. However, customers may not tip at all, or tip unfairly based on gender, race, or other factors, making it very hard for food servers to be paid fairly for service. Some, including the author of this bill, believe it is best to abolish tipping and have all servers paid by their employers directly. However, others believe that tipping motivates workers to do their jobs diligently and allows for hard-working employees to take home the money they deserve and need. Many restaurants, they theorize, would not pay their workers nearly as much as the money they make from tips. In addition, they believe that tipping provides an opportunity for customers to show their appreciation for a job well done and is an important American tradition. Your job, my lieges, is to determine which side is right, and back it up with evidence! Start with these two articles and research away!

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/17/abolish-tipping_n_5991796.html

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2015-10-15/tipping-s-hidden-benefits-for-servers-and-customers>

Note!:

If you have questions about Model Congress or either of the topics, feel free to email us at ggorant17@gmail.com