



Foreign Relations

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Committee Background

This committee is responsible for overseeing the foreign policy agencies of the U.S. government, including the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Peace Corps. The Committee reviews and considers all diplomatic nominations and international treaties, as well as legislation relating to U.S. foreign policy.

In the coming months and years, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will address some of the most pressing challenges this nation faces. America faces momentous challenges: wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, climate change, the spread of nuclear weapons, global terrorism, and an unfolding financial crisis with global implications.

Topic 1: US/China Trade Relations



Topic 1 Background

The United States is currently under harsh economic times and everyday people throughout the nation are certainly feeling it and suffering intensely. With an unemployment rate at an extremely high 9.1 percent, citizens are dealing with few opportunities for work and reliance on public assistance such as food stamps. There are many ways that have been suggested to go about solving this issue, particularly when it comes to job creation. Right now, China is one of the United States' largest suppliers of goods and from January to July of this year, the amount of US imports from China were more than three times the amount of exports of American goods to China. Recent reports suggest that if every American were to spend about \$6.41 on US goods each week, it would create almost 1 million jobs. Trade relations with China have been critiqued and analyzed for years. While some experts say that trade relations between the two nations are "...generally normal and healthy," other note major flaws and disappointments.

Topic 1 Bill Summary

To respond to high rate of unemployment and amount of imports from China, the following bill entitled, “An Act to Buy American,” works to revive America’s manufacturing base, eradicate the nation’s reliance on foreign goods, create jobs and boost the economy, as well as restore the United States’ competitiveness in the world economy. The bill calls for a subsidy on American made products, a brief suspension of trading between the US and China to fix the problematic trade imbalance as well as a national campaign to promote buying more American made products.

FOR: There are many great reasons for why you may be for this bill. For one, the national government subsidizing American goods will lower prices of those products for consumers who will then be inclined to purchase more, therefore, increasing profit for manufacturing companies in your state. Additionally, you may find the suspension of trade relations necessary due to the various existing complications that are literally costing the nation. Make sure you research what are the flaws of US & China trading. With a growing US trade deficit with China causing jobs to disappear in America, suspension of trade relations for a while could be great as more focus is put on American-made goods, intended for both export and domestic sale, can increase U.S. profits. Lastly, a national campaign would be beneficial in rallying up support for manufacturing within the US and consumer spending of American goods. When debating, make sure you stress that manufacturing is a major factor of our nation’s income which this bill supports.

AGAINST: On the other hand there are strong points for why you may be against this bill. First, Chinese goods are mostly far cheaper than American goods for the average consumer in the United States and it will cost the government money to subsidize American goods.. Therefore, subsidizing *all* American products may not be the best decision. Research how subsidies work and their efficiency. Additionally, China has long denied that it is responsible for American exports lagging so far behind its imports. Maybe it has nothing at all to do with China? Is a two year suspension worth it? How will it impact our relationship with China? Think about it. Also, with the government set to launch a national campaign according to this bill, where in the world is the money coming from? Note that taxpayers will most likely have to pay the price of the campaign and that’s news struggling Americans won’t like to hear.

S I L A S K E Z E N G W A

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Topic 1 Research Sources

- <http://foreign.senate.gov/>
- <http://www.ustr.gov/countries-regions/china>
- <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5700.html>
- <http://www.epi.org/publication/growing-trade-deficit-china-cost-2-8-million/>
- <http://www.cfr.org/china/uneasy-us-chinese-trade-relationship/p10482>
- <https://www.uschina.org/statistics/tradetable.html>
- <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/MadeInAmerica/>

MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS

Committee: Foreign Relations

Principal Authors: Silas Kezengwa

Bill No: FR-001

Co-Authors: Daniel Erichson

Title of Bill: An Act to Buy American

BE IT ENACTED BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

1 PREAMBLE: *Whereas* the United States' largest supplier of goods in 2010 was China;
2 *whereas* China is currently the United States' second "...largest goods trading partner with
3 \$457 billion in total (two ways) goods trade during 2010;" *whereas* exports of United States
4 goods to China totaled only 92 billion dollars while imports of Chinese goods to the United
5 States totaled almost quadruple that amount at a staggering \$365 billion; *whereas* the top
6 five biggest import categories were electrical machinery at about 91 billion dollars,
7 machinery at about 83 billion dollars, toys and sports equipment at about 25 billion dollars,
8 furniture and bedding at about 20 billion dollars and footwear at about 16 billion dollars in
9 2010; *whereas* there are a variety of manufacturing companies in the United States that
10 already supply these types of goods; *whereas* by purchasing American made products, the
11 outcomes would affect the nation positively.

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13 SECTION 1: To ensure more nationwide spending on American-made goods, the United
14 States shall subsidize all products that are produced within the nation's borders such as
15 vehicles, toys, etc., making costs less expensive and more appealing to the buyer.

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17 SECTION 2: In response to United States' rising enormous trade deficit with China, trade
18 relations with China will be suspended for a minimum of two years. During this period of
19 time, current guidelines will be examined, analyzed and restructured. When resumed,
20 negotiations with China will be entered to address trade imbalance issues, working to
21 guarantee more exports of American goods to China with less imports of Chinese goods to
22 the United States, thus, creating more jobs for Americans.

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24 SECTION 3: The United States shall launch a full-fledged nationwide campaign to promote
25 the idea of buying items that are produced in America. The campaign will be called "Buying
26 American" and shall utilize most means of communication and advertising such as print ads,
27 radio spots, billboards, social media like 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' and television
28 commercials.

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30 SECTION 4: This bill will take effect 365 days after passage.

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Topic 2: Predator Drone Strikes

Topic 2 Background

Predator drones have been used by the United States since their rise to significance in the mid-1990s. The U.S. first utilized them in the Balkans in 1995, and since then they have been drawn on in Afghanistan (both before and after September 11, 2001), in Pakistan, in Iraq, in Libya, and in Yemen. In Yemen, a predator drone killed al-Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki very recently—on September 30, 2011.

The United States must decide when and how to attack terrorist threats in foreign countries, such as those in and around the Middle East with volatile political and militaristic situations. It can be tricky to do so because these operations operate within foreign countries' borders, and diplomacy is often essential to success in war.



Topic 2 Bill Summary

This bill endorses the use of predator drones by the United States and calls for an increase in drone strikes around the Middle East. These strikes have been especially effective at eliminating terrorist threats in recent years, and more operations in the future could contribute even more to the United States' war on terror.

The main concern with the large-scale use of predator drones is that it makes war too easy. Without having to risk American lives, the CIA, U.S. military, and Congress might be too willing to go to war, thus exacerbating humanity's current obsession with warfare.

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Topic 2 Research Sources

- <http://www.military.com/news/article/drone-strikes-quadruple-on-obamas-watch.html>
- <http://www.odt.co.nz/opinion/opinion/179911/worries-over-drone-warfare>
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/apr/21/us-obama-predator-drones-libya>
- <http://foreign.senate.gov>

MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS

Committee: Foreign Relations

Principal Authors: Daniel Erichson

Bill No: FR-002

Co-Authors: Silas Kezengwa

Title of Bill: An Act to Increase American Drone Strikes in the Middle-East

BE IT ENACTED BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

1 **PREAMBLE:** *Whereas* predator drones are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that are used
2 by the U.S. Air Force and the CIA to attack enemy complexes, convoys, and individuals;
3 *Whereas* drones have the unique capability to fly low and achieve great visibility on targets
4 while not risking any American lives; *Whereas* there have been over 220 strikes by the
5 Obama Administration in Pakistan, as opposed to less than 50 under the Bush
6 Administration; *Whereas* on September 30, 2011, al-Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki was
7 killed by a joint CIA-U.S. military operation in Yemen; *Whereas* the United States has also
8 utilized predator drones in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya; *Whereas* in his writings, Osama bin
9 Laden noted that drones were the most damaging weapon used against his organization;
10 *Whereas* the use of drones helps to provide an alternative to large-scale invasion in many
11 instances, preventing costly occupations, such as that in Iraq; *Whereas* the increased use of
12 predator drones by the United States could eliminate even more enemies and aid the
13 American war on terror.

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15 **SECTION 1:** The United States of America will increase its use of predator drones in
16 the Middle East.

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18 a. These can be used to aid in the elimination of threats to the United
19 States, especially terrorists.

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21 **SECTION 2:** This bill will go into effect 90 days after passage.

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