Congressional Simulation Activity

You have the opportunity to be Congress! So how does Congress work? Let’s make a bill, and let’s find out!

Two groups: (circle your assigned group)
- Those FOR lowering drinking age to 18
- Those AGAINST lowering drinking age to 18

Subcommittees in each group: (circle your assigned subcommittee)
- Funding
- Application
- Definitions
- Repeal/Punishments

Each group needs to:
- Create a bill for your position
  - i.e., create a bill lowering the drinking age, or create a bill to keep the drinking age
- Your bill needs to be specific and include research
- Your bill needs to include punishments for underage drinking
- Your bill needs an EXPLANATION of WHY the drinking age should or should not be lowered
- Your bill needs to include how states will be funded
  - i.e., will they receive funds based on how they implement the law; do they get funding revoked if they violate a part of your bill, etc
- Your bill needs to include a definition section
- Your bill needs to include an application section.

Please see the back of this worksheet to see how the bill should be formatted.

Have your group’s bill ready to go on Friday. On Friday, each group will present their bill. Then we will debate the bills. We will then find a compromise and come up with a bill that both parties can agree on.
This is how your bill should look:

BILL WRITE UP

- Title of Bill
- Assign your Bill a number
- Co-sponsors of Bill (all group members names)
- Text of your bill
  - What does your bill say? What does it do?
  - Sections to include
    - REPEAL
      - Does your bill repeal an existing bill? If not, exclude this section
    - FUNDING
      - Does your bill need funding to be enforced? Do states get grants based on if they meet certain requirements of your bill? Will states lose funding if they don’t meet certain requirements of your bill?
    - APPLICATION
      - How does your bill work in real life? The following are questions to get your thinking started, but are not exhaustive.
        - i.e., If your bill lowers the drinking age to 18, do people still need IDs?
        - i.e., at what point in time does your bill go into effect? Immediately? Over time? Are people grandfathered in?
        - Are all alcohols restricted? Or are certain kinds okay?
    - PUNISHMENTS FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING
    - DEFINITIONS
      - Are there any words that need to be defined in your bill?
        - Example of possible words: minor, underage, legal adult, alcohol

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