



# Harvard Model Congress Boston 2024

## Senate C

**February 25, 2024**

*Presiding:*

*Moe Maarouf and Conrad Hock*

*S.8 - Vouchers Through Occupation to Upgrade to  
Cheaper Housing Act*

*S.9 - Broadband Access Equality Act*

*S.10 - Enforcing Code of Conduct Act*

*S.11 - Gain of Function, Oversight, and Regulation  
Act*



## S.8 Vouchers Through Occupation to Upgrade to Cheaper Housing Act

WHEREAS THERE IS A NEED TO DECREASE INFLATION IN THE HOUSING MARKET AND SUPPORT FIRST TIME HOMEOWNERS; THEREFORE,

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Vouchers Through Occupation to Upgrade to Cheaper Housing Act” or the “V.O.U.C.H. Act.”

### SEC. 2. VOUCHER PROGRAM.

- a) The Department of Housing and Urban Development shall create a voucher program:
  - i) The program shall cover a percentage of the down-payment required to purchase a home, with the exact ratio dependent on household income; and,
  - ii) The program shall only accept applicants from trade jobs, small businesses, first-time homeowners, and veterans who have a household income that falls below the poverty line.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

*Down-payment* - an initial payment made on a home bought on credit.

**ENFORCEMENT:** This bill shall be enforced by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Labor.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill shall take effect 91 days after passage.

**FUNDING:** This bill shall be funded by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**AUTHORS:** NJ-Sr., ND-Jr., FL-Sr.

**COSPONSORS:** NC-Jr., VT-Sr., MA-Sr., OH-Sr., NY-Sr., RI-Sr., AZ-Sr., MD-Sr., WY-Jr.



## **S.9 Broadband Access Equality Act**

WHEREAS THERE IS A DISPARITY IN ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Broadband Access Equality Act” or “B.A.E. Act.”

### **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING THE BROADBAND ACCESS PROGRAM.**

- 1) Congress shall establish the Broadband Access Program to increase broadband access throughout the nation.
- 2) This program shall be operated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which will oversee:
  - a) All funding decisions;
  - b) Connections between telecommunications companies and state government;
  - c) Collaboration between companies and political leaders, within the following parameters:
    - i) Collaboration shall be aimed at meeting companies’ needs; and,
    - ii) A total cost of \$5 million shall be allocated for funding for participating companies.
  - d) State governments will rely on census data and utilize this data amongst companies, and accurate maps to determine where broadband service needs most return.

### **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTING TAX INCENTIVES.**

- 1) Tax breaks shall be provided to telecommunication companies of US state and territories, with the following provisions:
  - a) The Internal Revenue Service shall administer tax breaks of up to 4% proportional to the performance of the company in their participation in the Broadband Access Program:
    - i) If the company contributes between \$5 and \$10 million, they will receive a 0.5% tax break;
    - ii) If the company contributes between \$10 and \$15 million, they will receive a 1% tax break;
    - iii) If the company contributes between \$50 million and \$100 million, they will receive a 2% tax break;
    - iv) If the company contributes more than \$100 million, they will receive a 4% tax break; and,
    - v) These tax breaks only apply if less than 90% of the populations of counties invested in have access to broadband.



- b) The FCC will perform regular checks on states and private institutions to ensure funds are allocated to the appropriate areas.

**DEFINITIONS:**

*Broadband* – reliable, high-speed internet access.

**ENFORCEMENT:** This bill will be enforced by the Federal Communications Commission and the Internal Revenue Service.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill will take effect 91 days after passage.

**FUNDING:** This bill will be funded by the discretionary budget of the Federal Communications Commission.

**AUTHORS:** FL-Sr, WY-Jr, NE-Sr, IN-Sr

**COSPONSORS:** TN-Jr, MA-Sr, IL-Jr, KS-Sr, TX-Jr, WY-Jr



## S.10 Enforcing Code of Conduct Act

WHEREAS THERE IS A NEED TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THE NATION.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enforcing Code of Conduct Act.”

### SEC. 2. COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS ETHICAL ALLEGATIONS.

- (a) Congress shall establish a bipartisan committee composed of nine members from the Department of Justice, specifically with backgrounds in law enforcement:
- (i) This committee shall investigate any allegations of misconduct and violations of procedure that occur on matters involving Supreme Court justices or matters that hinder the public’s trust in any judicial case;
  - (ii) All evidence found within or progress on these cases shall be reported and disclosed to the public; and,
  - (iii) This committee shall have the power to recommend punishments to be integrated into the United States Code for violations of Supreme Court justices, up to and including impeachment.

### SEC. 3. STANDARDS OF RECUSAL.

- (a) The Supreme Court shall disclose all recusal decisions.
- (b) Judges shall recuse themselves when they are personally connected to either party or if there is connection to either party that may result in an inability to be impartial.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

*Recusal* – the withdrawal of a judge, prosecutor, or juror from a case because they are unqualified to perform legal duties because of a possible conflict of interest or lack of impartiality.

*Investigate* – carry out a systematic or formal inquiry to discover and examine the facts of (an incident, allegation, etc.) to establish the truth.

**ENFORCEMENT:** This bill will be enforced by the Department of Justice.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill will take effect 91 days after passage.

**FUNDING:** This bill will be funded by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**AUTHORS:** GA-Sr., NY-Sr., IL-Sr., TN-Sr.

**COSPONSORS:** VT-Jr., NJ-Jr., CT-Sr., HI-Jr., RI-Jr., AZ-Sr., CA-Sr., NY-Jr., AR-Jr., KY-Jr., DE-Jr., CA-Jr.



## S.11 Gain of Function, Oversight, and Regulation Act

WHEREAS THERE IS A NEED TO TO INCREASE RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF DISEASES, THEREFORE,

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Gain of Function Oversight and Regulation Act” or “G.O.F.O.R. Act.”

### SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGULATED FUNCTION RESEARCH.

- (a) The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall establish the Scientific Advisory Board for Enhancing Research (SABER):
  - (i) This board shall be staffed by experts from disciplines including but not limited to epidemiology, biology, and public health chosen by the DHHS; and,
  - (ii) This board shall challenge proven or potential Gain-of-Function (GOF) research and research institutions or sponsors such as the National Society for Histology, National Science Foundation, and Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative:
    - (1) Research shall only be permitted or approved by SABER when equally efficacious alternatives of less risk are not present, the research is observed in-depth by the board for the duration, and the facilities are deemed safe and secure by the board to conduct such research.

### SEC. 3. SABER REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

- (a) SABER shall analyze research regarding Potential Pandemic Pathogens (PPP) using a benefit to risk ratio method.
- (b) The SABER board will take an adaptive policy making stance allowing for addendums to regulation and oversight action with the scientific advancements and innovations.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

*Gain of Function Research* - any research attempting to enhance transmissibility or virulence of a pathogen

*Potential Pandemic Pathogen (PPP)* - highly transmissible pathogens likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in humans and are also highly virulent and can cause significant morbidity and/or mortality

**ENFORCEMENT:** This bill will be enforced by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill will take effect 91 days after passage.

**FUNDING:** This bill will be funded by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**AUTHORS:** KS-Jr; NH-Jr

**COSPONSORS:** UT-Jr; NE-Jr; FL-Jr, CT-Sr, MD-Sr; DE-Sr, NV-Jr; UT-Sr, IN-Sr; OH-Jr; WY-Sr; TN-Jr; NJ-Jr; CT-Jr; CA-Sr; UT-Sr; OK-Sr; FL-Sr