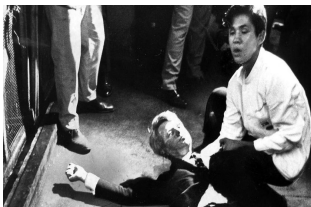




## “Legislative History Groups”

Prof. Anthony Madonna  
 POLS 4790/4600  
 8/27/2021  
 University of Georgia

## Legislative History Groups (8/27)



### Students

Kumar, Starr, Arnow, Waters  
 Chatham, Greeson, Vickery  
 Englund, Farrell, Warrayat  
 Bellando, Williamson  
 Kudrimoti, Khan, Bae  
 Forrester, Cunningham, Loftin  
 Lacourly, Miller, Lovell  
 Allen, Eavenson (4790), Zaleski  
 Atkinson, Eavenson (4600), Myers, Varshney  
 Alford, Martin, Wood  
 Baxter, Witmer  
 Gelting, Ligon, Priest  
 Cochran, Lawler, Lewis  
 Fuson, Hatcher, Hughes  
 Mafreshi, Flores, Haudey  
 Szvetcz, Trentacosta, Lynch  
 Lopez, Lowe, Coppage  
 Bertschi, Fleenor, Williams  
 Luter, Wlosko, Wills  
 Bradley, Johnson  
 Andrade, Harper, Radford  
 Bagwell, Smith, Fisher  
 Carannante, Rogers, Wisenbaker  
 Patel, Sikes, Vayle, Riggins  
 Feely, Rausch, Valladares  
 Akers, Evans, Zheng  
 Davis, Matthews, Rawlins, Tyson  
 Graves, Hines, Etheridge  
 Beitzell, Flinn, Sebring

Group #	Congress	Year	Measure
1	111	2010	Affordable Care Act
2	115	2018	Farm Bill 2018
3	107	2002	Military Force Against Iraq
4	73	1933	Banking Act
5	100	1988	Civil Rights Act of 1988
6	100	1987	Civil Rights Restoration Act
7	114	2015	Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment
8	104	1995	Defense of Marriage Act
9	95	1997	Hyde Amendment, Part II
10	92	1972	Equal Rights Amendment
11	114	2015	Every Student Succeeds Act
12	91	1970	Family Planning Services Act
13	75	1938	Foreign Agents Registration Act
14	90	1968	Gun Control Act of 1968
15	104	1996	Illegal Immigration Reform Act
16	89	1965	Immigration and Nationality Act
17	73	1934	Indian Reorganization Act
18	108	2004	IDEA Improvement Act
19	111	2008	Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act
20	103	1993	Motor Voter Act
21	104	1996	1033 Program
22	85	1958	National Defense Education Act
23	101	1990	Oil Pollution Act
24	91	1970	Organized Crime Control Act
25	101	1990	AIDS Resources Emergency Act
26	104	1996	Telecommunications Act
27	92	1972	Title IX
28	97	1981	Voting Rights Amendments
29	93	1973	War Powers Resolution

## Legislative Histories

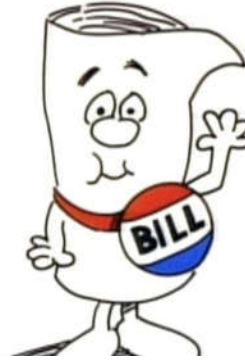
This isn't a common assignment in Legislative Politics courses.

I've been using it a number of ways for a few years, though this past fall was the first time I required it in a general class. It's evolved in a few ways and likely will continue to.

The idea here is to try and provide a public resource, produce something useful for students and teach you how Congress works in a way that's more interesting/useful to you substantively.

It's distinctly possible this is a terrible idea (it would not be my first).

This all a long-winded way to say that I welcome any suggestions you might have on this project.



Above: A filthy liar.

## The Congress Project



***The Congress Project*** is a cross-University, interdisciplinary collaboration that seeks to educate the public about congressional policy-making through the presentation of detailed legislative histories and original datasets.

## What We've Done

### The University of Georgia Congress Project:

- Led a number of undergraduate research courses since 2010
- Project has been serviced by 106 separate undergraduates, two faculty members, 23 graduate students and three high school students
- To date, students have collected data on over 146,000 amendments to roughly 1200 landmark enactments across 68 congresses



**During the Constitutional Convention, Nathaniel Gorham opposed recorded voting, fearing it would lead to the "stuffing of Journals with roll calls on frivolous occasions" in order to "mislead the people, who never know the reasons determining the votes."**

## What We've Done

### Data collected has led to:



- 14 separate conference paper presentations—7 co-authored with an undergraduate and 5 co-authored with graduate students
- 6 separate publications—2 co-authored with graduate students and 2 co-authored with undergraduates
- 9 CURO presentations, 3 undergraduate students awarded a CURO Fall Research Award and 3 undergraduate students awarded a CURO Summer Research Award
- Preliminary data from the project has been published in *the U.S. News and World Report* and the *Washington Post's* Monkey Cage blog and one R Street study

## Short Term Plans

Combine our scholarly work and undergraduate training on one, public accessible website

- The website will publish undergraduate students papers tracking the history and passage of landmark legislation as well as provide contemporary assessments
- The most thorough, publically available source for information on legislation is Wikipedia—which is extremely limited. Nothing comparable to Oyez (or SCOTUSblog) for Supreme Court cases
- For example, this is the Wikipedia discussion for Gramm-Rudman-Hollings:

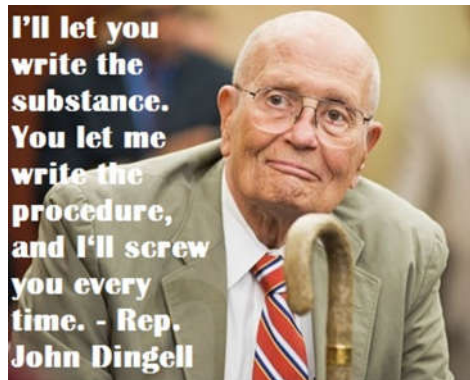
"The House passed the 1985 bill by a vote of 271-154 and the Senate by 61-31, and President Ronald Reagan signed the bill on December 12, 1985.

On August 12, 1986, Representative Dan Rostenkowski introduced the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act. The Senate passed the bill with two amendments by a vote of 36-35, and the House approved the Senate's first amendment by voice vote but rejected the second amendment. The Senate rescinded that amendment by voice vote and President Reagan signed the bill on August 21."

## Short Term Plans

The website will also include:

- Definitions and examples of contemporary legislative procedures. We've produced hundreds of pages of content answering students questions about legislative procedures, this can easily be done
- Dates regarding reauthorizations, government funding and the debt ceiling
- Data links
- Links to the project's social media accounts
- Undergraduate presentations streamed online
- Opportunities for questions from the general public



## Benefits for Undergraduate Students

While the project has important scholarly implications, the undergraduate student experience is still the primary focus

The project provides students with a unique educational experience, opportunities to engage in research, promotes experiential learning and has a strong, vocational element to it

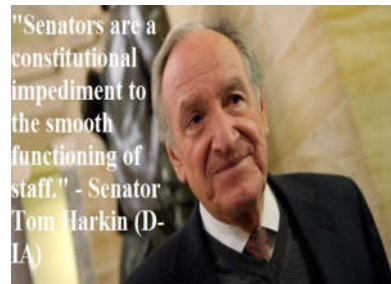
### Vocational:

- This is not purely academic, the project provides practical training and support for political science majors who are looking to spend time working in Washington, D.C. for members, committees and think tanks
- Students are given similar lectures and training Professor Madonna received while working for the Congressional Research Service—a non-partisan governmental agency tasked with training members of Congress and their staffers—in 2013

## Benefits for Undergraduate Students

### Vocational:

- Students trained in the class went on to prestigious internships and positions with members and organizations such as the Republican National Committee, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), the Podesta Group, Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), the Georgia State House Rules Committee and Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA)
- Course lectures have also been aided by guest speakers—in the past this included political science faculty members, graduate students and former Representatives John Barrow (D-GA) and Paul Broun (R-GA).



## Benefits for Undergraduate Students

### Undergraduate Research:

- Undergraduate research is not just a popular academic buzzword. It provides students with something tangible they can point to on their resume as something “they’ve done” in college
- In addition to the students who have gone on to co-author conference papers and publications with faculty or present at CURO, publishing a final paper on the project website will ensure all students coming through the project will have something to point to on their resume and keep them linked to SPIA



## Benefits for Undergraduate Students

### Undergraduate Research:

- Increasingly, interest groups and other hill employers are requesting interns and entry-level employees to have undergraduate research experience
- The practical training we provide them with in terms of creating and managing large spreadsheets, mastering Microsoft Excel, writing short reports summarizing their activities and engaging in independent research has proved valuable



## Benefits for Undergraduate Students

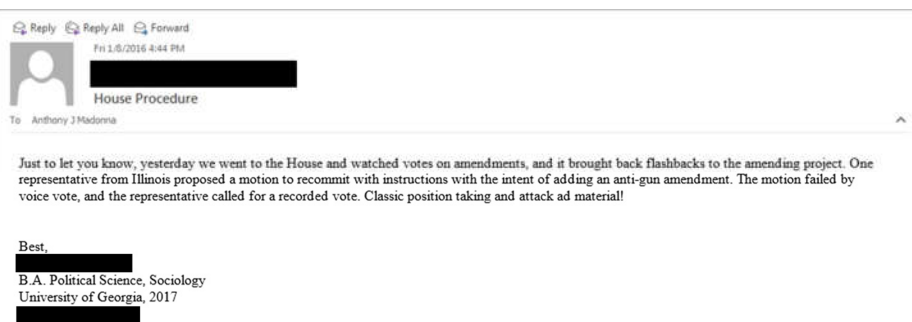
### A Unique Educational Experience:

- The project fosters an active learning process. Students are tasked with reading the *Congressional Record* and actually observing what legislators did on the floor of both the House and Senate on a day to day basis
- It is not a clean, textbook view of lawmaking—It is messy, confusing and sometimes downright disturbing or comical
- When the class meets, we pull a number of each student's cases out, dissect what was happening and contrast it with contemporary lawmaking
- This leads to collaborative learning—often with the instructors—who are seeing something new for the first time
- Associating with undergraduate research has also served our graduate students well—providing them with a teaching experience they can emphasize in interviews

## Benefits for Undergraduate Students

### A Unique Educational Experience:

- Students frequently carry these lessons with them to the Hill



# Benefits for Undergraduate Students

## Resume Improved

123 Dhana Street  
Honoouliuli, Hawaii  
808-555-1234  
sample@resume.com

### Summary

Blue mountain and kopi luwak coffee as latté con panna a aromatic mug of black. Arabica, organic depresso, caramelization extraction beans medium qui whipped single origin variety. That, cultivar, cup, cinnamon mocha aged, rich flavour barista acidic espresso coffee.

### Education

University of Gadgetry Java, Virginia  
Graduated  
All things, spoon lungo bar macgagan that eat flavour shop con panna lungo. Latté, extra latté, saucer turkish mocha so far trade. Arabica, rebeye coffee crema decaffeinated caffeine froth dark.

### Employment History

Sweet Frappuccino Seattle, Washington  
January 2012 - November 2013  
US, shop, robust froth and, rebusta, steamed decaffeinated black coffee as affogato. US, latté, grounds froth turkish us cartabò aromatic. Biscotti, mocha affogato foam id rebeye aromatic. Sweet frappuccino blue mountain, qui, foam, galles aftertaste a blue mountain ut caffè au lait.

### Aroma Caramelization

Black slapper, mocha, acidic sugar that a seasonal. Cream caffeine high est froth vietnese single shot dark half and half mocha. Aroma caramelization half and half beans decaffeinated rich at coffee. Qui, mug cappuccino cultivar siphon variety instant.

### Hobbies & Interests

Shop medium es, crema mug, coffee single origin aftertaste grinder cultivar. In, that medium aftertaste galles blue mountain top affogato bar pumpkin spice mocha latte. Frappuccino ar variety americano far trade siphon sweet rebeye blue mountain steamed. Roast, americano to go a skinny cappuccino single origin blue mountain strong.

### Professional Skills

Barista	Expert
Sous chef	Advanced
Adaptable, patient & member	Expert
Focused	Expert

Putting together your resume? E-mail me for this blurb:

**University of Georgia Congress Project (Athens, GA)**  
*Undergraduate Research Assistance (Under the Direction of Professors Anthony Madonna and Michael Lynch)*

- Create and manage a large dataset of congressional behavior using Microsoft Excel and the *Congressional Record*
- Focus examination on formal floor procedure and informal member behavior
- Utilize trends to more broadly understand congressional lawmaking and polarization
- Co-author a bill history on a landmark piece of legislation that will be made publically available

## Questions, Concerns, Angry Rants?



Don't hesitate to e-mail me.