

**KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL PROPOSAL**

Proposal #: **61**

Assignment: **I**

Country: Democratic Republic of Congo School: St. Francis School City: **Louisville**

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Title: An act to create incentives for students to stay in school and raise literacy rates.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Justification Clause: Article 43 of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Constitution guarantees the right to a free education and makes it compulsory from ages six to sixteen. Due to political turmoil and wars fought over the past 20 years; however, education has not been a priority and these basic rights have been ignored. As a result, the literacy rate (as of age 15) has declined over time and is now one of the lowest in comparison to its neighboring countries. The literacy rate is sixty-seven percent (67%), and the country's almost identical neighbor, the People's Republic of Congo, has a literacy rate of eighty-four percent (84%). The Democratic Republic of Congo's education system is modeled after France's education system, and school is compulsory until age 16. The first six years are spent in primary school and the next seven (if completed) are spent in secondary school. As of right now, the minimum wage is 335 Congolese Democratic Francs or 36 US cents per hour.

Section 1: Students completing primary school must take and pass a literacy test in order to enter secondary school. Students who do not pass the literacy tests will repeat the last year of primary school until they achieve literacy.

Section 2: Employees who have completed secondary school will receive 20% higher minimum wage than their less-educated peers.

Section 3: This proposal will require the government to pay for the administration of literacy tests. The increased minimum wage is paid directly by employers; the government does not incur additional expense for wage increases.

Section 4: These reforms could serve as a model for surrounding sub-Saharan African countries with lower literacy rates such as the Central African Republic (whose literacy rate is just above 40%) and Tanzania (76%).

Section 5: The UN, in collaboration with the Congolese government, will oversee the literacy rates of the Congolese students over a period of five (5) years.

Section 6: This proposal will be enacted for the 2013-2014 school year.