



Harvard Model Congress

Boston 2024

House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee

Dear House Education and Labor Delegates,

Our names are Emily, Lily, Julia, Xander, Michelle, and Soleei and we are your chairs for Harvard Model Congress Boston!

My name is Julia (she/her) and I'm a junior from San Juan, Puerto Rico, concentrating in Sociology with a Secondary in Education Studies. I've chaired this committee for the past two years and I'm super excited to return! Outside of HMC, I teach 1st and 2nd graders through the Harvard Ed Portal and I conduct research on the Puerto Rican Education System. In my free time, I enjoy reading, playing the Puerto Rican cuatro and baking boxed goods. I can't wait to meet you all!

Hello! My name is Lily (she/her), and I'm a senior from California. I study Social Studies, focusing on disability and chronic illness. This is my second year with the Education and Labor Committee, and I'm excited to meet all of you! At Harvard, I'm an after school tutor for elementary schoolers in South Boston, and I'm involved in disability justice advocacy. I've also worked as a civics/history teacher and with Harvard Votes Challenge. I play the mandolin and guitar, and I love making things out of yarn, wood, or wire! Looking forward to seeing everyone soon! :)

Hi! My name is Emily (she/her) and I'm a senior from Woodstock, New York, double concentrating in Psychology and Anthropology. This is my fourth year in HMC and my third time staffing this committee (you guys are my favorite). Outside of HMC, I do research on haptic behavior, food insecurity, and fertility. In my free time, you can find me drinking decaf coffee, doing the NYT Crossword, playing pickup soccer, and watching Lily Richman play the guitar!

Hey! My name is Soleei (she/her) and I'm a first-year from Massachusetts! I'm intending to concentrate in Government with a Secondary in Educational Studies. This is my first time staffing for HMC and I am super excited to meet you all! I am extremely passionate about education and have actually worked with a lot of Californian students on some of their Ed reform projects! I am also involved in the Harvard Institute of Politics Education Policy Team! In my free time I love going to concerts/raves and singing in choir!

My name is Michelle (she/her) and I'm a sophomore from Culpeper, Virginia, concentrating in Neuroscience and Economics with a secondary in Government. This is my first time staffing Harvard Model Congress, but I spent this past summer in (regular) Congress! I absolutely love everything education, and am currently doing research on a college access program run by the Hispanic Federation! During breaks, I run a series of local college workshops, and throughout the school year, I'm an ambassador for Thrive Scholars, a national college access program. So excited to meet you all!

My name is Xander (he/him) and I'm a junior from San Antonio, Texas, concentrating in Economics with a secondary in Computer Science. This is also my first time staffing Harvard



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Model Congress; however, I'm very excited to meet new people and build some great relationships! I focus my studies within the field of Education Policy, having done research on income-based voucher programs in underrepresented communities, and I'm currently doing law and economics research for the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission. Outside of HMC, I'm a part of a consulting group here on campus where I run our nonprofit arm. I love anything percussion related and exploring the outdoors when I have time! I'm very excited to meet you all!

The House Education and Labor Committee holds jurisdiction over a diverse array of topics that impact students and workers from all over the nation. From healthcare, to unionization, to childhood education, the committee's decisions shape the lives of Americans through nearly all life stages. Thus, the policy-making and legislation that comes out of this committee has far-reaching implications. As a novice committee, we will also be diving deep into the process of bill writing and debate.

Our first briefing deals with homeschooling. In this committee we will unpack the tension at the center of homeschooling debates, the scope of a parent's right to direct their child's education. Though the homeschooling movement has historically been led by the religious right, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has grown increasingly diverse. Thus, addressing questions such as who can homeschool, what should children learn and what resources should be available to homeschooled students is all the more imperative.

Our second briefing discusses education within the juvenile justice system. There are currently large differences between the education received by incarcerated versus non-incarcerated youth, so this committee will talk about what kind of education, and what kinds of resources, should be put towards juvenile justice system education. This briefing also discusses how (and whether) additional resources and support should be offered to incarcerated minors.

We hope that you come away from HMC Boston feeling that you were intellectually challenged and fulfilled; we also want you to have an absolute blast! If you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to reach out to us and introduce yourself.

See you in February!
Emily, Lily, Julia, Xander, Michelle, and Soleei