



Executive Summary

Team Legislate

Headline: We provide a platform to connect students to local governmental legislators through legislative bill drafting and civic education.

Concept Type: Web App & Database

Team: Michael Del Sesto (Co-founder), Madison Gothberg (Co-founder), Thomas Clark (Developer)

School: Dartmouth College, Merrimack College

Descriptor: Students can connect with NGOs and nonprofits in their communities to learn about societal issues. They can use our research guide and bill formatting tool to draft a piece of legislation to improve their community. Other students can virtually sign bills, suggest edits, and form due diligence teams around topics. In the future, we will expand our platform to all citizens.



Problem: Civic deserts are a major issue in the United States. Experts predict that our youth are becoming less and less civically inclined. The 2006 National Civic and Political Health Survey found that only 7% of 15-25 year olds participated in a significant number of community service activities in the year prior and that these students scored significantly lower on a questionnaire regarding current civic policies. Currently, social media divides society through the use of echo chambers, the filter bubble effect, and influencer bias. Students trade civic participation in their communities for unproductivity online.

Solution: Our platform creates a productive environment online while fostering change in our member's communities. In order to nurture creativity and generate solutions to communities' problems, our web app will (1) connect students with local NGOs and nonprofits and (2) provide educational tools for creating informed and well-formatted bills. We will create a discussion not only between students and local organizations, but also between students and local government representatives. Students can form chapters at their schools to write bills or lead due diligence research teams.

Unique Value Proposition: Team Legislate sees the potential for young people-- highschool, undergraduate, and graduate students-- to advance change in their communities. Students can learn about our government and about their communities through participation and engagement. In the future, we hope legislators will look to our members before making decisions and passing legislation. Legislators can look to our platform to gain a sense of what their constituents are calling for. By forming relationships with students and citizens, legislators can become more transparent and build support for reelection. We plan to use our connections from the American Legion's Boys and Girls Nation seminar to spread our platform to multiple states in the new year.