

DATE: January 16, 2019

STUDENT PLACES EIGHTH IN STATE CONGRESS EVENT

Dripping Springs High School junior Campbell Melton placed eighth at the 5A UIL State Congress contest held at the University of Texas Jan. 8-9. Melton was the regional champion in this event and one of 52 students statewide to qualify. The first day of state competition comprised of two preliminary rounds. Campbell placed second in her preliminary chamber and advanced to finals with 17 other students.

For almost 14 hours of debate over the two-day event, she debated a wide range of issues including reforming the no-fly list, ending gun-free zones, abolishing the statute of limitations for sexual assault cases, terminating lethal injections, assisting Yemen, abolishing "hair trigger" nuclear posture, and reasserting congressional authority over tariffs. Congress is an individual contest in a group setting that models the legislative process of the United States Congress. Within this mock legislative assembly competition, contestants draft legislation (proposed laws and position statements) submitted to the tournament, and they research the docket of bills and resolutions dealing with real-world social and political policies prior to the contest to prepare their speeches.

A second DSHS student, Mason Mohon, was a state alternate after placing fourth at regionals.