

By: Creighton, Raymond, Pitts, Truitt, Pena,
et al.

H.C.R. No. 18

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The gravity of federal debt and federal obligations
2 was established early in American history, with deficit occurring
3 only in relation to extraordinary circumstances, such as war; yet
4 for much of the 20th century and into the 21st, the United States
5 has operated on a budget deficit, including the 2010 budget year,
6 which surpassed an astounding \$1.3 trillion, an annual deficit that
7 exceeded the entire gross state product of Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, The federal debt is greater than \$14 trillion, a sum
9 that if shared equally by each person in America would be a burden
10 of over \$45,000 per person, and yet the federal government
11 continues to accrue debt; and

12 WHEREAS, The higher the deficit, the more the government must
13 spend on paying interest on the debt; compounding the problem is the
14 use of deficit spending, which becomes a responsibility for future
15 generations of Americans to assume without their consent; and

16 WHEREAS, Congress has attempted to set budgetary restraints
17 for itself in the form of a balanced budget amendment; the proposal
18 won wide support in 1995, failing by only one vote in the senate;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Many states have previously requested that Congress
21 propose a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, but
22 Congress has proven to be unresponsive; and

23 WHEREAS, This growing burden of public debt is a threat to the
24 nation's economic health, and action must be taken to restore

1 fiscal responsibility; a balanced budget amendment would require
2 the government not to spend more than it receives in revenues and
3 compel lawmakers to carefully consider choices about spending and
4 taxes; by encouraging spending control and discouraging deficit
5 spending, a balanced budget amendment will help put the nation on
6 the path to lasting prosperity; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
8 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
9 propose and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to
10 the United States Constitution providing that except during a war
11 declared by the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article I,
12 Section 8, Clause 11, United States Constitution, or other national
13 emergency, the total of all federal appropriations for a fiscal
14 year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenue for
15 that fiscal year and providing for a spending limitation; and, be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official
18 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
19 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
20 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
21 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
22 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
23 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.