

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.

Creighton  
Pitts  
Pena  
Anderson of McLennan  
Berman  
Branch  
Button

Raymond  
Truitt  
Aliseda  
Aycock  
Bohac  
Brown  
Cain

Callegari	Carter
Chisum	Christian
Cook	Crownover
Darby	J. Davis of Harris
Driver	Eissler
Elkins	Fletcher
Flynn	Frullo
Garza	Gonzales of Williamson
Hancock	Harper-Brown
Hartnett	Hilderbran
Hopson	Hughes
Hunter	Isaac
Jackson	Keffer
King of Parker	King of Taylor
Kleinschmidt	Kolkhorst
Kuempel	Landtroop
Larson	Laubenberg
Lavender	Legler
Lewis	Madden
Margo	Miller of Erath
Morrison	Murphy
Orr	Otto
Parker	Patrick
Paxton	Perry
Phillips	Price
Riddle	Ritter
Schwertner	Sheets
Sheffield	Shelton
Smith of Tarrant	Smith of Harris
Smithee	Taylor of Galveston
Taylor of Collin	Weber
White	Workman
Zedler	Zerwas

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 18 was adopted by the House on April 13, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 115, Nays 17, 16 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 18 was adopted by the Senate on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor