

1-1 By: Creighton, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Shapiro) H.C.R. No. 18  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 14, 2011;  
1-3 May 3, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on State  
1-4 Affairs; May 13, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 2; May 13, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The gravity of federal debt and federal obligations  
1-8 was established early in American history, with deficit occurring  
1-9 only in relation to extraordinary circumstances, such as war; yet  
1-10 for much of the 20th century and into the 21st, the United States  
1-11 has operated on a budget deficit, including the 2010 budget year,  
1-12 which surpassed an astounding \$1.3 trillion, an annual deficit that  
1-13 exceeded the entire gross state product of Texas; and

1-14 WHEREAS, The federal debt is greater than \$14 trillion, a sum  
1-15 that if shared equally by each person in America would be a burden  
1-16 of over \$45,000 per person, and yet the federal government  
1-17 continues to accrue debt; and

1-18 WHEREAS, The higher the deficit, the more the government must  
1-19 spend on paying interest on the debt; compounding the problem is the  
1-20 use of deficit spending, which becomes a responsibility for future  
1-21 generations of Americans to assume without their consent; and

1-22 WHEREAS, Congress has attempted to set budgetary restraints  
1-23 for itself in the form of a balanced budget amendment; the proposal  
1-24 won wide support in 1995, failing by only one vote in the senate;  
1-25 and

1-26 WHEREAS, Many states have previously requested that Congress  
1-27 propose a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, but  
1-28 Congress has proven to be unresponsive; and

1-29 WHEREAS, This growing burden of public debt is a threat to the  
1-30 nation's economic health, and action must be taken to restore  
1-31 fiscal responsibility; a balanced budget amendment would require  
1-32 the government not to spend more than it receives in revenues and  
1-33 compel lawmakers to carefully consider choices about spending and  
1-34 taxes; by encouraging spending control and discouraging deficit  
1-35 spending, a balanced budget amendment will help put the nation on  
1-36 the path to lasting prosperity; now, therefore, be it

1-37 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-38 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
1-39 propose and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to  
1-40 the United States Constitution providing that except during a war  
1-41 declared by the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article I,  
1-42 Section 8, Clause 11, United States Constitution, or other national  
1-43 emergency, the total of all federal appropriations for a fiscal  
1-44 year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenue for  
1-45 that fiscal year and providing for a spending limitation; and, be it  
1-46 further

1-47 RESOLVED, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official  
1-48 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
1-49 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
1-50 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the  
1-51 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
1-52 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
1-53 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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