

By: Raymond, Burkett

H.C.R. No. 61

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Year after year, the federal government has failed  
2 to make fiscally responsible choices, and Washington must now take  
3 aggressive steps to address our burgeoning national deficit; and

4           WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Budget Office, the  
5 federal deficit will reach \$845 billion in 2013; the CBO projects  
6 that if the laws that govern taxes and spending do not change,  
7 federal debt held by the public will reach 76 percent of gross  
8 domestic product by the end of the fiscal year, the largest  
9 percentage since 1950; and

10           WHEREAS, The United States Congress routinely passes budgets  
11 leading the government to spend more than it receives in revenue; in  
12 order to finance the resulting budget deficit, the U.S. Treasury  
13 must sell bonds and the government must pay interest on those bonds;  
14 this cycle of deficit spending leaves less money for new programs or  
15 tax cuts, and it could prove detrimental to the future stability of  
16 our nation; and

17           WHEREAS, In the past, such statutory restraints as the failed  
18 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation and "PAYGO" rules have proven  
19 ineffective and unenforceable, since simple majorities in Congress  
20 can alter, weaken, or dismantle fiscal reforms; an amendment to the  
21 U.S. Constitution, which requires the assent of two-thirds of  
22 Congress and three-quarters of the states, is the only means of  
23 guaranteeing permanent enforcement of spending restraints; and

24           WHEREAS, A federal balanced budget amendment will ensure that

1 Congress uses taxpayer dollars wisely, and it is vital that we take  
2 this step to avert fiscal calamity and eliminate future deficits;  
3 now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
6 propose and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to  
7 the United States Constitution providing for a balanced federal  
8 budget; and, be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
10 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
11 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
12 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
13 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
14 this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record  
15 as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.