



A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUBMIT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as federal government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue, so that the public debt of the United States is now approximately \$16.6 trillion, or almost \$53,000 for each man, woman, and child; and

WHEREAS, the last balanced budget presented was in 1998 by President Clinton, who presented the first balanced federal budget since 1969; and

WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence, and plain good sense require that the federal budget should not be manipulated to present the appearance of being in balance while, in fact, federal indebtedness continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is the greatest threat that faces our nation, resulting in a lower standard of living, endangering economic opportunity, and jeopardizing national security now and for the next generation; and

WHEREAS, the principal functions of the United States Constitution include promoting the broadest principles of a government of, by, and for the people; setting forth the most fundamental responsibilities of government; and enumerating and limiting the powers of the government to protect the basic rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude, with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, today and in the future, that it is an appropriate subject for limitation by the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove of amendments to the United States Constitution with the people of the several states, as represented by their elected legislatures; and

WHEREAS, many states have asked Congress to pass a balanced budget amendment to the United

States Constitution to be submitted to the states for ratification, but Congress continues to fail to act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the members of the Senate of the State of Montana request the members of the Congress of the United States to expeditiously pass, and to propose to the legislatures of the several states for ratification, an amendment to the United States Constitution requiring, in the absence of a national emergency, that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenue for that fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United States be urged to apply to the Congress requesting the proposal for ratification of a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of Montana's Congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each house of the legislatures of each of the other states.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within resolution,
SR 0063, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2013.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63
INTRODUCED BY M. ROSENDALE

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