

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

2 INTRODUCED BY F. THOMAS

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE
6 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO INITIATE A PROCESS WHEREIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST
7 ANNUALLY PRODUCE A BALANCED BUDGET, LOWER ANNUAL FEDERAL DEFICIT SPENDING LEVELS,
8 AND REDUCE THE NATIONAL DEBT.

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10 WHEREAS, the fiscal policies of the United States federal government have placed our country on an
11 untenable path, creating unprecedented debt, hindering job creation, and threatening future generations of
12 Montanans with a bleak future; and

13 WHEREAS, high levels of debt directly threaten the ability of a government to control its own budget
14 priorities; and

15 WHEREAS, our nation's fiscal crisis threatens our economy and national security, has contributed to a
16 loss of trust in government, and exposes individual states to dire economic times; and

17 WHEREAS, the federal government in 2011 raised the debt ceiling to prevent the United States from
18 facing its first ever default; and

19 WHEREAS, the interest expense on our national debt exceeds \$151 billion for fiscal year 2013, and by
20 2023, interest on the national debt is estimated to be nearly \$900 billion; and

21 WHEREAS, payments on our nation's debt exceed \$200 billion annually, and as a result, the credit rating
22 of the United States in 2011 was lowered for the first time; and

23 WHEREAS, by borrowing revenue from the future and spending it today, our nation's debt is being
24 passed on to future generations who have no say in the decisionmaking process; and

25 WHEREAS, passing our debt to the next generation is contradictory to the American principle of leaving
26 our nation, states, and local communities in better shape than we found them; and

27 WHEREAS, the federal debt threatens the livelihood of Montana's veterans; and

28 WHEREAS, the federal cost of Medicaid expansion across all states is projected to add \$931 billion or
29 nearly \$1 trillion to the national debt; and

30 WHEREAS, Montana and 48 other states are required by law to pass balanced budgets; and

