

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

INTRODUCED BY F. THOMAS

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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

