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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.
9	
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

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1	WHEREAS, nearly all states are constitutionally required to produce balanced budgets, and although
2	economic conditions vary and demand for government services may increase, leaders are required to make
3	difficult decisions in accordance with the fundamental principles of fiscal prudence; and
4	WHEREAS, the people of Montana expect and demand the same of our federal government; and
5	WHEREAS, the federal government has failed to approve a budget since 2009 and has not produced
6	a balanced budget since 2001; a budget is not only a constitutional requirement, it is a fundamental responsibility
7	and a reflection of principles and vision; and
8	WHEREAS, that which cannot continue, will not.
9	
10	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11	STATE OF MONTANA:
12	That the Legislature of the State of Montana hereby calls upon the Montana Congressional Delegation
13	and the President of the United States of America to initiate a process wherein the federal government must
14	annually produce a balanced budget, lower annual federal deficit spending levels, and reduce the national debt.
15	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to each member
16	of the Montana Congressional Delegation and the President of the United States.
17	- END -

