

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING CONSEQUENCES IF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAILS TO OBTAIN AN AUDIT WITH AN UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF ITS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

WHEREAS, the cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan make it imperative that the U.S. Congress have the ability to review an audit of the expenditures of the Defense Department; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has failed to comply with the 1990 Chief Financial Officers Act requiring all federal agencies to provide annual auditable statements; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office cited serious financial management problems at the Department of Defense because the Defense Contract Audit Agency failed to follow basic auditing standards, noting that the agency lacks independence from the contractors it audits; and

WHEREAS, the lack of accountability enables the Department of Defense to continue massive waste, fraud, and mismanagement of billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, Congress decreed that the Department of Defense must be ready for a full financial-statement audit by September 30, 2017, but the Department of Defense has historically and currently managed to postpone the audit deadline.

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

(1) That the United State Congress be urged to enact legislation establishing consequences if the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion of its financial statements.

(2) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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