
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

State of Washington

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By Representatives Buck, Goldsmith, Sherstad, D. Schmidt, Thompson, Sheahan, McMorris, Mulliken, McMahan, Hargrove, Pelesky, Schoesler, Benton, Sheldon and Johnson

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1 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, With each passing year this Nation becomes deeply in debt
8 as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues so
9 that the public debt now exceeds three trillion dollars; and

10 WHEREAS, Attempts to limit spending, including impoundment of funds
11 by the President of the United States, have resulted in strenuous
12 assertions that the responsibility for appropriations is the
13 constitutional duty of the Congress; and

14 WHEREAS, The annual Federal budget repeatedly demonstrates the
15 unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive
16 branches of the Federal government to curtail spending to conform to
17 available revenues; and

18 WHEREAS, The unified budget does not reflect actual spending
19 because of the exclusion of special outlays that are not in the budget;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, Knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require that
2 the budget reflect all Federal spending and that the budget be in
3 balance; and

4 WHEREAS, Believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the Federal
5 level is one of the greatest economic threats that faces our Nation, we
6 firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the
7 fiscal discipline needed to reverse this trend; and

8 WHEREAS, Under Article V of the Constitution of the United States,
9 amendments to the Federal Constitution may be proposed by the Congress
10 whenever two-thirds of both Houses deem it necessary, or on the
11 application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States and
12 the Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the purpose of
13 proposing amendments;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists, a majority of all members of the
15 two houses, voting separately, concurring herein, petition the Congress
16 of the United States of America to adopt an amendment to the
17 Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for
18 ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal
19 year the President of the United States submit and the Congress of the
20 United States adopt a balanced federal budget; or, in the alternative,
21 that pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States,
22 the Legislature of the State of Washington makes application to the
23 Congress of the United States of America to call a convention for the
24 specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the
25 Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for
26 ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal
27 year the President of the United States submit and the Congress of the
28 United States adopt a balanced federal budget. If Congress adopts,
29 within sixty days after the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States
30 have made application for the convention, an amendment to the
31 Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that
32 contained in this resolution, then this application for a convention
33 shall no longer be of any force or effect.

34 This application and request is null and void, rescinded, and of no
35 effect in the event that the convention is not limited to such specific
36 and exclusive purpose.

37 This application by this Legislature constitutes a continuing
38 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the
39 United States until at least two-thirds of the Legislatures of the

1 several States have made application for a similar convention pursuant
2 to Article V or the Congress has proposed an amendment to the
3 Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that
4 contained in this Memorial.

5 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
6 transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
7 of the House of Representatives, to each member of Congress from the
8 State of Washington, and to the presiding officer of each house of each
9 state legislature in the United States.

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