

---

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4012

---

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Koster, B. Thomas, Mulliken, Sheahan, McMorris, D. Sommers, Sterk, Skinner, Smith, Delvin, Backlund, Clements, Benson, Schoesler, Johnson, Cairnes, Sullivan, Sherstad and Dyer

Read first time 02/14/97. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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

8 WHEREAS, The annual federal budget has not been balanced since  
9 1969, and the national debt is now more than five trillion dollars, or  
10 twenty thousand dollars for every man, woman, and child in America; and

11 WHEREAS, Continued deficit spending demonstrates an unwillingness  
12 or inability of both the federal executive and legislative branches to  
13 spend no more than available revenues; and

14 WHEREAS, Fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is lowering  
15 our standard of living, inhibiting the creation of new jobs, and  
16 jeopardizing economic opportunity now and for the next generation; and

17 WHEREAS, A balanced federal budget will result in stronger growth  
18 in the economy with low inflation, a higher rate of job creation, lower  
19 unemployment, lower interest rates, and reduced debt service costs to  
20 state and local governments; and

1       WHEREAS, The federal government's unlimited ability to borrow  
2 raises questions about fundamental principles and responsibilities of  
3 government, with potentially profound consequences for the nation and  
4 its people, making it an appropriate subject for limitation by the  
5 Constitution of the United States; and

6       WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States vests the ultimate  
7 responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional amendments with  
8 the People, as represented by their elected State Legislatures;

9       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
10 Congress of the United States expeditiously pass, and propose to the  
11 Legislatures of the several States for ratification, an amendment to  
12 the Constitution of the United States requiring in the absence of a  
13 national emergency that the total of all federal appropriations made by  
14 the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all  
15 estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year.

16       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
17 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
18 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
19 of the House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State  
20 of Washington, the Secretary of State of each of the other States in  
21 the Union, and the presiding officers of both Houses of the  
22 Legislatures of each of the other States in the Union.

--- END ---