

HCR 8005

2012

1 House Concurrent Resolution

2 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to call a
3 convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to
4 the Constitution of the United States to achieve and
5 maintain a balanced federal budget.

6
7 WHEREAS, fiscal discipline and economic integrity are core
8 principles of American governance, and

9 WHEREAS, the American people have historically demanded the
10 same prudent, responsible, and intellectually honest financial
11 behavior from their elected representatives as ultimately
12 compels individual behavior, and

13 WHEREAS, it is the firm conviction of the Florida
14 Legislature that it is wrong to fund the prosperity of the
15 present generation by robbing future Americans of their
16 prosperity, and

17 WHEREAS, mortgaging the birthright of our children and
18 grandchildren is a dangerous departure from traditional American
19 values which threatens to permanently undermine the strength of
20 our nation, and

21 WHEREAS, in the 12 months between November 30, 2010, and
22 December 1, 2011, the national debt grew by more than \$1.2
23 trillion, and as of December 1, 2011, the total public debt
24 outstanding for the United States was \$15,088,441,787,408, and

25 WHEREAS, Congress has voted to raise the debt limit 11
26 times since 2001, due to persistent and substantial budget
27 deficits, and the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
28 created by Congress to develop a lasting solution disbanded

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29 without reaching any agreement, and

30 WHEREAS, our debt is owed increasingly to the governments
31 of foreign nations, not to the citizens of the United States;
32 therefore, our wealth is transferred to others and will not be
33 available to supply the means for America's future growth and
34 prosperity, and

35 WHEREAS, this generation will bequeath to its children one
36 of the world's most indebted industrial democracies, and

37 WHEREAS, high federal deficits cause increasingly high
38 payments for debt interest in the future, make future borrowing
39 more costly, reduce investment activity, and thus reduce the
40 size of the future economy, and

41 WHEREAS, the people of Florida recognized the wisdom of
42 fiscal discipline and enshrined in the State Constitution the
43 requirement for a balanced budget to place a prudent limit on
44 the tendencies of government, and

45 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has made fiscally
46 responsible decisions and maintained a balanced budget and saved
47 the citizens of this state from crippling deficits, massive debt
48 burdens, and bankruptcy, and

49 WHEREAS, we the Florida Legislature call for the
50 Constitution of the United States to be amended to require the
51 Federal Government to operate with fiscal responsibility, common
52 sense, and within the revenues granted to it by the people, and

53 WHEREAS, the Federal Government has for too long relied on
54 revenue increases and borrowing against our future, rather than
55 on prudent spending decisions within the limits of current
56 revenues, and

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57 WHEREAS, lasting resolution of this nation's budget deficit
58 will be achieved only by addressing the spending habits of our
59 Federal Government, not by increasing the tax burden under which
60 our citizens already labor, and

61 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States
62 makes provision for amending the Constitution on the application
63 of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling
64 a convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all
65 intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-
66 fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-
67 fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification
68 may be proposed by Congress, NOW, THEREFORE,

69

70 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
71 Florida, the Senate Concurring:

72

73 That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due
74 respect and great reluctance, does hereby make application to
75 the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article V of the
76 Constitution of the United States to call a convention for the
77 sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
78 the United States to achieve and maintain a balanced budget by,
79 among other things:

80 (1) Requiring that total outlays not exceed total receipts
81 for any fiscal year;

82 (2) Requiring the setting of a fiscal year total outlay
83 limit;

84 (3) Prohibiting increases in taxes or other revenue

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85 sources;

86 (4) Providing that, for reasons other than war or military
 87 conflict, the limits of this amendment may be waived by law for
 88 any fiscal year if approved by at least two-thirds of both
 89 houses of Congress;

90 (5) Allowing for provisions of the amendment to take
 91 effect within specified time periods;

92 (6) Providing for the waiver of the provisions of the
 93 amendment for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is
 94 in effect or the United States is engaged in military conflict
 95 that causes an imminent and serious military threat to national
 96 security; and

97 (7) Allowing for congressional enforcement.

98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concurrent resolution
 99 supersedes all previous memorials and concurrent resolutions
 100 applying to the Congress of the United States to call a
 101 convention for the purpose of proposing a balanced budget
 102 amendment to the Constitution of the United States, including
 103 Senate Memorial 234 and House Memorial 2801, both passed in
 104 1976, and were superseded, revoked, and withdrawn in 1988 by
 105 Senate Memorial 302, and Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, passed
 106 in 2010, and that such previous memorials and resolutions are
 107 hereby revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the
 108 same effect as if they had never been passed.

109 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concurrent resolution is
 110 revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same
 111 effect as if it had never been passed, and retroactive to the
 112 date of passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a

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113 | convention or used in support of conducting a convention to
114 | amend the Constitution of the United States for any purpose
115 | other than requiring a balanced federal budget.

116 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this concurrent
117 | resolution be dispatched to the President of the United States
118 | Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of
119 | Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the
120 | United States Congress, and to the presiding officers of each
121 | house of the several state legislatures.