

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DECLARING THAT THE FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARE HARMING THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND URGING CONGRESS TO DISCIPLINE ITSELF AND ADDRESS THE ONGOING DEFICITS AND DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THERE IS NO LONGER ANY REMEDY TO AVOID HYPERINFLATION OR A DEFAULT ON THE DEBT OF THIS COUNTRY.

WHEREAS, the federal debt of the United States has increased from \$21.2 trillion in 2016 to \$36.3 trillion as of 2025, equaling 121% of the nation's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the federal debt of the United States is expected to exceed \$55 trillion by 2034; and

WHEREAS, interest payments on federal debt have increased from \$260 billion in 2016 to \$1.1 trillion in 2024, totaling 45% of federal income tax revenue and a 30% increase from 2023; and

WHEREAS, the national deficit for fiscal year 2024 was \$1.8 trillion; and

WHEREAS, federal borrowing costs are expected to be \$1.47 trillion for the first 6 months of fiscal year 2025 and \$19.5 trillion over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the United States debt service reached 3.95% of gross domestic product in fiscal year 2024, and gross domestic product growth is only projected at 1.8% for the next decade; and

WHEREAS, only four times in the past 48 years has Congress managed to pass a budget on time; and

WHEREAS, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are currently running annual deficits of \$1.17 trillion a year; and



1 WHEREAS, the International Monetary Fund has warned the United States that increased government
2 spending, growing public debt, and loose fiscal policy are leading to elevated interest rates and sustained
3 inflation; and

4 WHEREAS, sustained inflation and interest rates have led to crippling price increases on essential
5 food, transportation, energy, and housing, harming Montanans and American consumers; and

6 WHEREAS, inflationary theft that has been caused by the loose monetary policy and fiscal
7 recklessness of Congress is immoral, repugnant, and devastating to those who are least able to afford it; and

8 WHEREAS, expansive fiscal and monetary policy rewards the government, corporations, and wealthy
9 investors at the expense of the middle class and to the detriment of real growth; and

10 WHEREAS, the people of Montana and the United States have grave concerns about the ability of our
11 military to protect our nation from foreign adversaries and our citizens' ability to provide the most basic
12 necessities for their families.

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

16 (1) That the United States Congress address the exigent needs of our nation and take immediate
17 and decisive action to devise disciplined fiscal rules, such as the gold-linked dollar and a balanced budget
18 amendment to the United States Constitution.

19 (2) That the legislatures of the several states join with the State of Montana and send their own
20 unique resolutions to the United States Congress demanding action to address the fiscal vulnerabilities of the
21 United States and the inflationary harm inflicted on its citizens by repeated failures to address mounting debt,
22 deficits, and debt service being incurred by the federal government.

23 (3) That this resolution be sent to the Montana Congressional Delegation, including Senator
24 Daines, Senator Sheehy, Representative Zinke, and Representative Downing, and the presiding officers and
25 the Majority and Minority Leaders of each chamber of the legislature of each state and the Governor of each
26 state.

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