
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4023

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Shea, Kretz, Short, Johnson, Rodne, Taylor, Klippert, Campbell, Bailey, Condotta, and McCune

Read first time 01/13/10. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
5 SENATE AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH STATE'S
6 LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

10 WHEREAS, The federal budget deficit for federal fiscal year 2009
11 was 1.42 trillion dollars, triple the record deficit of the year
12 before, and at ten percent the highest as a share of the national
13 economy since World War II; and

14 WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office's analysis of the
15 president's budget finds that by 2019 the annual federal budget deficit
16 will still be roughly 1 trillion dollars, long after the current
17 recession is expected to have ended and revenues have returned to
18 normal rates of growth; and

19 WHEREAS, Federal spending increased 18.2 percent in 2009 and

1 reached twenty-five percent of gross domestic product, a level not seen
2 in more than fifty years; and

3 WHEREAS, The Progressive Policy Institute finds that because of
4 scheduled spending on entitlements, federal spending is on course to
5 exceed forty percent of gross domestic product within the lifetime of
6 today's children; and

7 WHEREAS, New entitlements being considered in the United States
8 Congress would, when fully implemented, add 1.8 trillion dollars in new
9 federal spending, greatly aggravating the budget deficit; and

10 WHEREAS, If entitlements are not reformed and new ones avoided, the
11 federal budget deficit may result in massive tax increases that will
12 cripple our economy and impoverish future generations; and

13 WHEREAS, The nation's soaring budget deficit, if not arrested, will
14 crowd out public investments in education and infrastructure and in
15 private investments in goods and services essential to creating jobs,
16 ensuring prosperity, and improving the quality of life of all
17 Americans; and

18 WHEREAS, Our national debt is projected to be 17.1 trillion dollars
19 in ten years, equivalent to 50,000 dollars for every American; and

20 WHEREAS, The cost of servicing federal debt will increase from 202
21 million dollars this year to more than 700 billion dollars in 2019,
22 driving up interest rates, weakening the dollar, and crowding out the
23 exports so vital to a trade-dependent state like Washington; and

24 WHEREAS, The large and growing foreign ownership of United States
25 national debt, with foreign nations now holding some 3.5 trillion
26 dollars in treasury securities, places our economic security and
27 political independence at risk; and

28 WHEREAS, When surveyed as to their top priorities, voters
29 consistently place deficit reduction first, far ahead of other
30 concerns;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully resolve:

32 (1) That immediate and sustained action be taken to slow the growth
33 of federal spending and reduce the federal budget deficit to a
34 manageable share of our economy;

35 (2) That specific action be taken by the president and congress, in
36 a bipartisan way, to reform federal entitlements and slow the growth of
37 entitlement spending to levels our children can afford; and

1 (3) That the president and congress should avoid the creation of
2 any new federal entitlements that will further add to the federal
3 deficit, increase tax burdens, impede private investment, and harm our
4 international competitiveness.

5 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
6 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
7 States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives of each state's legislature of the United States of
9 America, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
10 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
11 Washington.

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