
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8028

State of Washington

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By Senators McCaslin, Oke, Cantu, Barr, Sellar, Amondson, Anderson, Hayner, L. Smith, Craswell, Bailey, Roach, West, Rasmussen and Pelz

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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

1 branches of the Federal government to curtail spending to conform to
2 available revenues; and

3 WHEREAS, The unified budget does not reflect actual spending
4 because of the exclusion of special outlays which are not in the
5 budget; and

6 WHEREAS, Knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require that
7 the budget reflect all Federal spending and that the budget be in
8 balance; and

9 WHEREAS, Believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the Federal
10 level is one of the greatest economic threats which faces our Nation,
11 we firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring
12 the fiscal discipline needed to reverse this trend; and

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

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists, a majority of all members of the
20 two houses, voting separately, concurring herein, petition the Congress
21 of the United States of America to adopt an amendment to the
22 Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for
23 ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal
24 year the President of the United States submit and the Congress of the
25 United States adopt a balanced federal budget; or, in the alternative,
26 that pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States,
27 the Legislature of the State of Washington makes application to the
28 Congress of the United States of America to call a convention for the
29 specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the
30 Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for

1 ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal
2 year the President of the United States submit and the Congress of the
3 United States adopt a balanced federal budget. If Congress adopts,
4 within sixty days after the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States
5 have made application for such convention, an amendment to the
6 Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that
7 contained in this resolution, then this application for a convention
8 shall no longer be of any force or effect.

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

12 This application by this Legislature constitutes a continuing
13 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the
14 United States until at least two-thirds of the Legislatures of the
15 several States have made application for a similar convention pursuant
16 to Article V or the Congress has proposed an amendment to the
17 Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that
18 contained in this Memorial.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
21 of the House of Representatives, to each member of Congress from the
22 State of Washington, and to the presiding officer of each house of each
23 state legislature in the United States.