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House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

INTRODUCED BY Curtiss Ellis Bisnard

DENNY BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE Quinn  
Hayne Beaudry R. Allen Storall Myrtle OR Eric Thompson

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
Daniel By Wagner  
MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUBMIT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A BALANCED BUDGET  
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. Reuben 9/25/69

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as federal government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue, so that the federal public debt is now approximately \$4.9 trillion, or \$19,000 for each man, woman, and child; and

WHEREAS, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, demonstrating an unwillingness or inability of both the Legislative and Executive branches of federal government; and

WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence, and plain good sense require that the federal budget should not be manipulated to present the appearance of being in balance while, in fact, federal indebtedness continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, resulting in a lower standard of living and endangering economic opportunity now and for the next generation, is the greatest threat that faces our nation; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson recognized the importance of a balanced budget when he wrote, "The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequence as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves"; and

WHEREAS, the principal functions of the United States Constitution include promoting the broadest principles of a government of, by, and for the people; setting forth the most fundamental responsibilities of government; and enumerating and limiting the powers of the government to protect the basic rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude, with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, today and in the future, that it is an appropriate subject for limitation by the United States Constitution; and

1           WHEREAS, the United States Constitution vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove  
2 of amendments to the United States Constitution with the people of the several states, as represented by  
3 their elected legislatures; and

4           WHEREAS, opposition by a small minority within Congress and, on occasion, by the President has  
5 repeatedly thwarted the will of the people of the United States that a balanced budget amendment to the  
6 United States Constitution should be submitted to the states for ratification while large majorities of both  
7 houses of Congress already have prepared, considered, and voted for an amendment.

8

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

11           That the Legislature of the State of Montana requests the members of the Congress of the United  
12 States to expeditiously pass, and to propose to the legislatures of the several states for ratification, an  
13 amendment to the United States Constitution requiring, in the absence of a national emergency, that the  
14 total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all  
15 estimated federal revenue for that fiscal year; and

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United  
17 States be urged to apply to the Congress requesting the proposal for ratification of a balanced budget  
18 amendment to the United States Constitution; and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the  
20 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
21 members of Montana's Congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each house of the  
22 legislatures of each of the other states.

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*House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

INTRODUCED BY Curtiss Ellis Brainard

DENNY BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Curtiss Ellis)

*Hayne Beaudry R. Stovall* *with OR* *Eric Moran*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUBMIT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A BALANCED BUDGET  
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. *Robert M. Lee*

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as federal government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue, so that the federal public debt is now approximately \$4.9 trillion, or \$19,000 for each man, woman, and child; and

WHEREAS, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, demonstrating an unwillingness or inability of both the Legislative and Executive branches of federal government; and

WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence, and plain good sense require that the federal budget should not be manipulated to present the appearance of being in balance while, in fact, federal indebtedness continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, resulting in a lower standard of living and endangering economic opportunity now and for the next generation, is the greatest threat that faces our nation; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson recognized the importance of a balanced budget when he wrote, "The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequence as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves"; and

WHEREAS, the principal functions of the United States Constitution include promoting the broadest principles of a government of, by, and for the people; setting forth the most fundamental responsibilities of government; and enumerating and limiting the powers of the government to protect the basic rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude, with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, today and in the future, that it is an appropriate subject for limitation by the United States Constitution; and



*House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *26*

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INTRODUCED BY *Curtiss Ellis* *Bisinaud*

*Denny* BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE *(Curtiss)*  
*Hayne Beaudry* *R. Allen Storal* *Mike O'Rourke* *Eric Messer*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUBMIT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A BALANCED BUDGET  
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. *Robb* *4/27/10*

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as federal government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue, so that the federal public debt is now approximately \$4.9 trillion, or \$19,000 for each man, woman, and child; and

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2 of amendments to the United States Constitution with the people of the several states, as represented by  
3 their elected legislatures; and

4           WHEREAS, opposition by a small minority within Congress and, on occasion, by the President has  
5 repeatedly thwarted the will of the people of the United States that a balanced budget amendment to the  
6 United States Constitution should be submitted to the states for ratification while large majorities of both  
7 houses of Congress already have prepared, considered, and voted for an amendment.

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

11           That the Legislature of the State of Montana requests the members of the Congress of the United  
12 States to expeditiously pass, and to propose to the legislatures of the several states for ratification, an  
13 amendment to the United States Constitution requiring, in the absence of a national emergency, that the  
14 total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all  
15 estimated federal revenue for that fiscal year; and

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United  
17 States be urged to apply to the Congress requesting the proposal for ratification of a balanced budget  
18 amendment to the United States Constitution; and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the  
20 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
21 members of Montana's Congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each house of the  
22 legislatures of each of the other states.

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APPROVED BY COM ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

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House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

INTRODUCED BY Curtiss Ellis Prinaud  
DENNY BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (1-14-2022)

Hayne Beaudry Russell Stovall OR Eric Moran

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUBMIT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. Robison

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as federal government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue, so that the federal public debt is now approximately \$4.9 trillion, or \$19,000 for each man, woman, and child; and

WHEREAS, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, demonstrating an unwillingness or inability of both the Legislative and Executive branches of federal government; and

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23

-END-

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

2 INTRODUCED BY CURTISS, ELLIS, BRAINARD, DENNY, GRINDE, HAYNE, BEAUDRY, BITNEY,  
3 STOVALL, MILLS, ORR, OHS, MOOD, DEBRUYCKER, BANKHEAD, BOHLINGER, REHBEIN, MCGEE  
4 BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

5  
6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
7 MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUBMIT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A BALANCED BUDGET  
8 AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

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24 -END-