

By Senator Bennett

21-01204-10

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1 Senate Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 requesting Congress to submit to the states for
4 ratification a balanced budget amendment to the United
5 States Constitution.

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7 WHEREAS, the annual budget of the United States has not
8 been balanced since 1969 and the federal public debt is now more
9 than \$5 trillion, or \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child in
10 the United States, and

11 WHEREAS, continued deficit spending demonstrates an
12 unwillingness or inability of the federal executive and
13 legislative branches to spend no more than available revenues,
14 and

15 WHEREAS, fiscal irresponsibility by the Federal Government
16 is lowering the citizens' standard of living, destroying jobs,
17 and endangering economic opportunity in the present and for the
18 next generation, and

19 WHEREAS, the Federal Government's unlimited ability to
20 borrow money raises questions with regard to fundamental
21 principles and responsibilities of government, with potentially
22 profound consequences for the country and its people, making it
23 an appropriate subject for limitation by the United States
24 Constitution, and

25 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution vests the ultimate
26 responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional
27 amendments in the people, as represented by their elected state
28 legislatures, and

29 WHEREAS, opposition by a small minority of citizens has

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30 repeatedly thwarted the will of the people to submit a balanced
31 budget amendment to the United States Constitution to the states
32 for ratification, NOW, THEREFORE,

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34 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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36 That the Congress of the United States is urged to
37 expeditiously pass and propose to the legislatures of the
38 several states for ratification an amendment to the United
39 States Constitution prohibiting, in the absence of a national
40 emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by the
41 Congress for any fiscal year from exceeding the total of all
42 estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year.

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44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
45 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
46 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
47 United States House of Representatives, to each member of the
48 Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the
49 presiding officers of each house of the legislatures of each
state in the Union.