

By Senator Haridopolos

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1 Senate Concurrent Resolution

2 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to call a  
3 convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to  
4 the Constitution of the United States to achieve and  
5 maintain a balanced federal budget.

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7 WHEREAS, fiscal discipline and economic integrity have been  
8 core principles of American governance, and

9 WHEREAS, the American people have historically demanded the  
10 same prudent, responsible, and intellectually honest financial  
11 behavior from their elected representatives as ultimately  
12 compels individual behavior, and

13 WHEREAS, it is the firm conviction of the Legislature of  
14 the State of Florida that it is wrong to fund the prosperity of  
15 the present generation by robbing future Americans of their own,  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, mortgaging the birthright of our children and  
18 grandchildren is a dangerous departure from traditional American  
19 values which threatens to permanently undermine the strength of  
20 our nation, and

21 WHEREAS, in the 7 months between June 1, 2010, and December  
22 31, 2010, the national debt grew \$1 trillion, and as of April 1,  
23 2011, the total public debt outstanding for the United States  
24 was \$14,251,174,516,308, and

25 WHEREAS, Congress has voted to raise the debt limit 10  
26 times since 2001, and the United States Secretary of the  
27 Treasury has called on the Congress to immediately consider  
28 voting to raise it again, and

29 WHEREAS, our debt is owed increasingly to the governments

26-03888A-11

20114\_\_

30 of foreign nations, not to the citizens of the United States;  
31 therefore, our wealth is transferred to others and will not be  
32 available to supply the means for America's future growth and  
33 prosperity, and

34 WHEREAS, this generation will bequeath to its children one  
35 of the world's most indebted industrial democracies, and

36 WHEREAS, high federal deficits cause increasingly high  
37 payments for debt interest in the future, make future borrowing  
38 more costly, reduce investment activity, and thus reduce the  
39 size of the future economy, and

40 WHEREAS, the people of Florida recognized the wisdom of  
41 fiscal discipline and enshrined in its State Constitution the  
42 requirement for a balanced budget to place a prudent limit on  
43 the tendencies of government, and

44 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has made fiscally  
45 responsible decisions, maintaining a balanced budget and saving  
46 the citizens of this State from crippling deficits, massive debt  
47 burdens, and bankruptcy, and

48 WHEREAS, we the Legislature of the State of Florida call  
49 for the Constitution of the United States to be amended to  
50 require the Federal Government to operate with fiscal  
51 responsibility, common sense, and within the revenues granted to  
52 it by the people, and

53 WHEREAS, the Federal Government has for too long relied on  
54 revenue increases and borrowing against our future, rather than  
55 on prudent spending decisions within the limits of current  
56 revenues, and

57 WHEREAS, lasting resolution of this nation's budget deficit  
58 will be achieved only by addressing the spending habits of our

26-03888A-11

20114\_\_

59 Federal Government, not by increasing the tax burden under which  
60 our citizens already labor, and

61 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States  
62 makes provision for amending the Constitution on the application  
63 of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling  
64 a convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all  
65 intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-  
66 fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-  
67 fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification  
68 may be proposed by Congress, NOW, THEREFORE,

69

70 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida, the House  
71 of Representatives Concurring:

72

73 That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due  
74 respect and great reluctance, does hereby make application to  
75 the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article V of the  
76 Constitution of the United States to call a convention for the  
77 sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of  
78 the United States to achieve and maintain a balanced budget by,  
79 among other things:

80 (1) Requiring that total outlays not exceed total receipts  
81 for any fiscal year;

82 (2) Requiring the setting of a fiscal year total outlay  
83 limit;

84 (3) Prohibiting increases in taxes or other revenue  
85 sources;

86 (4) Providing that, for reasons other than war or military  
87 conflict, the limits of this amendment may be waived by law for

26-03888A-11

20114\_\_

88 any fiscal year if approved by at least two-thirds of both  
89 houses of Congress;

90 (5) Allowing for provisions of the amendment to take effect  
91 within specified time periods;

92 (6) Providing for the waiver of the provisions of the  
93 amendment for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is  
94 in effect or the United States is engaged in military conflict  
95 that causes an imminent and serious military threat to national  
96 security; and

97 (7) Allowing for congressional enforcement.

98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concurrent resolution  
99 supersedes all previous memorials and concurrent resolutions  
100 applying to the Congress of the United States to call a  
101 convention for the purpose of proposing a balanced budget  
102 amendment to the Constitution of the United States, including  
103 Senate Memorial 234 and House Memorial 2801, both passed in  
104 1976, and were superseded, revoked, and withdrawn in 1988 by  
105 Senate Memorial 302, and Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, passed  
106 in 2010, and that such previous memorials and resolutions are  
107 hereby revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the  
108 same effect as if they had never been passed.

109 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concurrent resolution is  
110 revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same  
111 effect as if it had never been passed, and retroactive to the  
112 date of passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a  
113 convention or used in support of conducting a convention to  
114 amend the Constitution of the United States for any purpose  
115 other than requiring a balanced federal budget.

116 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this concurrent

26-03888A-11

20114\_\_

117 resolution be dispatched to the President of the United States  
118 Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of  
119 Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the  
120 United States Congress, and to the presiding officers of each  
121 house of the several state legislatures.