

By Senator Simpson

18-00478-14

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1 Senate Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to call a convention for the purpose  
4 of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the  
5 United States to provide that every law enacted by  
6 Congress shall embrace only one subject, which shall  
7 be clearly expressed in its title.  
8

9 WHEREAS, each measure before a legislative body should pass  
10 on its own merits without depending on legislative support for  
11 other unrelated measures to achieve the required number of votes  
12 for passage, and

13 WHEREAS, a single-subject constitutional provision  
14 addresses this concern by prohibiting a legislative body from  
15 enacting a law that embraces more than one subject, and

16 WHEREAS, 41 of the 50 states, including Florida, have a  
17 single-subject provision in their respective state  
18 constitutions, and the legislatures and citizens of these states  
19 have benefited from a single-subject requirement, and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is the supreme law  
21 of the United States of America, touching the lives of every  
22 citizen in the several states, but is missing this important  
23 provision, and

24 WHEREAS, our great country is deep in debt and Congress is  
25 currently searching for a solution, and

26 WHEREAS, a federal single-subject amendment would provide  
27 the means to limit pork barrel spending, control the phenomenon  
28 of legislating through riders, limit omnibus legislation  
29 produced by logrolling, prevent public surprise, and increase

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30 the institutional accountability of Congress and its members,  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, it is Florida's hope and desire that Congress will  
33 be able to conduct its business in a more productive, efficient,  
34 transparent, and less acrimonious way with a single-subject  
35 requirement, and

36 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution makes  
37 provision for amending the Constitution on the application of  
38 the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling a  
39 convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all  
40 intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-  
41 fourths of the several states or by conventions in three-fourths  
42 thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be  
43 proposed by Congress, NOW, THEREFORE,

44

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

46

47 That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due  
48 respect, does hereby make application to the Congress of the  
49 United States pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the  
50 United States to call a convention for the sole purpose of  
51 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
52 to provide:

53 Congress shall pass no bill, and no bill shall become  
54 law, which embraces more than one subject, that  
55 subject to be clearly expressed in the bill's title.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial supersedes all  
57 previous memorials and concurrent resolutions applying to the  
58 Congress of the United States to call a convention for the

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59 purpose of proposing a single-subject amendment to the  
60 Constitution of the United States and that such previous  
61 memorials and resolutions be hereby revoked and withdrawn,  
62 nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if they had  
63 never been passed.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial is revoked and  
65 withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if it  
66 had never been passed, and be retroactive to the date of  
67 passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a convention  
68 or used in support of conducting a convention to amend the  
69 Constitution of the United States for any purpose other than  
70 requiring that every law enacted by Congress embrace only one  
71 subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
73 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
74 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
75 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
76 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.