

By Senator Avila

39-00242-23

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging members of Congress to take immediate action to  
address the current national debt and balance the  
federal budget.

WHEREAS, the United States' national debt for the federal  
fiscal year 2021-2022, which ended September 30, 2022, totaled  
\$30.93 trillion, which represents an increase of \$2.5 trillion  
in debt from the previous fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the amount of debt carried by the Federal  
Government affects the amount of interest it pays in a fiscal  
year, and

WHEREAS, as of October 2022, the first month in the 2022-  
2023 federal fiscal year, maintaining the national debt costs  
the Federal Government \$48 billion per month or 12 percent of  
total federal spending, and

WHEREAS, as inflation and interest rates increase, the  
Federal Government encounters higher interest rates on borrowed  
moneys, and

WHEREAS, as the national debt increases, Congress is forced  
to raise the debt ceiling or risk not being able to pay Federal  
Government expenditures, resulting in government shutdowns and  
employee furloughs that threaten national security, and

WHEREAS, 41 states, including Florida, require their state  
legislatures to pass balanced budgets that ensure fiscal  
discipline and responsibility, and

WHEREAS, Congress has attempted, unsuccessfully, to  
introduce and enact legislation requiring its members to pass a

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30 balanced budget, and

31 WHEREAS, the people of Florida recognized the wisdom of  
32 fiscal discipline and enshrined in the State Constitution the  
33 requirement for a balanced budget, thereby placing prudent  
34 limits on government spending, and

35 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has made fiscally  
36 responsible decisions, has maintained a balanced budget, and has  
37 saved residents of this state from crippling deficits, massive  
38 debt burdens, and bankruptcy, and

39 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature calls on members of  
40 Congress to enact legislation requiring a balanced budget; to  
41 mandate the Federal Government operate with fiscal  
42 responsibility, discipline, and common sense; and to operate  
43 within the revenues granted to it by the people, and

44 WHEREAS, in order to ensure the stability of government and  
45 business functions at the local, regional, state, and national  
46 levels, it is imperative that the Federal Government take action  
47 to cut costs, reduce the tax burden on American families and  
48 businesses, operate according to principles of fiscal  
49 responsibility and discipline, and balance the federal budget,  
50 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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54 That the Congress of the United States is urged to take  
55 immediate action to begin to reduce the national debt and enact  
56 legislation requiring a balanced federal budget.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State is  
58 directed to dispatch copies of this memorial to the President of

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59 the United States, to the President of the United States Senate,  
60 to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
61 and to each member of the Florida delegation to the Congress of  
62 the United States.