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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. J. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOHMERT introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

1        *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2        *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*  
3        *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*  
4        *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*  
5        *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*  
6        *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*  
7        *ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several*  
8        *States within seven years after the date of its submission*  
9        *for ratification:*

1 “ARTICLE—

2 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall  
3 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year.

4 “SECTION 2. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall  
5 not exceed 18.5 percent of economic output of the United  
6 States.

7 “SECTION 3. The limit on the debt of the United  
8 States held by the public shall not be increased unless  
9 three-fourths of the whole number of each House shall  
10 provide by law for such an increase by a rollcall vote.

11 “SECTION 4. Prior to each fiscal year, the President  
12 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the  
13 United States Government for that fiscal year in which  
14 total outlays do not exceed total receipts. The President’s  
15 failure to transmit to the Congress a balanced budget will  
16 be considered an impeachable offense, except in emergency  
17 situations as described in section 6, in which case the  
18 President may submit a nonbalanced budget under the  
19 procedures described in those sections.

20 “SECTION 5. A bill to increase revenue shall not be-  
21 come law unless three-fourths of the whole number of each  
22 House shall provide by law for such an increase by a roll-  
23 call vote.

24 “SECTION 6. The Congress may waive all the provi-  
25 sions of this article for any fiscal year in which a declara-

1 tion of war is in effect. All the provisions of this article  
2 may be waived for any fiscal year in which the United  
3 States is engaged in military conflict which causes an im-  
4 minent and serious military threat to national security and  
5 is so declared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority  
6 of the whole number of each House, which becomes law.  
7 Any such waiver must identify and be limited to the spe-  
8 cific excess or increase for that fiscal year made necessary  
9 by the identified military conflict.

10       “SECTION 7. The Congress shall enforce and imple-  
11 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely  
12 on estimates of outlays and receipts.

13       “SECTION 8. Total receipts shall include all receipts  
14 of the United States Government except those derived  
15 from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of  
16 the United States Government except for those for repay-  
17 ment of debt principal.

18       “SECTION 9. This article shall take effect beginning  
19 with the third fiscal year beginning after its ratification.”.