

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013

Introduced by

Senators Stenehjem, Christmann, Sitte

Representatives Carlson, Delzer, Pollert

A concurrent resolution ~~urging Congress to adopt a federal balanced budget amendment~~ urging the leaders of both parties in Congress to meet with the President at a summit and, using the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform report as a starting point, to negotiate a bipartisan comprehensive fiscal responsibility package that can be enacted this year.

~~— WHEREAS, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States is necessary to restore fiscal discipline to our republic; and~~

~~— WHEREAS, a balanced budget amendment should require the President to submit to Congress a proposed budget before each fiscal year in which total federal spending does not exceed total revenue; and~~

~~— WHEREAS, that the balanced budget amendment should include a requirement that a supermajority of both houses of Congress be necessary to increase taxes; and~~

~~— WHEREAS, a balanced budget amendment should include a limitation on total federal spending;~~

WHEREAS, the total debt of the United States government is \$14.2 trillion, over \$45,000 for every person in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the annual federal deficit is anticipated to be \$1.56 trillion in fiscal year 2012; and

WHEREAS, interest payments on America's debt are now 15 percent on non-Social Security federal revenues; and

WHEREAS, the federal budget cannot be balanced merely by cuts because if all nonmandatory spending, including defense and Medicare, were cut by 20 percent there would still be a deficit of \$1.1 trillion; and if all discretionary programs, excluding defense and Medicare and Medicaid, were totally eliminated there would still be an annual budget deficit of \$800 billion; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the federal budget cannot be balanced merely by tax increases because even
2 if all non-Social Security revenues were increased by 30 percent, there would still be a deficit of
3 \$1 trillion; and

4 **WHEREAS**, long-term continuation of these levels of deficit and debt threaten the strength
5 of our nation and the well-being of its people; and

6 **WHEREAS**, it is impossible to manage this fiscal crisis without a comprehensive balanced
7 approach of shared sacrifice--a fiscal responsibility package that includes spending decreases,
8 tax increases, closing of tax loopholes, and decreases in incentives to already profitable
9 corporations;

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
11 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

12 ~~—That the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly urges Congress to adopt a federal balanced-~~
13 ~~budget amendment; and~~

14 ~~—**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution-~~
15 ~~to the presiding officer of each house of Congress, the President, and to each member of the~~
16 ~~North Dakota Congressional Delegation.~~

17 That the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly urges the leaders of both parties in Congress to
18 meet with the President at a summit and, using the President's National Commission on Fiscal
19 Responsibility and Reform report as a starting point, to negotiate a bipartisan comprehensive
20 fiscal responsibility package that can be enacted this year; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Assembly urges Congress to approve a
22 constitutional amendment requiring the President to deliver annually and the Congress to adopt
23 a 10-year debt reduction plan; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
25 to the President and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.