

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 47

## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PRATT.

3940L.011

1 **Whereas**, for the first 200 years of our nation's history, Congress balanced the  
2 budget, except for times of war and recession; and

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4 **Whereas**, in October 2008 Congress enacted the Emergency Economic  
5 Stabilization Act of 2008 primarily for the purpose of bailing out the financial industry, at a cost  
6 of up to \$700 billion. In February 2009 Congress enacted the American Recovery and  
7 Reinvestment Act of 2009 at a cost of \$787 billion; and

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9 **Whereas**, currently, Congress is working to enact radical changes to the American  
10 health care and health insurance industries. The leading plans are estimated by the Congressional  
11 Budget Office (CBO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to cost \$800 billion  
12 over ten years; and

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14 **Whereas**, overall, the CBO and OMB are estimating trillion dollar deficits through  
15 2011; and

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17 **Whereas**, the amount of debt that the United States is taking on is becoming so  
18 enormous that creditors around the world are becoming alarmed about the safety of their reserves  
19 now held in United States dollars. China has made serious comments about replacing the dollar  
20 as the reserve currency of the world; and

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22 **Whereas**, there is growing consensus among average United States taxpayers that  
23 something must be done to rein in the reckless spending and proposed spending programs; and

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25           **Whereas**, a Balanced Budget Amendment to the United States Constitution would  
26 require that Congress pass a federal budget that balances projected revenues and expenditures,  
27 with notable exceptions such as a time of war; and

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29           **Whereas**, according to Article V of the United States Constitution:

30                   "The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it  
31 necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution...which...shall be valid  
32 to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the  
33 Legislature of three-fourths of the several States."; and

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35           **Whereas**, the United States Constitution has been amended 27 times, including the  
36 original Bill of Rights. Subsequent amendments abolished slavery, gave Congress the power to  
37 tax, implemented and then repealed Prohibition, and gave women the right to vote. The most  
38 recent constitutional amendment prohibits a congressional pay raise from taking effect during  
39 the Congress in which it was adopted; and

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41           **Whereas**, on January 6, 2009, H. J. Res. 1 proposing a balanced budget amendment  
42 to the United States Constitution, was reintroduced in the opening hours of the 111th Congress  
43 which would force Congress to enact fiscally responsible spending measures, reduce the deficit,  
44 and ensure that the money our citizens work so hard to earn is not squandered on wasteful  
45 spending and programs; and

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47           **Whereas**, 168 members of Congress signed on as co-sponsors of the balanced  
48 budget amendment measure, but no major action has been taken on the measure since its referral  
49 to a House Committee in February of 2009; and

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51           **Whereas**, the current United States outstanding national debt exceeds \$12 trillion.  
52 With an estimated population of 307 million people, each citizen's share of the national debt  
53 exceeds \$39,000; and

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55           **Whereas**, the national debt has continued to increase an average of \$3.84 billion  
56 per day since September 28, 2007:

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58           **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
59 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
60 concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to enact a balanced budget  
61 amendment to the United States Constitution to force Congress to balance the federal budget,  
62 reduce the national debt, and eliminate wasteful spending and programs; and

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64           **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
65 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
66 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and  
67 each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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