

REP. ZACH NUNN TESTIMONY
MEMBER DAY – COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
December 3, 2025

- Thank you, Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member Boyle, for providing this forum for non-Budget Committee Members to share policy priorities within the Committee's jurisdiction.
- Mr. Chairman, congratulations to you and your Committee on advancing the largest tax cut for working families in decades earlier this year.
- I hear about the bill's positive impacts every time I am back home, from no tax on tips to the child tax credit.
- Today, I want to discuss something very important to folks back in Iowa: **responsible spending habits.**
- In my home state, we take a commonsense approach when it comes to managing our finances.
- Farmers, small businesses, and families across Iowa balance their personal budgets year after year.
- One of those Iowans reached out to my office during the Democrat Shutdown.
- Dr. Sarah Massey is an OB/GYN and mother of three from Indianola.
- After losing her husband unexpectedly, she did what any responsible parent would do—she turned to the Social Security system her family paid into, seeking survivor benefits for her children.
- But instead of support, she faced silence, red tape, and weeks of delays as the shutdown dragged on. My team is now working directly with her to get the benefits she deserves.
- And yet I can't help but ask: what happens seven years from now when those benefits may not be there at all?
- America is now \$38 trillion in debt. If Congress continues on this path, Social Security could run out by 2032—leaving over 500,000 Iowans without the full retirement or survivor benefits they've earned.

- Back home, families like the Masseys budget every dollar. They make tough calls to stay within their means. And our state government reflects that same fiscal responsibility.
- Our state turned a deficit into a \$2 billion surplus by balancing the budget and letting taxpayers keep more of what they earn. It's time Washington did the same.
- Iowa demonstrates what's possible: hard work, common sense, and living within our means. The federal government's refusal to do the same is staggering.
- The last Administration took this liberty to the extreme. Spending well beyond our means and significantly expanding our national debt.
- It is well past time to restore a sensible, functional government that works for the American people, not one that irresponsibly spends and taxes.
- In my first week in Congress, I introduced a constitutional amendment that would require a balanced budget. It would prohibit total outlays for a fiscal year from exceeding total receipts unless Congress authorizes the excess by a three-fifths majority.
- This resolution would also require the President to submit a balanced budget annually, not one bloated with a partisan wish list.
- Washington sacrifices the livelihoods of our children and grandchildren, and our national security, to claim partisan victories.
- The last time the U.S. reached this level of indebtedness came after World War II. Congress took decades to reverse that trajectory, but through persistent commitment to deficit reduction, the U.S. emerged as the leader of the free world.
- Today's lawmakers on both sides of the aisle must summon the same fortitude that our colleagues from the 1940s possessed to maintain America's leading position on the global stage.
- My resolution attempts to restore good public service to every single American, regardless of party or background.
- Both sides of the aisle on this Committee should support their constituents' futures and restore Washington's fiscal sanity.
- I yield back the balance of my time.