

JODEY C. ARRINGTON
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HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE
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December 12, 2025

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chip Roy
Subcommittee Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan and Subcommittee Chairman Roy,

I welcome the opportunity to submit comments for the record in response to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government's hearing entitled *Balancing the Federal Budget: Examining Proposals for a Balanced Budget Amendment*.

America is on an unsustainable fiscal path. In 1982, the national debt hit the \$1 trillion milestone. Twenty-six years later, in 2008, the \$10 trillion mark was surpassed. Our last milestone, \$30 trillion in debt, was reached in 2022. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the gross debt is projected to surpass \$40 trillion in 2027, just five years after reaching the \$30 trillion mark.

Now, America is \$38 trillion in debt. To put this in perspective, that is twice the entire economic output of the European Union, more than twenty times Great Britain's annual budget, and a crushing \$500,000 burden for every young American under 18.

The National Federalism Commission — an official inter-state and nonpartisan governmental body — released a comprehensive report for the House Judiciary Committee that confirmed the Federal Fiscal Sustainability Foundation's multi-year claim that Congress should have called a Convention for Proposing Amendments focused on fiscal responsibility 46 years ago. Yet, Congress failed to act.

Congress has been addicted to spending, deficits and debt for far too long. This has been and remains a bipartisan problem that must be corrected if we want our future generations to be better off than our past. Only a constitutional amendment can force Congress to quit placing unreasonable debt burdens on current and future generations of Americans.

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If Congress fails to act in a timely manner, states are empowered to take legal action to uphold their constitutional rights. Our nation's founders recognized that the states must act when Congress neglects its obligations under Article V.

Congress should now call a convention to propose a fiscal responsibility amendment. Under Article V, this process becomes effectively automatic once the required number of state applications is received. Additionally, Congress should consider requiring ratification through state conventions of pledged delegates, the method used to ratify the 21st Amendment, which repealed Prohibition. This approach closely resembles a referendum under our Constitution.

Adopting a fiscal responsibility constitutional amendment, as put forward in H.Con.Res.15, is essential to restore fiscal sanity, achieve long-term fiscal sustainability, and ensure that future generations inherit a more secure economic future.

I want to thank the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government for holding this important hearing and urge swift passage of H.Con.Res.15.

Sincerely,



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress