



## 1997 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

February 12, 1997 - Introduced by Senators WELCH, FITZGERALD, WEEDEN, BUETTNER, ZIEN, DARLING and PANZER, cosponsored by Representatives LADWIG, JENSEN, LORGE, URBAN, ZUKOWSKI, KAUFERT, GOETSCH, HANDRICK, F. LASEE, OTTE, MUSSER, KREIBICH, AINSWORTH, HARSDORF, GARD, OWENS, GUNDERSON, HAHN, UNDERHEIM, KELSO, WALKER and OTT. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations.

1     **Relating to:** requesting appropriate action by the U.S. Congress to propose an  
2             amendment to the federal constitution to require, with certain exceptions, that  
3             the total of all federal appropriations may not exceed the total of all estimated  
4             federal revenues in any fiscal year.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This joint resolution applies to the U.S. Congress to submit to the states, for ratification, a balanced-budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution "requiring in the absence of a national emergency that the total of all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year".

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5             Whereas, with each passing year this nation becomes more deeply in debt as its  
6             expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues, so that the public  
7             debt now exceeds hundreds of billions of dollars.

8             The annual federal budget continually demonstrates an unwillingness or  
9             inability of both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to  
10            curtail spending to conform to available revenues.

1 Unified budgets do not reflect actual spending because of the exclusion of  
2 special outlays which are not included in the budget nor subject to the legal public  
3 debt limit.

4 Knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence and plain good sense require that the  
5 budget reflect all federal spending and be in balance.

6 Believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, with the inflation  
7 which results from this policy, is the greatest threat which faces our nation, we firmly  
8 believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal discipline needed  
9 to restore financial responsibility.

10 Under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, amendments to the  
11 federal constitution may be proposed by Congress whenever two-thirds of both  
12 houses deem it necessary. We believe such action vital.

13 ***Now, therefore, be it resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring,***  
14 ***That*** the legislature of the state of Wisconsin proposes to the Congress of the United  
15 States that procedures be instituted in Congress to add a new article to the  
16 Constitution of the United States, and that the state of Wisconsin requests Congress  
17 to prepare and submit to the several states an amendment to the Constitution of the  
18 United States, requiring in the absence of a national emergency that the total of all  
19 federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total  
20 of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; and, be it further

21 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature of the state of Wisconsin also proposes that the  
22 legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United States apply to  
23 Congress requesting the enactment of an appropriate amendment to the federal  
24 constitution; and, be it further

