2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 21


Relating to: application to Congress under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States for a convention for proposing amendments relating to a balanced budget.

Whereas, previous presidential administrations and Congress have allowed an unprecedented amount of federal debt to accumulate, which currently exceeds $20 trillion; and

Whereas, a report by President Obama’s National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform issued a warning on the debt levels, stating: “If the U.S. does not put its house in order, the reckoning will be sure and the devastation severe”; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States does not currently require the federal government to operate under a balanced budget; and

Whereas, members of both political parties and both houses of Congress have called for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States to no avail; and
Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States authorizes the legislatures of the states to convene a convention for proposing amendments upon the passage of 34 state resolutions; and

Whereas, 49 states, by constitution or statute, require a balanced budget; and

Whereas, the legislature of the State of Wisconsin supports the federal government operating under a balanced budget; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of the State of Wisconsin herewith respectfully applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention for proposing amendments, for the limited purpose of requiring the federal government to operate under a balanced budget; and, be it further

Resolved, That the secretary of state of the State of Wisconsin be, and is hereby, directed to forward a proper authenticated copy of this resolution to the President of the Senate of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution constitutes a continuing application for a convention for proposing amendments in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until such a convention is convened on the same subject or until the legislature of the State of Wisconsin rescinds this resolution.

(END)