

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14

SPONSOR STATEMENT HJR 38

“Requesting the United States Congress to call a Constitutional Convention to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring approval of a majority of state legislatures to increase the federal debt limit.”

“Deficit spending”, these words are heard almost as often on national news stories today as “Good Evening”. Fifteen Trillion (\$15, 000,000,000,000) that is where we are. A number that is unsustainable, our children’s, children’s, children will be paying for this with no plans to reduce the budget. A federal debt ceiling is no longer a problem to those in Washington “Just raise it” is the cry from the halls of Congress and the West Wing.

It has to stop.

HJR 38 is a step in that direction. It takes its lead from action by the Twelfth and Twentieth Alaska legislature’s seeking control over the public debt and seeking a balanced budget. Now the practice of raising the debt limit needs to be addressed.

This resolution sends a message to Congress, and the other 49 legislatures that Alaska is calling for a limited Constitutional Convention to address both balanced budget and a restriction on raising the debt ceiling.

HJR 38 will, if similar resolutions are approved by a majority of other states will call on Congress to call a limited Constitutional Convention to add language that requires a balanced budget and a vote of a majority of state legislatures before raising the debt ceiling.

Support for HJR___ makes it known that Alaska is not in favor of excessive tax and spend policies and is seeking resolution to a problem that if not fixed could end the American way of life.