

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KELLER

Introduced: 2/20/12

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

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

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1982, the Twelfth Alaska State Legislature passed Legislative
6 Resolve No. 1, expressing concern that the public debt of the United States exceeded
7 hundreds of billions of dollars and making application to the United States Congress, under
8 Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for a constitutional convention for the
9 purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States requiring that in
10 the absence of a national emergency, the total of all appropriations made by the United States
11 Congress for a fiscal year shall not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenue for that
12 fiscal year; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature passed Legislative
14 Resolve No. 20, expressing ongoing concern that a balanced budget amendment to the United
15 States Constitution continued to be necessary to control the national deficit and to control

1 national government spending and urging the United States Congress and the President to
 2 support a resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United
 3 States, and urging the legislature of each state of the nation to ratify the amendment; and

4 **WHEREAS**, because paying the nation's bills by simply raising the federal debt limit
 5 has proven a failed policy, and the rapidly rising federal debt limit and rapidly increasing
 6 federal debt compel the need for an urgent call for a balanced budget amendment to the
 7 Constitution of the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS** it is increasingly critical to the national interest for the federal
 9 government to live within its means and not to continue to authorize appropriations for a
 10 current fiscal year that exceed the total estimated revenue fund by increasing the federal debt
 11 limit; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, the United States continues to move more deeply into debt as
 13 its expenditures exceed its available revenue, and, with recent increases, the federal debt limit
 14 now exceeds \$15 trillion; and

15 **WHEREAS** the federal budget has increased in size at a rate that is out of control and
 16 unsustainable in relation to available revenue; and

17 **WHEREAS** the goal of controlling the unsustainable growth of the federal debt limit
 18 and federal government spending must be achieved to protect the economic and political
 19 stability of the United States for current and future generations; and

20 **WHEREAS** Article V of the Constitution of the United States provides authority for a
 21 convention to be called by the Congress of the United States for the purpose of proposing
 22 amendments to the Constitution of the United States upon application of two-thirds of the
 23 legislatures of the several states--an amendments convention;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature wishes to remind the United
 25 States Congress of the Alaska State Legislature's 1982 call for a convention to be called by
 26 the United States Congress for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the
 27 United States, that this call was and remains a continuing call for an amendments convention,
 28 and that the Alaska State Legislature continues strongly to urge the separate states to join in
 29 this call; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature makes an additional and
 31 urgent call for a convention to be called by the United States Congress under Article V of the

1 Constitution of the United States for the proposal and ratification of an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the United States that provides that an increase in the federal debt limit
3 requires approval from a majority of the legislatures of the separate states; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the amendments convention requested by this
5 resolution be limited to the subject matter of proposing for ratification an amendment to the
6 Constitution of the United States providing that an increase in the federal debt requires
7 approval from a majority of the legislatures of the separate states; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that this application constitutes a continuing application in
9 accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds of
10 the legislatures of the several states have made application for an equivalently limited
11 amendments convention; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the legislatures of
13 the other 49 states to make the same application.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
15 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
16 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, President pro tempore of the
17 U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
18 Honorable Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
19 of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable
20 Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
21 the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the
22 other 49 states.