

"Congress has an obligation to defend the full faith and credit of the United States of America and find a way to pay our bills. But Congress also has an obligation to keep faith with this and future generations by restoring fiscal responsibility and discipline to our national treasury."

--Congressman Mike Pence

Our nation is facing a fiscal crisis of unprecedented proportions. Current levels of spending are economically unsustainable, and unfortunately our nation's fiscal situation will only worsen unless Congress enacts real and meaningful reforms in the way we spend the people's money in the long term and the short term. If Congress fails to act, Hoosiers will be faced with higher taxes, a lower standard of living, and weakened national security for generations to come. We must not let our federal government mortgage away the future prosperity of its children and grandchildren.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have fought hard against runaway spending in Washington, D.C. I have voted in opposition to federal bailouts, wasteful "stimulus" bills, and the fiscally unsustainable health care spending law. In the 109th Congress, I led the charge on the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, offsetting by nearly \$40 billion the extraordinary cost of federal disaster responses in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which became law. I believe it is our moral obligation to prevent the piling of federal debt onto future generations of Americans.

As former President Ronald Reagan once said, "You don't need more taxes to balance the budget. Congress needs the discipline to stop spending more, and that can be done with the passage of a constitutional amendment to balance the budget." I support requiring the federal government to live within its means in the Constitution of the United States. To get the American people back to work, we need to embrace policies that will promote growth and investment, and everything starts with putting our fiscal house in order. It is time for Congress to pass a Balanced Budget Amendment and send it to the states for ratification.

I have also introduced with Rep. Hensarling of Texas and Rep. Campbell of California a Spending Limit Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This amendment would constitutionally limit federal spending to one-fifth of the American economy—the historical average for spending since World War II. Our spending problems are tantamount to generational theft, and a

Spending Limit Amendment would allow us the opportunity to fundamentally define the size of our government.

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