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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BIGGS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national
security.

Whereas, on May 21, 2018, the current total public debt out-
standing was more than \$21 trillion, resulting in a total
interest expense of more than \$283 billion for fiscal year
2018;

Whereas, on March 28, 2018, the total public debt as a per-
centage of gross domestic product was 104 percent;

Whereas the last balanced Federal budget was signed into
law in 1997;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2017, Federal tax receipts totaled
\$3,315 billion, but Federal outlays totaled \$3,981 billion,

leaving the Federal Government with a one-year deficit of \$666 billion;

Whereas every year since the last balanced budget was signed in 1997, Congress has failed to reduce Federal spending and has continued to rely on raising the debt ceiling;

Whereas Congress failed to pass a balanced budget in the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act and failed to restore regular order to the legislative process by not allowing Members of Congress to offer and debate amendments;

Whereas regular order permits Congress to separately debate and adopt all appropriations bills in a timely fashion and facilitates congressional oversight of Federal spending;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare boards of trustees project that the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2029;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare boards of trustees project that the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2034;

Whereas, on August 5, 2011, the United States credit rating was reduced by Standard and Poor's from AAA to AA+ and has remained at that level, and without a targeted effort to balance our budget our credit rating will surely continue to fall;

Whereas President Donald Trump's National Security Strategy highlights the need to reduce the debt through fiscal responsibility;

Whereas, on April 12, 2018, Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned, "any nation that can't keep its fiscal

house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power”;

Whereas, on March 6, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned, “Our continued plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a dire future threat to our economy and to our national security”;

Whereas, on November 15, 2017, former Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta, Ash Carter, and Chuck Hagel warned, “Increase in the debt will, in the absence of a comprehensive budget that addresses both entitlements and revenues force even deeper reductions in our national security capabilities”; and

Whereas, on September 22, 2011, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen warned, “I believe the single, biggest threat to our national security is debt”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes that the national debt is a threat
3 to our national security;

4 (2) realizes deficits are unsustainable, irrespon-
5 sible, and dangerous;

6 (3) commits to restoring regular order in the
7 appropriations process; and

8 (4) commits to addressing our Nation’s fiscal
9 crisis immediately by passing a balanced budget.