

**Concurrent Resolution Addressing the National Debt**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Joseph Ellison**

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This resolution urges Congress to resolve the national debt.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- discusses the ongoing and cumulative rise of the national debt;
- highlights the adverse impacts on the economy and national security arising from the national debt, both now and in the future;
- recognizes the national debt as a threat to the prosperity of our nation; and
- urges Congress to take action towards balancing the federal budget.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, as of January 2026, the outstanding public debt of the United States totaled \$38.4 trillion, with the national debt equaling 124% of gross domestic product and the debt owed per citizen \$115,134;

WHEREAS, approximately \$9.36 trillion of the national debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, including \$683 billion owned by individuals in China;

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2025, the United States had a deficit totaling \$1.8 trillion after Congress failed to pass a balanced budget and federal tax receipts totaled \$5.2 trillion, short of the federal outlays totaling \$7 trillion;

WHEREAS, the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees projects the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund to be depleted in 2033, and the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund to be depleted in 2036;

WHEREAS, improvements in the business climate in populous countries and aging

31 populations around the world are likely to contribute to higher global interest rates, which will  
32 curtail all U.S. policy priorities, including defense and foreign policy;

33 WHEREAS, on September 22, 2011, Michael Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs  
34 of Staff, warned that the single biggest threat to our national security is the national debt;

35 WHEREAS, on March 6, 2018, Dan Coats, former Director of National Intelligence,  
36 cautioned that the federal government's steep plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a  
37 dire future threat to our economy and national security; and

38 WHEREAS, with the last federal budget surplus occurring in 2001, the continued rise in  
39 national debt is a major concern across Utah and around the country:

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
41 Governor concurring therein, recognizes that the national debt constitutes a threat to the  
42 national security of the United States and urges Congress to commit to establishing an  
43 effective regular order for budgeting.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature directs that copies of this concurrent  
45 resolution be sent to the Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
46 and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Utah's  
47 congressional delegation.