

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

H.J.R. 1008

4
5 By: Representative Stalnaker

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8 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

9 AN ACT TO REQUEST THAT THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO
10 THE U.S. CONSTITUTION BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATES FOR
11 RATIFICATION

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13 **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO REQUEST THAT THE BALANCED
15 BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE U.S.
16 CONSTITUTION BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATES
17 FOR RATIFICATION

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19 WHEREAS, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, and
20 the federal public debt is now more than five trillion dollars
21 (\$5,000,000,000,000) -- or twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for every man,
22 woman, and child in America; and

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24 WHEREAS, continued deficit spending demonstrates an unwillingness or
25 inability of both the federal executive and legislative branches to spend no
26 more than available revenues; and

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28 WHEREAS, fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is lowering our
29 standard of living, destroying jobs, and endangering economic opportunity now
30 and for the next generation; and

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32 WHEREAS, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow raises
33 questions about fundamental principles and responsibilities of government,
34 with potentially profound consequences for the nation and its People, making
35 it an appropriate subject for limitation by the Constitution of the United
36 States; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States vests the ultimate
2 responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional amendments with the
3 People, as represented by their elected State Legislatures; and opposition by
4 a small minority repeatedly has thwarted the will of the People that a
5 Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution should be submitted to the
6 States for ratification;

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8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS
10 ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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12 That the Congress of the United States expeditiously pass, and propose
13 to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification, an amendment to
14 the Constitution of the United States requiring in the absence of a national
15 emergency that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress
16 for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues
17 for that fiscal year.

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House transmit
20 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, each Member of
22 the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of State and the
23 presiding officers of both Houses of the Legislatures of each of the other
24 States in the Union.

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