

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 631

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. NEWHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

Whereas, in January 2025, the total public debt outstanding was more than \$36,200,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than \$1,130,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

Whereas, in January 2025, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was 120.87 percent;

Whereas, in January 2025, the debt owed per citizen was \$104,780 and \$323,045 per taxpayer;

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

Whereas, in fiscal year 2024, Federal tax receipts totaled \$5,082,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled \$6,941,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of \$1,859,000,000,000;

Whereas, every year since the last balanced Federal budget was signed in 1997, Congress has failed to maintain a fiscally responsible budget and has typically relied on raising the debt ceiling;

Whereas the House of Representatives failed to pass a balanced budget for fiscal year 2024 and failed to restore regular order to the legislative process by not allowing Representatives to offer and debate amendments;

Whereas regular order permits the House of Representatives 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 Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2033;

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

Whereas, without a targeted effort to balance the Federal budget, the credit rating of the United States is certain to continue to fall;

Whereas improvements in the business climate in populous countries, and aging populations around the world, will likely contribute to higher global interest rates;

Whereas more than \$8,500,000,000,000 of Federal debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, in-

cluding more than \$759,000,000,000 of which is owned by individuals in China;

Whereas China and the European Union are developing alternative payment systems to weaken the dominant position of the United States dollar as a reserve currency;

Whereas rapidly increasing interest rates will squeeze all policy priorities of the United States, including defense policy and foreign policy priorities;

Whereas, on April 12, 2018, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that “any Nation that can’t keep its fiscal house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power”;

Whereas, on March 6, 2018, former 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 the national security of the United States;

1           (2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irre-  
2           sponsible, and dangerous;

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

5           (4) commits to addressing the fiscal crisis faced  
6           by the United States.

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