

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 19

Expressing the sense of the Congress that future budget resolutions should maintain our commitment to fiscal responsibility by using agreed-upon surplus, tax, and spending figures.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2001

Mr. MOORE (for himself and Mr. STENHOLM) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that future budget resolutions should maintain our commitment to fiscal responsibility by using agreed-upon surplus, tax, and spending figures.

Whereas disagreements on objective budget surplus figures, in the annual budget and appropriations process, have led to repetitive and time-consuming budget votes, decreasing the time available for consideration and oversight of federal programs, undermining legislation to provide responsible tax relief, and delaying enactment of legislation necessary to fund the Government;

Whereas Congress and the Administration want to work together to do everything possible to maintain a strong and growing economy;

Whereas an agreement on baseline estimates will prevent us from undermining the fiscal discipline that has contributed to our economic strength and allow Congress and the Administration to address their collective priorities in a responsible, bipartisan manner;

Whereas a bipartisan majority of the Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate have voted to protect the social security and medicare trust funds;

Whereas empirical evidence and the Congressional Budget Office agree that changes in economic conditions make projections based on ten-year forecasts highly uncertain;

Whereas the caps on discretionary spending are set to expire at the end of fiscal year 2002 and no formal rules will be in place to contain the growth in discretionary spending;

Whereas baseline estimates typically overstate the size of available surpluses by not assuming costs of extending or changing policies that affect revenues, such as expiring tax provisions and the cost of indexing the alternative minimum tax (AMT) to protect middle-class families from the AMT; and

Whereas current baseline estimates do not recognize underlying demographic pressures that will incur future obligations that may threaten projected surpluses outside the ten-year budget window: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that future
 3 budget resolutions, as well as all tax and spending legisla-
 4 tion, should maintain our commitment to fiscal responsi-

1 bility by using agreed-upon surplus, tax, and spending fig-
2 ures derived from the following principles:

3 (1) The size of the available surplus should ex-
4 clude social security and medicare trust funds.

5 (2) The uncertainty of long-term economic fore-
6 casts should be recognized.

7 (3) Realistic assumptions for the growth in dis-
8 cretionary spending should be accounted for.

9 (4) The projected surplus should be adjusted to
10 recognize that scoring conventions do not incor-
11 porate the costs of policies that Congress historically
12 reauthorizes.

13 (5) There should be a recognition that the fed-
14 eral government will incur sizable, future obligations
15 due to demographic pressures set to occur upon the
16 retirement of our baby-boom generation.

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