

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

Whereas, in February 2019, the total public debt outstanding was more than \$22,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than \$192,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

Whereas, on December 21, 2018, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was 104 percent;

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

Whereas, in fiscal year 2018, Federal tax receipts totaled \$3,329,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled \$4,108,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of \$779,000,000,000;

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 Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2026;

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 the credit rating of the United States was reduced by Standard and Poor's from AAA to AA+ on August 5, 2011, and has remained at that level since that date;

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

Whereas the National Security Strategy issued by President Donald Trump highlights the need to reduce the national debt through fiscal responsibility;

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, 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 Senate—

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

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

6 (3) commits to addressing the fiscal crisis faced
7 by the United States.