



November 13, 2018

Dear Mr. Vice President,

The recent mid-term elections resulted in a constitutional win for the State of Indiana, inspired by your leadership. On November 6th, an overwhelming 72% of Indiana voters cast their ballots in favor of [Indiana Public Question 1](#), requiring the General Assembly to adopt balanced budgets for state government.

In your 2015 [State of the State Address](#), you introduced the idea that came to fruition on election day, explaining why Indiana's hallmark fiscal discipline needed constitutional protection. You said, "A balanced budget requirement in the Constitution of the State of Indiana will assure Hoosiers that today and tomorrow, Indiana will spend wisely, protect our state from an economic downturn and, unlike Washington D.C., we won't bury our children and grandchildren under mountains of debt."

We believe the American people also deserve the kind of governance that has led to Indiana's economic growth, lower tax rates, and job creation. In contrast, what Americans have received has been sixty years of accelerating deficit spending, which has resulted in an accumulated \$21.7 trillion in federal debt and an unsustainable economic outlook. Without constitutionally mandated fiscal reform, this country will continue to see national security compromised, the social safety net undermined and the basic stability of our national economy threatened.

Mr. Vice President, just as you did so effectively in Indiana, would you be willing to lead the nation toward constitutionally mandated fiscal responsibility? We believe a state-drafted, voter-ratified balanced budget amendment would complement the President's growth-oriented policies and begin to restore a sustainable economic future.

By filing the "Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment" (LUVBBA) Resolution and facilitating a vote on this legislation before the end of the 115th Congress, Republican majorities in both houses would have the opportunity to empower the states to fulfill their constitutional role in the proposal of a balanced budget amendment, to be ratified by the American people. If introduced, the LUVBBA Resolution would call on Congress to:

1. Set the time and place (such as July 4, 2019 in Indianapolis) for a convention of states to draft a constitutional amendment requiring balanced budgets and a spending-growth-limit, such as the highly successful Swiss [“Debt Brake,”](#) by counting 34+ applications of the 700+ submitted by the states.
2. Prohibit any proposed amendment unrelated to balancing the federal budget from being forwarded to the states for ratification.
3. Stipulate that ratification would be by a vote of the people in 38 states, in accordance with the State Convention mode of ratification specified in Article V. (Note: this was the method used to ratify the 21st Amendment, which repealed Prohibition.)

In April of 2018, this [coalition](#) encouraged Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McConnell to oppose the flawed HJR 2 and support, instead, a convention of states to create a fiscally solvent future. Today, we call on you to sponsor the “Let us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment” Resolution because the “Indiana way” is also the American way. Our state legislatures and citizens also deserve the opportunity to protect the principle of common-sense fiscal responsibility through a state-drafted, voter-ratified balanced budget amendment. With your leadership and existing Republican majorities, this could be an opportunity of a lifetime.

Most Respectfully,

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
ALEC Action

Speaker Linda Upmeyer
Iowa House of Representatives

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Rep. Kelly Townsend
President
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David Biddulph, Co-Founder
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David Williams, President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

James L. Martin, Chairman
60 Plus Association

Matthew Kandrach, President
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