

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BRAUN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESOLUTION

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national  
security.

Whereas, in January 2023, the total public debt outstanding was more than \$31,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than \$717,611,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

Whereas, in January 2023, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was about 121 percent;

Whereas, in January 2023, the debt owed per citizen was \$94,240 and \$246,864 per taxpayer;

Whereas the last Federal budget surplus occurred in 2001;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2022, Federal tax receipts totaled \$4,896,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled \$6,272,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of \$1,376,000,000,000;

Whereas the Senate failed to pass a balanced budget for fiscal year 2022 and failed to restore regular order to the legislative process by not allowing Senators to offer and debate amendments;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2028;

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 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 \$7,270,000,000,000 of Federal debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, including more than \$870,000,000,000 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 would 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, 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;

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

8               (4) commits to preventing the looming fiscal  
9       crisis faced by the United States.