

R015-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING FISCAL DISCIPLINE OF THE**
20 **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

30 **WHEREAS:** According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), twenty-
40 eight percent of the deficit originates from discretionary spending; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** In 2002, President George W. Bush submitted a total budget of more than two
60 trillion dollars; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), in FY 2002, the
80 Budget Deficit was 158 billion dollars; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** According to OBM, in FY 2003, the Budget Deficit was 455 Billion dollars,
100 FY 2004, 475 Billion dollars; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** Additionally, according to the OBM, the projected deficits for FY's 2005, 2006,
120 2007 and 2008 are 304 billion, 238 billion, 213 billion and 226 billion dollars
130 respectively; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** Studies done by the Joint Economic Committee indicates that the reducing of
150 government spending by \$1 can benefit the economy by \$1.40, leading to higher
160 economic growth; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** Since 2001, even with record low inflation, U.S. federal spending has increased
180 by a massive 28.8% (19.7% in real dollars)—with non-defense discretionary
190 growth of 35.7% (25.3% in real dollars)—the highest rate of federal government
200 growth since the presidencies of Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** Many in Congress are calling for legislation to expand highway spending by 72
220 percent, increase special education spending by 151 percent, and once again
230 extend unemployment benefits; and,

240 **WHEREAS:** Discretionary spending leaped 39 percent between 2001 and 2004; and,

250 **WHEREAS:** Congress and the President should do what millions of families do: set priorities
260 and balance each high-priority spending increase with a low-priority spending
270 cut; and,

290 **WHEREAS:** According to the OBM, from 2001-2004, when one party controlled the
300 government, spending rose in virtually all areas of the budget: Social Security
310 increased 15%, National Defense increased 49%, Medicare increased 24%,
320 Medicaid increased 37%, Education increased 77%, Unemployment Benefits
330 increased 60%, Highway funding increased 20%, Justice Administration
340 increased 38%, International Affairs increased 108%, General Government
350 increased 78%, and Community and Regional development increased 59% while
360 net interest paid on borrowed funds decreased 24%; and,

370 **WHEREAS:** According to the OBM, from 2001-2004, even low priority programs got huge
380 increases in funding: 277 Million dollars for Peanut subsidies, 14 million
390 dollars for wool subsidies, 43 million dollars for the Presidio Trust, 3.9 billion
400 dollars (6,181% increase) for the Small Business Administration, 127 Million
410 dollars for the Office of Lead Hazard Control (5,615% increase), 70 million
420 dollars (2,000% increase) for enterprise zones, 20million dollars (800%
430 increase) for the National Technical Information Service, 1.443 Billion dollars
440 (546% increase) for dairy subsidies and huge increases in various other
450 departments; and,

460 **WHEREAS:** The federal government cannot account for \$24.5 billion spent in 2003, the U.S.
470 General Accounting Office refuses to certify the federal government's own
480 accounting books because the bookkeeping is so poor; of the 26 departments and
490 major agencies, 18 received the lowest possible rating for their financial
500 management, meaning that auditors cannot even express an opinion on their
510 financial statements; recently, the Department of Agriculture was unable to
520 account for \$5 billion in receipts and expenditures; over one recent 18-month
530 period, Air Force and Navy personnel used government-funded credit cards to
540 charge at least \$102,400 for admission to entertainment events, \$48,250 for
550 gambling, \$69,300 for cruises, and \$73,950 for exotic dance clubs and
560 prostitutes; and The Internal Revenue Service does not even know how much it
570 collects in payroll taxes; and,

580 **WHEREAS:** To fully understand the implications of a 2.3 trillion dollar budget, one would
590 only have to think of it in these terms: 2.3 trillion dollars is more than the gross
600 domestic product of the entire continent of South America, more than the federal
610 government spent from 1789 to 1967 combined; 2.3 trillion dollars equates to
620 nearly 74,000 dollars spent per second, 7,500 dollars per American, 22,000
630 dollars per household, 763,000,000 dollars per county, 45.5 billion dollars per
640 state and in \$1 dollar bills it would stack half way to the moon, weigh ten times
650 as much as the Sears Tower and blanket the entire state of New Jersey; and,

660 **WHEREAS:** The President and the Republican Congress must take any and all necessary
670 actions to curb federal spending, eliminate the deficits and restore fiscal
680 discipline to the federal government of the United States.

690 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges
700 Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment allowing for the line-item veto
710 power for the President; and,

720 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges President Bush
730 to veto any and all spending bills that are not of high priority; and,

740 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to pass
750 legislation requiring spending limits on all non-military spending to coincide
760 with inflation; and,

780 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to pass
790 legislation that would terminate corporate welfare and use the savings for capital gains
800 and business tax cuts; Reduce outdated and duplicative programs and use the savings to
810 reduce income taxes across the board; Privatize federal corporations by offering current
820 public employees stock options at below-market prices; Commercialize air traffic control
830 duties and privatize airports, targeting the savings to airline security; and Devolve
840 programs to states while alleviating federal mandates and reducing federal taxes; and,

850 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to pass
860 legislation that would turn back the federal gas tax, as well as all federal highway and
870 mass transit spending, to the states (2004 spending: \$37 billion, discretionary); Devolve
880 federal housing programs to state and local governments and cut federal strings on how
890 the programs are operated (\$31 billion, discretionary); Send job training programs back
900 to the states (\$5.6 billion, discretionary); and Eliminate the practice of earmarking federal
910 funds for local projects; and,

920 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to pass
930 legislation that would sell the remaining Power Marketing Administrations through a
940 stock offering (2004 spending: \$155 million, discretionary); Require that the Corporation
950 for Public Broadcasting fund itself as all other television networks do (\$437 million,
960 discretionary); Privatize the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (\$14
970 million, discretionary); Allow government agencies to accept bids on government
980 printing jobs instead of having to use the Government Printing Office (GPO) (\$130
990 million, discretionary); Shift the National Agricultural Statistics Service to the private
1000 sector (\$124 million, discretionary); Sell Amtrak through a stock offering (\$1.334 billion,
1010 discretionary); and Privatize the next-generation high-speed rail program (\$27 million,
1020 discretionary); and,

1030 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to pass
1040 legislation that would close down failed or outdated agencies, programs, and facilities,
1050 including: The U.S. Geological Survey (2004 spending: \$841 million, discretionary); The
1060 Maritime Administration (\$633 million, discretionary); Obsolete military bases; The
1070 Appalachian Regional Commission (\$94 million, discretionary); Repeal Public Law 480's
1080 non-emergency international food programs (\$127 million, discretionary); and,

1090 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to pass
1100 legislation that would streamline the federal government by: Cutting the non-security
1110 workforce by 10 percent; Reducing the number of consultants employed by the federal
1120 government by 150,000; Suspending acquisition of new federal office space; Trimming
1130 the federal vehicle budget by 5 percent; and Freezing the federal travel budget at \$8
1140 billion (Total annual savings: \$11 billion); and,

1150 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to pass
1160 legislation that would reduce food stamp overpayments (annual net losses: \$600 million,
1170 mandatory); Verify parent incomes for school lunches (up to \$120 million, mandatory);
1180 Improve eligibility verification and tracking of student loan recipients (at least \$1 billion,
1190 mandatory); Prevent states from using accounting tricks to secure extra Medicaid funds
1200 (several billion dollars, mandatory); Combat fuel tax fraud (\$1 billion, discretionary);
1210 Stop Medicare overpayments (\$12.3 billion, mandatory); Reform Medicare so that it no
1220 longer overpays for prescription drugs and medical supplies (\$2.9 billion, mandatory);
1230 and recover the \$7 billion owed by Medicare contractors; and,

1240 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLEVD:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the President to
1250 urge the Congress to pass legislation that would create a bipartisan commission to offer
1260 findings on reforming the 60,000-page federal income tax code that is a huge drag on the
1270 American economy, wastes billions of hours and hundreds of billions of dollars just to
1280 comply with it.

1290 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
1300 Majority Leader Bill Frist
1310 Senator Harry Reid
1320 Majority Leader Tom Delay
1340 Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

SPONSOR:

Craig Reynolds, Anne Arundel Community College

COSPONSORS:

Daniel Bowen, Tories Caucus Whip, University of Maryland College Park
Brooke Barrash, District Chairperson, Towson University
Alan Smith, Tories Caucus Whip, University of Maryland Baltimore County
Matthew Penick, University of Maryland Baltimore County