

Senate Joint Memorial 19

Sponsored by Senator BOQUIST

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requests Congress to convene constitutional convention for purpose of repealing 17th Amendment to United States Constitution and restoring power to state legislatures to select United States Senators.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1 To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress as-
2 ssembled, and to the state legislatures of the 49 other states:

3 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
4 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

5 Whereas the national debt of the United States is \$14.348 trillion; and

6 Whereas the State of Oregon's portion of the national debt is \$30.8 billion; and

7 Whereas the portion of the national debt per citizen is \$46,178; and

8 Whereas the Federal Reserve has mythically created and distributed \$2.3 trillion under the guise
9 of quantitative easing, to the financial gain of multinational banks; and

10 Whereas the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing program of mythical money printing is fi-
11 nancing 70 percent of the United States Treasury, borrowing at a rate exceeding \$124 billion per
12 month; and

13 Whereas the estimated federal deficit for Fiscal Year 2011 is \$1.277 trillion; and

14 Whereas the U6 unemployment rate of the United States is forecasted at 24,084,742 individuals,
15 or at the rate of 15.7 percent; and

16 Whereas the U6 unemployment rate of the State of Oregon is estimated at 381,600 individuals,
17 or at the rate of 18.8 percent; and

18 Whereas the United States Government and Federal Reserve have determined core inflation no
19 longer includes food and energy costs paid by individuals; and

20 Whereas the Congress of the United States failed to approve a funding appropriation for Fiscal
21 Year 2011 before September 30, 2010, as required by law; and

22 Whereas the Congress failed to establish a reasonable debt ceiling that does not endanger the
23 future of the citizens of this country; and

24 Whereas the Congress is overly influenced by campaign contributions and self-serving interests,
25 to the detriment of the citizens of this country; and

26 Whereas the elected United States Senate failed in its responsibilities to provide legislative
27 oversight and appropriations in a manner that protects the citizens of this country as required by
28 the United States Constitution; and

29 Whereas the legislatures of the 50 states must assume responsibility for the welfare of each
30 state's citizens due to the failure of multiple Presidents and sessions of Congress under the control
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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 of both major parties; and

2 Whereas the original intent of the founding fathers, and the original provisions of the United
3 States Constitution adopted by the states on June 21, 1788, granted the power to select United
4 States Senators to state legislatures; and

5 Whereas the original 17th Amendment proposal was a result of actions taken in the State of
6 Oregon, starting in 1902 with the development of the initiative and referendum process allowing
7 citizens to be directly involved with proposing laws or amending the Oregon Constitution; and

8 Whereas the State of Oregon was the first state to popularly elect United States Senators in
9 1907, before adoption of the 17th Amendment on April 8, 1913, in part due to the public perception
10 of corruption within government; and

11 Whereas it is within the rights of the Legislative Assembly to seek the repeal of the 17th
12 Amendment in order to return the power of the United States Senate to the collective states; now,
13 therefore,

14 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

15 (1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully requested to exercise its power under Ar-
16 ticle V of the United States Constitution to call a Convention for proposing Amendments for the
17 purpose of repealing the 17th Amendment and thereby restoring the power granted to state legisla-
18 tures under section 3, Article I of the United States Constitution, to choose United States Senators,
19 in order to return to a republican form of government and bring fiscal responsibility to Congress
20 before the nation suffers a complete financial collapse.

21 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives, to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation and to each state
23 legislature of the 49 other states.

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