116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. ______

Recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Biggs 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 Congress failed to pass a balanced budget for fiscal
year 2019 and failed to restore regular order to the legis-
lative process by not allowing Members of Congress to
offer and debate amendments;

Whereas regular order permits Congress to separately debate
and adopt all appropriations bills in a timely fashion and
facilitates congressional oversight of Federal spending;

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

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trust-
ees project that the Federal Old-Age and Survivors In-
surance 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

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

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

(2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous;

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

(4) commits to addressing the fiscal crisis faced by the United States.