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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 399

Offered January 23, 2009

Memorializing the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation to require a balanced federal budget.

Patron—Cuccinelli

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, this nation has become deeply in debt as its expenditures have exceeded available revenues so that the total federal public debt now exceeds $10 trillion and continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the federal budget fails to reflect actual spending because of the exclusion of special outlays that are neither included in the budget nor subject to the legal public debt limit; and

WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning requires that the budget reflect all federal spending and that the budget be in balance; and

WHEREAS, attempts to curtail federal spending, confine expenditures to available revenues, and reduce the annual deficit have met with only limited success; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to balance the budget will promote responsibility at the federal level, provide checks against unnecessary and costly appropriations, and reinforce efforts to bring about fiscal integrity; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of this Commonwealth provides for a balanced budget, and this provision has reinforced the inherent fiscal common sense of spending only funds available and contributed to the Commonwealth's outstanding reputation for sound fiscal management and policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to propose legislation requiring a balanced federal budget; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.