

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 9

House resolution urgently requesting Congress and the President to work immediately to devise a more balanced alternative to the implementation of federal sequestration

Offered by: Representatives Jewett of Ripton, Turner of Milton, and Pearson of Burlington

Whereas, in 2011, the U.S. Congress adopted and President Obama signed Pub.L. No. 112-25, the Budget Control Act of 2011 (the Act) as an intended compromise and incentive to address fundamental federal budgetary policy and direction, and

Whereas, Section 302 of the Act directed that if a 10-year deficit reduction plan was not enacted by January 15, 2012, significant amounts of discretionary fiscal year 2013 funds would not be available for spending, including \$546,000,000,000 in the security category, covering national defense appropriations, and \$501,000,000,000 in the nonsecurity category, including all funds other than those appropriated for national defense, and

Whereas, the February 28, 2013 deadline has now arrived, and these drastic reductions in federal funding, which Congress drafted with the hope they would never be implemented, are about to take effect, and

Whereas, the federal sequestration will have a major impact on Vermont and its citizens, and

Whereas, it is estimated that Vermont will lose at least \$15 million in federal funding, including funding for education, mental health, and environmental protection, and

Whereas, as many as 1,000 civilian workers in Vermont who are employed in defense-related jobs could be furloughed, losing approximately \$2.9 million in gross pay, representing a 20-percent productivity loss, and

Whereas, the scope of the cuts in Vermont would be extensive, and among the anticipated losses in federal funds are: \$1,440,000 in primary and secondary education funding for students with disabilities; \$1,128,000 for overall primary and secondary education; \$1,068,000 in environmental funding, affecting air and water quality protection and efforts to prevent pollution from pesticides and hazardous waste; \$1,000,000 in military base operation funding; \$359,000 directed to fish and wildlife activities; \$331,000 for responding to public health treats, including infectious diseases and natural disasters, and \$101,000 in job search assistance funding, and

Whereas, other Vermont impacts of the sequestration are: 500 fewer persons would be admitted to substance abuse treatment programs, approximately 100 children would no longer be funded under Head Start, and approximately 100 disadvantaged and vulnerable children could lose access to child care, and

Whereas, the national economic and societal impact would also be extensive as agencies as diverse as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Transportation Security Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol would all be affected, and

Whereas, it is imperative for the economic well-being of Vermont that this federal fiscal problem be addressed immediately, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body requests that Congress and the President work immediately to devise a more balanced alternative to the implementation of federal sequestration, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House

Attested to:

Donald G. Milne
Clerk, House of Representatives

**H.R. 9 HOUSE RESOLUTION
URGENTLY REQUESTING CONGRESS
AND THE PRESIDENT TO WORK
IMMEDIATELY TO DEVISE A MORE
BALANCED ALTERNATIVE TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL
SEQUESTRATION**

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