

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL) issued the following statement on H.J. Res. 2, the balanced budget amendment proposal debated by the House of Representatives today:

“The American people overwhelmingly support a balanced budget amendment because they’re tired of Washington spending money it doesn’t have and passing the bill to the next generation. They’re tired of throwing away hundreds of billions of dollars just to pay the interest on our debt. They recognize that the explosion in federal spending and debt over the last few years is unsustainable, and they know a balanced budget amendment is the only solution to force both parties in Washington to live within their means.

“Our national debt crossed the \$15 trillion threshold this week – nearly \$10 trillion higher than when Congress almost passed a balanced budget amendment in 1995, and nearly \$5 trillion higher than when President Obama took office. Only a balanced budget amendment can ensure that we never again face a debt crisis like we do today. Forty-nine states and millions of American families and small businesses balance their budgets – it is past time for the federal government to do the same.”

The balanced budget amendment, which passed the House with 300 bipartisan votes in 1995, garnered 261 votes today, short of the two-thirds majority needed. The proposal, which Rooney cosponsored, would prevent Congress from spending more than it receives in revenues, unless a three-fifths majority votes to allow otherwise. The amendment includes common-sense exceptions for times of war and serious military conflicts. It would require a three-fifths majority vote in both Chambers to raise the debt limit, and require the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress.

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