

Today, Congressman Gonzalez voted against and helped to defeat House Joint Resolution 2, misleadingly called the “Balanced Budget Amendment”. Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement on H.J. Res. 2:

“This is an attempt by Republicans to avoid doing the serious work needed to fix our economy. The only jobs bill voted on by the House this year was part of President Obama’s American Jobs Act. So instead of doing the hard work, this amendment would put up a show while kicking the can down the road and asking someone else to make the hard choices. It masquerades as a solution to America’s debt and economic woes without doing anything to actually combat them. This legislation would make [severe cuts](#) to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Pell Grants, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), veterans’ disability compensation and other programs that millions of Americans depend on.

“Additionally, this legislation would eliminate the ability of Members of Congress to represent their constituents. It would permanently write the ideology of a political party into the Constitution. The founders of our nation did not intend the Constitution to be a tool in which to enforce the ideas of one party over the other. It is a framework for how our government would address the concerns of the people. This bill would dismantle the democratic process by preventing the ideas and concerns of future citizens to be heard. America needs to be fiscally responsible and work towards balancing our budget, but we do not need to alter the Constitution to do it.”

“Supporters like to say that most states have a balanced budget. They’re wrong. No state balances its budget this way. Texas has a balanced budget amendment, but [Texas’ debt grew faster than the federal government](#) over the past decade.

[Former Reagan Attorney General Dick Thornburgh](#) has said that no state would be governable under a rule like this. And states don’t have to prepare for the possibility of war or natural disaster. Families don’t budget this way either. Under this rule, no family could take out a mortgage, student loan, small business loan, or even purchase Christmas presents on a credit card they’d pay off in January.”

The independent company Macroeconomic Advisers, which prepares respected, non-partisan economic analyses for the public and private sectors, [reported](#) that if such an amendment were now in effect, “The effect on the economy would be catastrophic.” If we tried to comply with the amendment through spending cuts alone, as this amendment almost mandates, we

would lose approximately 15 million jobs and the unemployment rate would double. Budget experts including [Stan](#)

[Collender](#)

and

[Bruce Bartlett](#)

, former top economic adviser to President Reagan, have condemned this amendment for its potential harmful effects to our nation's economy and on the effectiveness of Congress.

Click [here](#) to find out how many constituents of Texas-20 rely on safety net programs that would be negatively impacted by the enactment of a balanced budget amendment .

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