

Amendment 3689 – Prohibits Members of Congress from receiving a pay increase until the budget is balanced.

This amendment freezes the pay of Members of Congress until they balance the U.S. government's budget.

Members of Congress are paid an annual salary of \$174,000 and, under a law passed by Congress, that amount is automatically increased every year. This amendment would block this automatic congressional pay raise until Congress stops borrowing money to pay for its excessive spending.

Taxpayers are fed up with Washington politicians' out of control addiction to borrowing and spending that has created a \$12.6 trillion nation debt that will be inherited by future generations.

Article I, Section 9, of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the responsibility for all money drawn from the U.S. Treasury. This amendment finally makes Congress responsible for paying for its spending.

This amendment would make Congress live under the same rules as families across the country and treat the federal budget like the family budget of taxpayers who live within their means and set priorities—foremost of which is protecting the future of our children and grandchildren.

The U.S. national debt now exceeds \$12.6 trillion.

The federal budget deficit is projected to amount to \$1.3 trillion for fiscal year 2010 and the annual deficits will average nearly \$1 trillion for the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The U.S. national debt increases more than \$4 billion per day.

Each American's share of the U.S. national debt amounts to more than \$41,000.

Foreign investors held 48 percent of the United States' outstanding public debt at the end of 2009, including \$776.4 billion the U.S. owes to Communist China.

Americans are—rightly—extremely concerned that Congress' is spending beyond our country's means.

For the first time ever, the federal budget deficit has been singled out as the most important issue facing the future of the country according to a Gallup poll conducted March 4- 7, 2010.

Eighty-three percent of Americans say the size of the federal budget deficit is due to the unwillingness of politicians to cut government spending and just 11 percent think the government spends taxpayers' money wisely, according to national survey conducted February 2- 3, 2010 by Rasmussen Reports.

More than twice as many U.S. adults (58 percent) say that debt owed to China is a more serious threat to the long-term security and well-being of the U.S than is terrorism from radical Islamic terrorists (27 percent) according to a Zogby Interactive survey conducted February 17-19, 2010.

The inability of Congress to set priorities and act responsibly has led most Americans to think Congress is doing a poor job.

A new Rasmussen survey finds that just **11 percent** of voters rate Congress' performance as good or excellent, while 64 percent say Congress is doing a poor job. This number is up 21 points from this time last year.

It's important to note, however, that this survey was taken late last week-- *before* the passage of this controversial health care bill. Given the sweetheart deals and broken process that has led to the bill's passage, it's no wonder the poll also found that 41 percent of Americans think *most* members of Congress are corrupt.

Seventy-six percent (76%) of the poll's respondents think most members of Congress are more interested in their own careers than in helping people. Sixty-three percent (63%) of all voters nationally now think it would be better for the country if most incumbents in Congress were defeated this November.