



722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org

Members of Congress, State Legislators, and Governors:

I support the Compact for a Balanced Budget because outside intervention is needed to cure the federal government's debt spending addiction. The Compact's federal Balanced Budget Amendment limits spending and future taxes by limiting the borrowing capacity of the federal government. The Amendment also ensures that spending reductions will be considered before tax increases to close deficits by requiring supermajority approval for new or increased income or sales taxes, while retaining the current simple majority rule for revenue measures that will cause the least harm.

The Amendment proposal is strong and necessary medicine that will heal the patient.

But the Compact for a Balanced Budget is more than its powerful amendment payload. As an innovative vehicle for delivering amendments originated by a convention of the states, it has also aptly been described as "Article V 2.0." The Compact's main advantages over all other efforts that invoke an Article V convention are certainty, safety and speed.

By pre-committing 38 states and simple majorities of Congress to everything involved in the amendment process, including the text of the amendment to be proposed, the Compact for a Balanced Budget delivers unmatched certainty in the policy product it seeks to advance and the political process it is initiating.

By including multiple safeguards that act as redundant "kill-switches" for any convention that might try to "runaway" and make rogue amendment proposals, the Compact for a Balanced Budget furnishes unmatched safety for the as-yet untested Article V convention mode of proposing amendments.

Finally, by consolidating into one bill everything the states do in the amendment-by-convention process and everything Congress does into one resolution, the Compact for a Balanced Budget promises the speed that is needed to deliver on a federal Balanced Budget Amendment before it is too late.

Taken together, the Compact for a Balanced Budget is the best vehicle for the most powerful, yet politically plausible federal Balanced Budget Amendment I have seen. I endorse it without hesitation.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform