

# Senate Resolution 1 - Introduced

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY HATCH and BOLKCOM

1 A Resolution regarding the federal budget.

2 WHEREAS, over the course of the last two years, our  
3 nation has engaged in a heated debate over the federal  
4 budget and the role of government in growing jobs,  
5 strengthening our economy, and providing the vital  
6 services on which ordinary families rely; and

7 WHEREAS, the federal budget, including expenditures  
8 and tax revenues, reflects the nation's priorities  
9 and should address the needs and interests of the  
10 population; and

11 WHEREAS, while voters in the last general election  
12 expressed strong support for maintaining vital services  
13 and for ensuring that corporations and the wealthy  
14 pay their fair share of taxes, Republican leaders in  
15 Congress have demanded substantial cuts to Medicare,  
16 Medicaid, and Social Security, education, and other  
17 vital services and have blocked efforts to make our tax  
18 system fair; and

19 WHEREAS, the demand by Republican congressional  
20 leaders to increase the Medicare age of eligibility  
21 from 65 to 67 years of age would not address the  
22 underlying factors that are driving health care cost  
23 increases throughout our health care system and would  
24 only serve to shift costs to seniors, employers, and  
25 state Medicaid programs; and

26 WHEREAS, any reduction in federal Medicaid payments  
27 to states would undermine our state's ability to  
28 provide health care services to low-income children,

1 and nursing facility and long-term care services to the  
2 frail elderly and persons with disabilities; and

3 WHEREAS, Social Security is funded through a  
4 dedicated payroll tax and the investment of surpluses,  
5 is excluded by law from the congressional budget and  
6 the budget submitted by the President, and therefore  
7 cannot be considered to contribute to the federal  
8 deficit; and

9 WHEREAS, any cut in Social Security benefits would  
10 impose substantial hardships on the 65 percent of older  
11 Americans who rely on Social Security benefits for  
12 half of their income, on the over one-third who rely  
13 on Social Security benefits for 90 percent of their  
14 income, and on the one quarter who rely on Social  
15 Security benefits as their sole source of income; on  
16 minorities who have higher rates of disability and  
17 lower lifetime earnings; and on women who typically  
18 earn less than men, spend more time out of the paid  
19 workforce, live longer, accumulate less savings, and  
20 receive smaller pensions, according to the Center on  
21 Budget and Policy Priorities based in Washington,  
22 D.C.; and

23 WHEREAS, Republican congressional leaders have  
24 already demanded and achieved in the passage of the  
25 Budget Control Act of 2011, severe cuts in spending  
26 totaling \$1.7 trillion, which is not only creating  
27 a strain on our economy, but is also undermining  
28 the ability of state and local governments to meet  
29 pressing needs in our communities from education to  
30 transportation to law enforcement; and

1 WHEREAS, the Republican congressional leadership  
2 is threatening to shut down the federal government  
3 and continues to hold our nation's credit worthiness  
4 hostage to their demands to cut Medicare, Medicaid,  
5 Social Security, and other vital services; NOW  
6 THEREFORE,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Iowa Senate  
8 urges Congress to incorporate as core values in  
9 its deliberations on the federal budget all of the  
10 following:

11 1. That reform of the tax system should result  
12 in a system that is fair to all by requiring that  
13 corporations and the wealthy pay their share of taxes  
14 and by eliminating the loopholes and special interest  
15 tax deductions used by corporations and the wealthy to  
16 avoid payment of taxes.

17 2. That the burden of deficit reduction should not  
18 be placed on the shoulders of working families.

19 3. That Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security  
20 benefits should be protected from any cuts including  
21 through an increase in the Medicare age of eligibility,  
22 cutting or restructuring federal Medicaid payments to  
23 states, or reducing the cost-of-living increases to  
24 Social Security benefits.

25 4. That further cuts in education, law enforcement,  
26 transportation, and other vital services that state and  
27 local governments administer should be avoided.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
29 resolution be provided to each member of the Iowa's  
30 congressional delegation.