

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 14**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Monning  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Mitchell)**

July 6, 2011

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to the national debt ceiling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 14, as introduced, Monning. National debt ceiling.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to raise the national debt ceiling without delay in order to continue the current economic recovery and preserve the fiscal integrity of the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs and other important public necessities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1       WHEREAS, The nation reached its debt limit on May 16, 2011,  
2       and only through extraordinary means has it been able to postpone  
3       default through August 2, 2011; and  
4       WHEREAS, The United States Treasury Department asked  
5       Congress to modify the law to raise the national debt ceiling from  
6       its current amount of \$14.2 trillion; and  
7       WHEREAS, The United States government will be unable to  
8       perform routine transactions without raising the debt ceiling,  
9       making it impossible to fund federal services and programs  
10       depended upon by millions; and  
11       WHEREAS, Modification of the national debt ceiling should  
12       be bipartisan and largely a procedural congressional action, as has  
13       always been the case; and

1 WHEREAS, Congress has never failed to raise the debt ceiling,  
2 and the United States Treasury Department has never had to default  
3 on paying previously authorized congressional commitments; and

4 WHEREAS, Refusing to raise the national debt ceiling does  
5 nothing to reduce the existing obligations or reduce the federal  
6 deficit; and

7 WHEREAS, Without an increase in the national debt ceiling,  
8 the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs will be unable to  
9 provide the same levels of services to the millions of seniors  
10 nationwide who worked hard to pay into the system and expect to  
11 receive the benefits they earned; and

12 WHEREAS, Twelve percent of the entire population of  
13 California is enrolled in the federal Medicare program. A refusal  
14 to raise the national debt ceiling, combined with efforts to privatize  
15 the Medicare program, is a vote against Medicare for Californians;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, California, like the rest of the nation, is suffering  
18 from a prolonged national recession. While the recession is  
19 beginning to show signs of abatement, this recovery depends on  
20 the ability of the United States Treasury Department to continue  
21 necessary transactions; and

22 WHEREAS, The burgeoning economic recovery that California  
23 and the United States are experiencing will be jeopardized if the  
24 national debt ceiling is kept at its current level; and

25 WHEREAS, Raising the national debt ceiling will allow  
26 California's economy to continue creating the thousands of jobs  
27 needed in the Golden State; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
29 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of California urges the  
30 Congress of the United States to raise the national debt ceiling  
31 without delay in order to continue the current economic recovery  
32 and preserve the fiscal integrity of the federal Medicare and  
33 Medicaid programs and other important public necessities; and be  
34 it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
36 of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
37 to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Representative from

- 1 California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author
- 2 for appropriate distribution.

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