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Dear Friends,

From the beginning of this debt-ceiling debate, I have argued that we need to make significant changes in how Washington does business if we truly want to stop runaway deficit spending. Last night I voted for, and the House passed, a second bill in two weeks that would raise the debt ceiling while making immediate cuts. Most importantly, the bill would address the core issue of reckless deficit spending by requiring the passage of a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution.

The vote last night was a win for conservatives and a common-sense approach to government. Earlier in the week, Speaker John Boehner had proposed a bill to raise the debt ceiling in two chunks, each contingent on cutting spending. I could not support this proposal because it did not change the fundamental structure in Washington that continues to allow and encourage reckless deficit spending. Because a few of us conservatives stood firm, opposing our own leaders, by the end of the week we had a new proposal. Speaker Boehner heeded our calls for fundamental structural change and his new proposal on Friday included a requirement that a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution be sent to the States before a second increase in the debt ceiling could go into effect. While this bill was not as strong as the first proposal passed by the House, I supported it because it is a compromise that does not give up on the core principal of changing how Washington does business.

Unfortunately, the Democrats in the Senate once again decided to oppose and criticize rather than work toward a real solution. House Republicans have now passed two proposals, while Senate Democrats have yet to actually pass a single proposal on the debt ceiling. President Obama has also failed to put forward a proposal with specifics on how he would like to address the debt situation. In fact, the last publicly available proposal from the President is his 2012 budget submitted in March, which calls for an increase in the federal debt to \$20 trillion by the end of his potential second term. That is simply irresponsible.

As an engineer, I always try to first clearly define the problem and then look for potential

solutions. The problem our nation faces is out-of-control deficit spending, driven by politicians who want to promise the moon and have future generations pick up the tab. I am open-minded to any proposal that would actually solve this problem, but the only one that I have heard seriously proposed is a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution. By amending the Constitution, it prevents politicians from spending money today unless they can actually pay for it today. No more spending on the backs of future generations. The right thing to do is address the problem now, rather than making the problem even worse for future generations. I will not support any debt ceiling increase that does not address the core problem of runaway deficit spending.

I have heard from many of you in the last few weeks and I hope that you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me via [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) or [email](#) . It is an honor to represent you in Washington.

Sincerely,

W. Todd Akin