

Alexander Resolution #1:

Moratorium on Washington Unfunded Mandates on State & Local Governments

Cosponsors: Sessions, Portman, Hoeven, Risch, Enzi, Toomey, Ayotte, Cornyn, Boozman, Corker, Johnson, Blunt, Johanns, Inhofe and Burr

Resolved, the Senate Republican Conference believes that Congress should not create new federal unfunded mandates on state and local governments. In furtherance of this goal, it is the policy of the Conference to:

- 1. Support an amendment to the Budget Act or the annual budget resolution creating a point of order against federal unfunded mandates on state and local governments, which point of order may be waived by a vote of three-fifths of senators duly chosen and sworn.*
- 2. Ask the Ranking Republican Member of the Budget Committee to undertake a review of federal unfunded mandates on state and local governments and, where appropriate, recommend the repeal or amendment of those mandates.*

Why it's needed:

- According to the National Council of State Legislatures, up to 10 percent of a state's general fund budget goes to filling in gaps in federal unfunded mandates.
- State and local governments are struggling to balance their budgets at a time when our federal government is amassing \$14 trillion in debt.
- New health care law is the most vivid example of Washington politicians putting into law their big ideas and sending the bill to state and local taxpayers.
 - Cost states more than \$21 billion over 5 years from 2014-2019.
 - For example, Governor Bredesen estimated the law will cost Tennessee \$1.1 billion over 5 years from 2014 to 2019.

Republican Principles:

- Republicans passed S.1, Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995 which fulfilled a key provision of the "Contract with America."
 - Created budget point of order against federal unfunded mandates on state and local governments – majority vote needed to waive.
 - In 2005, Republicans raised the threshold to a 60 vote waiver.
 - Republicans used this point of order to defeat two unfunded mandate amendments.
 - In 2007, Democrats again lowered the threshold to make the point of order a simple majority vote.