

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2605

To specify that certain obligations of the United States shall be prioritized  
in the event that the debt ceiling is reached.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2011

Mr. LATHAM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To specify that certain obligations of the United States shall  
be prioritized in the event that the debt ceiling is reached.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protect Spending Pri-  
5 orities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRIORITY OF PAYMENTS IF THE DEBT CEILING IS**  
7 **REACHED.**

8 In the event that the debt of the United States Gov-  
9 ernment, as defined in section 3101 of title 31, United  
10 States Code, reaches the statutory limit, amounts nec-

1 essary for obligations incurred by the Government of the  
2 United States shall be made available to the following obli-  
3 gations before all other obligations:

4 (1) Amounts necessary to carry out the author-  
5 ity of the Department of the Treasury provided in  
6 section 3123 of title 31, United States Code, to pay  
7 with legal tender the principal and interest on debt  
8 held by the public.

9 (2) Such amounts as the Secretary of Defense  
10 (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case  
11 of the Coast Guard) determines to be necessary to  
12 continue to provide pay and allowances (without  
13 interruption) to members of the Army, Navy, Air  
14 Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including  
15 reserve components thereof, who perform active serv-  
16 ice.

17 (3) Amounts necessary for the Commissioner of  
18 Social Security to pay monthly old-age, survivors',  
19 and disability insurance benefits under title II of the  
20 Social Security Act.

21 (4) Amounts necessary for the Secretary of the  
22 Veterans Affairs to pay compensation, as such term  
23 is defined under section 101(13) of title 38, United  
24 States Code.

1           (5) Such amounts as the President certifies to  
2           the Congress are necessary to carry out vital na-  
3           tional security priorities.

4           (6) Amounts necessary to make payments  
5           under the Medicare program under title XVIII of  
6           the Social Security Act.

7           (7) Such amounts as the President certifies to  
8           the Congress are necessary to carry out Government  
9           functions necessary for protecting public health and  
10          public safety.

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