

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish limitations on the amount of debt issued by the United States which may be held by foreign governments, entities, and individuals.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To establish limitations on the amount of debt issued by the United States which may be held by foreign governments, entities, and individuals.

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 “National Debt is Na-  
5 tional Security Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMIT ON PUBLIC DEBT HELD BY FOREIGN GOV-**  
2 **ERNMENTS, ENTITIES, AND INDIVIDUALS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 31 of title  
4 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-  
5 tion 3113 the following:

6 **“§ 3114. Limit on public debt held by foreign govern-**  
7 **ments, entities, and individuals**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

9 “(1) CUMULATIVE LIMIT.—Notwithstanding  
10 any other provision of this chapter, the amount of  
11 the national debt which is cumulatively held by for-  
12 eign governments, entities organized or incorporated  
13 under the laws of a foreign county, and citizens of  
14 foreign countries shall not exceed an amount equal  
15 to one-third of the national debt.

16 “(2) COUNTRY-SPECIFIC LIMIT.—Notwith-  
17 standing any other provision of this chapter, with re-  
18 spect to any foreign country, the amount of the na-  
19 tional debt which is cumulatively held by the govern-  
20 ment of such country, entities organized or incor-  
21 porated under the laws of such county, and citizens  
22 of such country shall not exceed an amount equal to  
23 5 percent of the national debt.

24 “(b) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
25 ury, in coordination with the Director of the Office of  
26 Management and Budget, shall issue guidance regarding

1 implementation of this section, including calculation of the  
2 amount of the national debt held by foreign governments,  
3 entities organized or incorporated under the laws of a for-  
4 eign county, and citizens of foreign countries.

5 “(c) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive  
7 the application of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection  
8 (a) if the President determines and, pursuant to  
9 paragraph (2), so reports that the important na-  
10 tional interest of the United States requires the ex-  
11 ercise of such waiver authority.

12 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not  
13 later than the date of the exercise of a waiver under  
14 paragraph (1), the President shall notify the Com-  
15 mittee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-  
16 resentatives and the Committee on Finance of the  
17 Senate of the waiver or the intention to exercise the  
18 waiver, together with a detailed justification thereof.

19 “(d) NATIONAL DEBT.—For purposes of this section,  
20 the term ‘national debt’ means the face amount of obliga-  
21 tions issued under this chapter and the face amount of  
22 obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by  
23 the United States Government (except guaranteed obliga-  
24 tions held by the Secretary of the Treasury).”.

1           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
2 of subchapter I of chapter 31 of title 31, United States  
3 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
4 section 3113 the following:

“3114. Limit on public debt held by foreign governments, entities, and individuals.”.