AFF

Abby and I affirm Resolved: The United States Federal Government should prioritize reducing the national debt over promoting economic growth.

Our Sole Contention Is Exacerbating Global Poverty.

Collins 18 at USA Today writes that the national debt continues to climb at a staggering pace. Right now, it's more than $21 trillion and literally soaring by the second.

As the debt rises, so does the amount we pay on interest. **Schwartz at the New York Times writes in September** that the government will soon pay more in interest on its debt than on the military. Within a decade, more than $900 billion in interest payments will be due annually.

At the same time, foreign investment in US debt is decreasing. **Leong at Reuters writes in August** that the rising federal debt has stoked concerns whether overseas appetite for it is approaching saturation.

Goodkind at Newsweek writes in May that foreign investment in U.S. debt is currently at its lowest point since November 2016 and has been decreasing steadily since 2008, when foreigners owned about 55 percent of American debt. They now own just 43%.

This is because as our debt continues to rise, foreigners believe there is a lower chance they will get paid back. **Brandimarte at Reuters writes in 2011** that S&P cut the long-term U.S. credit rating by to AA-plus on concerns about the government's budget deficit and rising debt burden.

This is bad for two reasons.

First, recession severity.

Nunn at the Wall Street Journal reports in December that more than 80% of U.S. Chief Financial Officers think a recession will strike by the end of 2020.

When the next recession hits, we will be in big trouble. **Ghilarducci at Forbes writes in September:** In 2008, the debt-to-GDP ratio was a low 64%. When the Great Recession hit, the government had room to borrow to finance our fiscal lifesavers, which helped keep the deep recession from turning into a global depression. The debt to GDP ratio is now 105%.

Tully of Fortune explains in March that countries with high debt don't respond aggressively to downturns. If the U.S. slips into recession, we'll lack the option of lowering taxes or increasing spending as tools to revive growth.

This is for two reasons.

First, the more we spend on interest, the less we can spend on a stimulus package.

Second, Congress. **Aaron at Brookings writes in April** that before the Great Recession, policymakers had little reason to worry that increasing spending or cutting taxes to fight the recession would push debt to unsustainable levels. Even so, Congress was so uneasy about boosting spending or cutting taxes that the Obama administration asked for a smaller anti-recession program in 2009 than advisors thought desirable.

Horowitz 18 at FiveThirtyEight writes that this time around, the debt will inflame concerns that even necessary stimulus would be just too dangerous.

Stone 15 at US News and World Report writes that without a stimulus package, the recession would have been more than three times deeper and lasted twice as long; we would have lost twice as many jobs and unemployment would have peaked at 16 percent rather than 10 percent.

Second, crowding out.

When foreigners don't think they will get paid back and stop investing, Americans have to pick up the slack. **Leong** explains that foreigners are buying fewer Treasuries, but domestic investors have stepped up and filled in for that group.

This is really bad, as **Goodkind** writes that they're buying at the expense of making productive investments in businesses and startups. As a result, our economy experiences less GDP growth, and wage growth slows.

There are two impacts.

First, increased poverty in the United States. **Danziger 12 at Stanford** reports that the poverty rate increased from 12.5% in 2007 to 15% percent in 2011.

Increased poverty has big consequences. **Galea 11 at Columbia University** reports that poverty leads to an average of 133,000 deaths annually in the United States.

Second is developing nations. Slow growth in the US harms developing nations the most. **Gurtner 10 at the Graduate Institute of Geneva** writes that in the Great Recession, the growth setbacks in developing countries were higher than in the industrialized countries. The crisis manifested itself in mounting deficits in trade and payment balances, dwindling currency reserves, currency devaluations and increasing rates of inflation. This had a direct impact on the living conditions of the population. Each 1% decrease in growth in the US forces 20 million people into absolute poverty.

Thus, we proudly affirm.