Security. This year, we celebrate 75 years of this critical program, and we must reaffirm our commitment not only to protect it but to ensure its continuing viability.

America's senior citizens have lived through wars and recessions as well as periods of unprecedented prosperity. They have pioneered technologies in medicine, communications, transportation, and industry. These remarkable achievements demonstrate the strength and character of our older Americans, underscoring the debt of gratitude that we owe to generations that have given so much—one generation which includes my own parents, who are celebrating birthdays this week and next.

Unfortunately, the recent recession has reminded us that economic prosperity is never a guarantee; and in times of such uncertainty, our Nation's seniors need the steadiness of Social Security now more than ever.

Some have suggested that privatizing certain aspects of Social Security will somehow strengthen it. Well, I say not. I urge my colleagues to fiercely resist any such effort to privatize Social Security and to risk our seniors' well-being with the volatile, unpredictable nature of the market. I ask my colleagues to come together and to continue the promise that was made 75 years ago for those who have given so much to our society.

DEMOCRATS' IRRESPONSIBLE DEFICIT SPENDING

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, nearly a year and a half after the President told our country that an $800 billion-plus stimulus package was needed to keep unemployment below 8 percent, we are in the midst of our 14th straight month with unemployment above 9 percent. Many economists predict that nearly every major policy passed since that time, such as cap-and-trade, health care and so on, will result in a net loss of jobs. Now the Democrats are telling our country we need to double down on their economic policies and increase our debt and deficits to finance more spending.

How does that make any sense whatsoever?

If you don't have a job, we want you to find one. However, we know that, if Congress continues irresponsible spending, it will make economic growth and job creation less likely. That is why Republicans are insisting on finding spending cuts. It is time to tell the administration that they have maxed out America's credit card and to ask them to start working with the American people to get our fiscal house in order.

PASS THE EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, 2.5 million Americans have lost their unemployment benefits—more than 33,000 of them in my home State of Massachusetts. I have heard from many of these struggling families.

From Chelmsford: ''My UI benefits have just run out. A UI check is food and other necessities while I draw down savings to keep my house.''

From Lowell: ''I have always had a very good job. I work hard, pay taxes, and I certainly have not been living in excess. Last July, my company had to cut staff, and my entire team was let go. I have never had a problem finding a job, but this search has been extremely difficult. Unemployment benefits helped me to stay on track with life's basic necessities, such as food, gas and insurance. Losing them has caused desperate action on my part.''

From Westford: ''Please extend unemployment benefits for all Americans. I know many solid citizens who are actively and vigorously job hunting to no avail, including my wife. Help.''

I urge my Senate colleagues to pass this desperately needed extension.

REPEATING THE LESSON OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, when the stimulus bill became law, unemployment stood at 8.2 percent. Today, a year and a half and hundreds of billions of dollars later, unemployment is 9.5 percent.

This spending binge hasn't made things better. It has made things demonstrably worse because, before government can put money into the economy, it first takes that money out of the economy. We see the jobs created when government puts the money back, but we don't see the jobs that are lost, because government first took that money out of the economy.

When we borrow trillions of dollars, we crowd out the very same capital pool that would otherwise have been available for businesses to create jobs; so those jobs don't get created, and the ranks of the unemployed grow.

These are the same policies that turned the recession of 1929 into the Depression of the 1930s. Do we really want to repeat that lesson?

STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is a pledge to hardworking Americans that they will be able to retire with the dignity they deserve. As this treasured program reaches its 75th anniversary, we have a responsibility to guarantee that it remains strong for future generations; but as we work toward improving the long-term solvency of this program, we must avoid making ill advised changes, like creating volatile private accounts that could throw millions of seniors into poverty.

These are tough economic times, particularly for seniors on fixed incomes. Rising health care, energy and housing costs mean too many seniors do not have the resources they need to live comfortably. Now, more than ever, Social Security is a critical safety net for millions of Americans.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together to strengthen the Social Security program for current and future generations. Hardworking Americans deserve to look forward to financially secure retirements.

EDIBLE ROAD SIGNS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out the obvious: You cannot feed road signs to your kids. They are made of aluminum, degreasing agents, and reflective film. They don't taste good. In fact, you can't even pay the rent with road signs because landlords prefer checks.

That's why Americans are so confused about the Obama administration and why they are spending tens of millions of dollars of taxpayer money on road signs, touting the success of the stimulus. I should have said the so-called ''success'' of the stimulus.

President Obama assured the American people that he would not waste the stimulus money. In fact, he even said that he would not waste one single nickel and that he would make famous anyone who wasted the money. Well, I guess I'm making the President famous then because these signs are the most obscenely wasteful and gratuitous things that we have seen out of him yet.

There is a reason why the majority has lost all credibility with the American people, and there is a reason you haven't created any jobs. That reason is posted on the sides of our roads.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest possible support for Social Security—an essential lifeline that some 130,000 seniors in my congressional district depend on every day.

Social Security is an earned benefit that American workers have paid into