

If we worked to reduce maternal smoking, we can reduce premature births, problems with low birth weights, asthma, respiratory distress symptoms, and so many other problems that infants experience, if we work to reduce maternal smoking.

Now, we have a choice here. We can continue to argue as a House over who has the better plan, the Republicans' or Democrats' plan; or we can really get together over these next several days and say we need to fix our broken health care system, not continue to finance it. We need a health care system that is focused on patients and not politics. We need a health care system that is focused on patient safety and patient quality and where patients can choose their doctors and hospitals.

I hope this is not a time that Americans will continue to see politicians beat their chest and say "my plan is better"; "no, my plan is better." I know if every few minutes a child or an adult is dying from an infection they picked up in a hospital, if we know the chronic illnesses they face continue to be so difficult to manage, and it is odd to me that Medicare and Medicaid will spend thousands of dollars to amputate the foot of someone who has severe diabetes, but won't spend \$5 to have some nurse call that person and check up on them with care management, something is wrong and something is broken with that system.

If we really and truly care about children, as I believe we do, if we really and truly care about the health care of Americans, as I believe we all do, shouldn't we be focusing our time instead on how to fix the system and use the compassion in our hearts to roll up our sleeves and work together and stop this continued fighting for the sake of political points.

I believe that is what America wants, I believe that is what America needs, and I believe that is what they sent us here to take care of.

□ 2130

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### BUSH ECONOMIC RECORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the President says his policies are working to make the economy strong and that all Americans are benefiting. But evidence of a slowing economy is building, and anxiety over the state of the economy remains high.

The credit crunch, the worsening housing slump, market volatility and weak consumer confidence point to a

gathering storm that could drag down the economy, taking thousands of American jobs with it.

Risks in the housing market and weak business investment point to the growing uncertainty of which way the economy is heading. We are facing a tsunami of defaults and foreclosures in the subprime market which could have broader implications for the overall economy.

RealtyTrac reported that foreclosures in August increased 36 percent since July and 115 percent since this time last year. Expectations are that the next 18 months will be even worse as many subprime loans reset to higher rates.

The ability of American consumers to keep spending may be flagging with the cooling housing market. Consumer spending has been propping up the economy, but high energy prices and a worsening housing slump could force consumers to cut back, putting the economy at even greater risk.

American families are understandably worried about the future because the economy is weakening even before many have shared in the gains from the economic growth we have seen so far.

Employee compensation has lagged far behind productivity in this recovery. Some workers are beginning to see some gains in their paychecks after inflation, but they still have a great deal of lost ground to make up. Median family income has actually fallen by nearly \$1,000 since President Bush took office.

The divergence between the "haves" and the "have nots" in the Bush economy stands in marked contrast to the second term of the Clinton administration when real wage gains were strong up and down the wage ladder, to the wealthy, to the poor, to the middle class.

And our economic foundation is simply not on solid ground. The administration is responsible for the three largest budget deficits on record, including a \$413 billion deficit in 2004. The gross Federal debt is now almost \$9 trillion, or my colleagues listening tonight, each of us owes \$29,000 per person. Every citizen in America owes \$29,000 to the Federal debt.

Our current account deficit with the rest of the world, the broadest measure of our trade deficit, rose to a record smashing \$856 billion in 2006, the largest ever in the history of our country. The amount of Federal debt owned by foreigners has more than doubled under President Bush, with Japan and China alone holding nearly half of our \$2.2 trillion debt. We have become a Nation of debtors vulnerable to the economic and political decisions made half a world away.

Despite 4 years of economic expansion, job growth has been modest. Wages are barely keeping pace with inflation. Employer-provided health insurance coverage is declining, and private pensions are in jeopardy. These

are the economic barometers that matter most to American families.

Democrats in Congress are taking action to restore a sense of economic security to the middle class and ensure long-term economic growth for our Nation. We started by presenting a realistic budget plan that adheres to PAYGO principles for bringing down the deficit but that does not short-change our national defense or our citizens. We are not going to spend money we do not have.

Our priorities include providing health care for millions more uninsured children as we did tonight, adding 10 million uninsured children, providing coverage for them, making investments in veterans' benefits, and restoring crucial funding for first responders and local law enforcement.

In order to spur innovation that will keep America number one, Democrats will increase funding for cutting-edge research, invest more in math and science education, and make college more affordable.

We also have a plan to expand renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce global warming and dependence on foreign oil.

And Democrats want to bring tax relief to those who need it most, by shielding 19 million middle-income American families from the alternative minimum tax.

Mr. Speaker, after 6 years of irresponsible policies, Democrats are working hard to get our economic house back in order.

#### CONGRATULATING TEMPLE EMANUEL ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Temple Emanuel is a Jewish reform congregation in Winston-Salem known for consistently reaching out beyond the Jewish community to embrace people from all walks of life.

Temple Emanuel is identified in the area as a community with a long history of actively engaging the issues that confront the people of Winston-Salem. Its example clearly illustrates how important the tradition of American religious communities' involvement in civic and community life is in an age of what often seems like increasing individual disengagement. I commend the members of Temple Emanuel for their faithful example of outreach and investment in others.

This ethic is embodied in the leadership of Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn. His commitment to service and religious dialogue recently earned him the Everyone Can Help Out Award from the Winston-Salem Foundation for his efforts to bridge religious differences by teaching community classes on Judaism. Rabbi Strauss-Cohn has also led