of job growth in three-quarters of a century, will not be solved overnight. Families across the nation, and in Minnesota, are struggling to make ends meet. Unemployment has soared to 8.5 percent, while health care costs are rising and housing prices continue to decline.

This budget is a new beginning. It charts a course toward economic recovery and signals the end of an era of disinvestment in America's families. Instead of ignoring the economic crisis, this agreement confronts it head-on by making strategic investments in education, health care reform and energy independence to help restore growth at home and keep the U.S. competitive in the global economy.

Today's students are tomorrow's workforce, which is why this resolution makes significant investments in education from early childhood programs to college affordability. This budget also recognizes that health care reform cannot wait: nearly one out of every six Americans is uninsured and many more are underinsured. This resolution takes steps to make health care coverage affordable and available to all, while also improving the quality and safety of patient care. In addition, this budget makes historic investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and the clean energy research programs America needs to start down the path of energy independence.

After eight years of masking the costs of war and natural disasters, this plan ushers in a new era of honesty and accountability in budgeting. President Obama and this Congress have included estimates of these costs for every year in the budget.

The budget resolution is a blueprint for the future of our country, which recognizes the needs of America's families and will help to restore widely-shared economic prosperity for generations to come. As an important first step in this direction, the budget calls for tax cuts for families who make less than $250,000 and permanently extends the middle-income tax cuts adopted in 2001 and 2003 for middle-income Americans. This plan will also place restraints on areas of unsustainable spending and cut the deficit in half by 2014.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. Con. Res. 13.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, on April 29, 2009 I missed rollcall vote 223, the final passage of H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. If I were present for the vote I would have voted "aye." I missed the vote because I was in an Intelligence Committee hearing.