Mr. Smith of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as this replica of a check demonstrates, the national media are giving the Obama administration a free pass worth who-knows-how-much on any number of major national issues such as the economy, energy, and health care.

The national media seldom mentions that the President’s budget would double the national debt in 5 years and triple it in 10. The national media don’t tell the American people that the President’s cap-and-trade energy plan will cost every family $1,600. The national media don’t report that the 46 million uninsured that is available, and come to plan to let every American have the best medical care available. But it shouldn’t be that only the community. We are proud of our medical community.

Mr. Speaker, you know that LeBonheur Children’s Hospital; for Southern College of Optometry; for Arkansas Children’s Hospital; the finest research hospital, the finest research center in the United States. Memphis has been a medical center for years, with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the finest research hospital this country desperately needs. The American people desire better. The American Energy Act introduced by Republicans is an all-of-the-above plan that will provide independence, more jobs here at home, and a cleaner environment.

The American people don’t want a national energy tax. They want energy independence. The House Republican plan is the comprehensive energy solution this country desperately needs.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Ms. Edwards of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has the most expensive health care in the world, which is a tremendous burden on the American family and businesses and threatens our economic future. The status quo is unsustainable and unacceptable, and I applaud all of the committees for their hard work on the draft proposal released last week. It is an important step forward to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care.

But I believe if we are to meet the stated goals of reform, it is also critical that a robust public plan option be linked with the strengths of Medicare. It is a system that we know and, in particular, has an existing health provider network so that a public plan can truly compete in the private market and lower costs for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, health care must be accessible. And in order to be accessible to Americans living in both rural and urban areas, it has to be accepted by providers. It has to have doctors. I am concerned that the initial version does not provide the provider infrastructure already in place for Medicare. We know it and we can use it, and this is a serious oversight that needs to be revisited.

Mr. Speaker, I know we can meet the challenges for health care for all Americans, a uniquely American plan unparalleled in quality, low cost and real choice. Let’s do it.

PRESERVING CAPITALISM IN AMERICA AMENDMENT

Mr. Turner asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. Turner. Mr. Speaker, a growing number of Americans are concerned about the future of capitalism in this country. The current economic recession has opened the door to government intervention in private enterprise on a scale many have never seen. A majority of Americans oppose the government takeover of the auto manufacturers and want the government out as soon as possible. Just as troubling as the government’s rapid control over private industry is the failure to present an exit strategy. With no apparent limit on the government’s ability to expand its activities, at some point any acquisition of control by the Federal Government. This amendment was introduced with 102 cosponsors, nearly a quarter of the membership of the House. Eight States currently have constitutional prohibitions against government investment in private corporations, and I believe similar action is necessary on the Federal level to limit government intrusion.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.J. Res. 57, the Preserving Capitalism in America amendment.

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT

Mr. Inslee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. Inslee. Mr. Speaker, Americans are the most innovative and the most entrepreneurial people on the face of the Earth. That is the reason that the people want us to pass the American Clean Energy and Security bill this week. This bill will give Americans what they want: More energy independence; less pollution; and most importantly, millions of new jobs of Americans can build the clean energy economy, the only putting up solar panels, putting up wind towers, and stringing new electrical wire that we need. Now, what is this going to cost Americans? According to the Congressional Budget Office, approximately the cost of one postage stamp a day: 47 cents. Do Americans want to rid ourselves of the scourge of addiction to Saudi oil for a postage stamp a day? You bet. Americans want us to limit pollution and make polluters pay so Americans can have cleaner air for the cost of a postage stamp a day? You bet.