relatives. President Clinton had a high-level special envoy. President Bush says he is not partial to special envoys. Yet if this is a way to try to break into this outrageous situation, then so be it.

What we must do this session is move beyond what we did last session: a special order by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Payne) and on the floor, a resolution by the House and Senate condemning the bombings. This is a very complicated situation, and we cannot stop the war of the north against the south in Sudan. We cannot eliminate slavery through some emancipation proclamation from the United States. We cannot go and buy children and women out of slavery. We cannot stop the worst conversions.

But we are the strongest power in the world—our citizens have the power to stop the war in Sudan, or at least to get a cease-fire so we can begin to pull the sides apart and help restart that country toward a democracy.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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

Mr. Davis of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important component of our health care delivery system. Community health centers for 35 years have undergirded the primary health care movement in this country. They have provided access to quality, affordable primary and preventative health care, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. They have been a safety net for millions who otherwise would not have been able to afford health insurance.

Community health centers are the family doctor, the health care home for over 11 million low-income patients nationwide, including over 7 million minorities.

We talk about health care in macro terms, but when we really think about it in micro terms, day to day, it really is the vast network of more than 3,000 community-based health care center sites operating in urban and rural communities that make sure our citizens are healthy. They deliver top-rate health care with highly trained, culturally competent health professionals.

Across the Nation, health centers are staffed by more than 6,000 physicians, thousands of nurses, dentists, and other health professionals and volunteers. Health centers provide health education, community outreach, transportation, and other support programs in schools, public housing, and homeless shelters.

Community health centers have done an outstanding job of controlling costs. For the past 35 years, they have provided quality, cost-effective primary and preventive care to the hardest-to-reach populations, where they are most needed, for less than 76 cents per dollar spent.

That is how they have controlled costs.

In my congressional district, there are 24 health center delivery sites. Each of them are jewels. They are cost-effective, responsive to community needs, and the patients just love them.

Unfortunately, they, along with health centers throughout the country, are facing severe challenges which jeopardize their ability to continue providing services for those most in need. For example, approximately 46 percent of Illinois health center patients are uninsured. That number is rising, while the Federal grants to address the health needs of this population remain stagnant.

The bulk of health center patients' uninsured populations are working families who, for a variety of reasons, cannot afford health care for their families. The cost to health centers of providing this care cannot be recouped by them and falls into the category of uncompensated or free care, which is quickly becoming the number one factor jeopardizing Illinois health centers.

Also, nationally there are more than 43 million who are without health insurance. That number is projected to increase to more than 50 million by 2007.

The rising number of uninsured with problems associated with welfare reform and the cutbacks in charity care mean health center budgets will be challenged to meet increased demands. Currently health centers are serving 4.4 million uninsured Americans.

While I am pleased that President Bush recognizes the importance of community health centers and has set the priority of increasing the number of health center delivery sites by 1,200 in his budget, the President's budget also provides an increase of $124 million for the health centers, and that is a good start.

Mr. Speaker, it falls short of providing the resources to match demand. One, along with members of the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucus, have introduced H.R. 184, THE COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD PROTECTION ACT, along with approximately 43 cosponsors.

The “USA Today” on February 13th, last month, had an article that said, the headline is “Debt smothers young Americans.”

Arianna Huffington, the columnist, wrote a column in “The Washington Times” recently, and she wrote this, how far credit card companies have gone was illustrated recently when a mother in Rochester, New York filled out an unsolicited application her 9-year-old daughter had received. She listed the child’s occupation as preschooler. Under income, she wrote nothing.

The toddler was promptly sent a Platinum Visa card with a $5,000 limit, which Arianna Huffington said, she, no doubt, quickly maxed out on Barbies and Pokemon toys.

In the same column, Arianna Huffington said this, one study found that one in four college students carry credit card debt in excess of $3,000, and this debt is a gift that keeps on giving long after graduation. Sixty-two percent of Americans aged 22 to 33, the most of any age group, are saddled one of our citizens must have access to quality, comprehensive affordable health care without regard to their ability to pay.

Since we do not have universal health insurance or universal coverage, the next best thing would be to have a community health center in every medically underserved community in this Nation.

H.R. 184, THE COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. Duncan. Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago, personal bankruptcies reached a record high of 1.4 million. Surprising to me, my own State of Tennessee led the way.

Today personal bankruptcies are still running at a rate of over 1 million a year, and all of this has been occurring at a time when the economy has been very strong, at least until the last few months.

People are drowning in a sea of debt, a sea of red ink, and most of this has come from credit card debt, people being seduced by the lure of easy credit. Easy credit and large debts have ruined millions of lives. Just think how many families are touched when you have 1.4 million personal bankruptcies.

Most of these have been mature adults. What many of us are most concerned about, though, is what is happening to young people, that is why the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. Slaughter) and I have introduced H.R. 184, the College Student Credit Card Protection Act, along with approximately 40 cosponsors.

The “USA Today” on February 13th, last month, had an article that said, the headline is “Debt smothers young Americans.”