there. But let us face it, our side are rank amateurs compared to the consummate spenders we now have in charge.

For proof, we need look no further than the President’s budget, the trillion dollar bill, this $2 trillion health care bill, and the recent $1 trillion omnibus spending bill with its double digit percentage increases over last year’s spending. The deficit has grown exponentially this year alone.

The numbers themselves tell the story. The Treasury Department’s Monthly Treasury Statement for November shows a deficit over the first two months of this new fiscal year alone of nearly $300 billion. This 2-month deficit is greater than the full-year deficits in 2002, 2006, and 2007, which, by the way, are part of the past eight years that were supposed to represent the ultimate in reckless spending.

I am scared. All Americans should be frightened as well. We are on an unstable raft in the middle of an increasingly raging river. The currents are swirling around us and we are beginning to lose control of where we are going. Sharp rocks are starting to appear in the river that threaten our destruction.

Our alarm grows as we begin to hear a sound off in the distance that slowly gets louder as we head downstream on this increasingly wild rapids. The sound we hear is the cataract that represents our fall from the greatest nation in the history of mankind to that of a second-rate player on the world stage. Can you hear it? Can we find a way to turn this boat around before it is too late to avoid the fall? Many of my fellow Utahns can hear it and they are begging me to find a way to get us off this destructive course and get us back to safe waters.

The first step is to reject this debt limit increase. Let us cut up the credit card and stop this frightening spending spree before it takes us to the precipice.

It is a good thing we are recessing for a few days. The Members of this Senate need to go home and get a reality check from those who have sent us here. I hope that over the recess each check from those who have sent us need to go home and get a reality check from those who have sent us need to go home and get a reality check from those who have sent us home. The Members of this Senate need to get a reality check from those who have sent us home. The Members of this Senate need to get a reality check from those who have sent us home. The Members of this Senate need to get a reality check from those who have sent us home.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the minority leader and I have some things to discuss, so I ask unanimous consent that we recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:35 a.m., recessed until 8:26 a.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. CANTWELL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, during the consideration of the health care bill, one of my primary concerns has been ensuring that the longstanding Hyde amendment would be incorporated into the bill. I have strongly held views on the subject, and I fought hard to prevent tax dollars from being used to subsidize abortions.

I was pleased that the House included strong abortion provisions in its health care bill. I am sure that are in the Stupak amendment. I modified this language to meet the Senate bill and offered the Nelson-Hatch-Casey amendment to prohibit Federal funding of abortion, and I was disappointed to see that amendment was tabled by a vote of 54 to 45.

I knew then that the underlying bill did not adequately prohibit Federal funding of abortion and, consequently, I would not be able to support it. So I began to look for other language to accomplish the goal that Federal assistance funds from paying for private insurance that covers abortions. If you like a plan that permits that Federal assistance funds from paying for private insurance that covers abortions. If you like a plan that permits that Federal assistance funds from paying for private insurance that covers abortions. If you like a plan that permits that Federal assistance funds from paying for private insurance that covers abortions.

Under the health care bill, if you cannot afford insurance, you will receive Federal assistance to help pay for a private health care plan. The Stupak language fully upholds the Hyde principle like the language in the House bill. The wording may be different, but the principle is, in fact, upheld.

Under the health care bill, if you cannot afford insurance, you will receive Federal assistance to help pay for a private health care plan. The Stupak language fully upholds the Hyde principle like the language in the House bill. The wording may be different, but the principle is, in fact, upheld.

The Senate bill also contains the same strong conscience protections included in the Stupak language. We tried winning approval for the Nelson-Hatch-Casey amendment to prohibit Federal funding of abortion, and I was disappointed to see that amendment was tabled in the Senate, but we were unsuccessful. However, we did not give up. I know people have very strong feelings about the issue of abortion, and I respect those who disagree with my position, but I did not maintain the 30-year standard that we have had in Federal law since the mid-1970s.

While I respect the opinion of the Senator from Kansas, I have to respectfully disagree. The Senate language fully upholds the Hyde principle like the language in the House bill. The wording may be different, but the principle is, in fact, upheld.

I want to be clear, I stuck to my guns and stood for my pro-life principles. I did not look for weaker language. I looked for clearer language, and my goal stayed the same: to maintain the standard that we have had in Federal law since the mid-1970s.

While I respect the opinion of the Senator from Kansas, I have to respectfully disagree. The Senate language fully upholds the Hyde principle like the language in the House bill. The wording may be different, but the principle is, in fact, upheld.

The Senate language, with my added compromise, also prohibits Federal funds from paying for private insurance that covers abortion. The only difference is that in the Senate bill, if you are receiving Federal assistance to buy insurance, and if that plan has any abortion coverage, the insurance company must bill you separately, and you must pay separately from your own personal funds—perhaps a credit card transaction, your separate personal check, or automatic withdrawal from your separate bank account—for that abortion coverage.

Now, let me say that again. You have to write two checks: one for the basic policy and one for the additional coverage for abortion. The latter has to be entirely from personal funds.

So under both the Stupak and the new Senate language, no Federal funds can be used to pay for a plan that covers abortion, and if you choose to purchase abortion coverage—if it is available—you must pay out of your own pocket.

Furthermore, the Senate language allows States the right to ban public and private insurance from paying for abortion. Already 12 States ban abortion coverage on public plans and 5 States ban abortion coverage on both private and public plans. So, in short, the Senate bill ensures, once again, no Federal funds would be used for abortion.

I would like to note that the Senate bill goes beyond Stupak in two life-promoting ways. One, it adds funding to support pregnant and parenting teens and women, and two, it expands the adoption tax credit to help adoptive parents with the considerable expense of adoption by making that credit a refundable tax credit. This means many potential parents who lack the regular resources to adopt will now be in a better position to do so.

The Senate bill also contains the same strong conscience protections included in the Stupak language. We tried winning approval for the Nelson-Hatch-Casey amendment to prohibit Federal funding of abortion, and I was disappointed to see that amendment was tabled in the Senate, but we were unsuccessful. However, we did not give up. I know people have very strong feelings about the issue of abortion, and I respect those who disagree with my position, but I did not maintain the 30-year standard barring public funding of abortion. I did not compromise my pro-life principles; we just found different wording, different language, and both will work. I believe people will see that no public funding will go to abortion.

In addition, my provision empowers the States to pass laws banning the sale of insurance that covers abortion. We made it clear in the law that this new bill does not in any way preempt the rights of States to be able to continue to make that ban in the decisions they might make legislatively, and we want to make certain there is no doubt that that was the case.

Despite what some partisans and talk show hosts say in their scare tactics, the conscience clause remains. Also, despite what those same people and women of my colleagues have said, the bottom line is that the Senate health care bill will not allow taxpayer money to pay for abortion, period.
Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the roll be taken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerks will call the roll.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes on morning business, with Senators permitted to participate.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The time has come for Congress to take action on behalf of children such as Shaunnell Johnson from Ohio. When her parents were unable to afford health insurance for a child with a preexisting condition, they turned to the private health insurance market for Shaunnell. However, due to her asthma, a preexisting condition, the Johnsons were unable to afford health insurance because they earn more than would qualify Shaunnell for Medicaid but they don’t earn enough to afford the $8,700 a year for private insurance coverage for a child with a preexisting condition.

Children with serious medical conditions shouldn’t be cherry-picked out of health insurance policies while their families struggle to provide care and pay medical bills. The time has come for Congress to act on behalf of children such as Shaunnell and the Senate has acted today.

We must insure that children most in need are no longer denied access to health coverage. We must immediately prevent the insurance industry from denying millions of children the health care they need.

The health care reform legislation we passed an hour and a half ago will do that.

Let me explain again why this matters and give some examples. A woman named Renee has a 5-year old boy in Akron, Ohio with hydrocephalus. He has a shunt that drains the fluid from his brain down to his belly. That said, he is a healthy, smart, and extremely happy little boy.

His neurosurgeon said he is truly a best-case scenario—very healthy. However, no insurance company will take him—no quote, no interest in looking at his medical charts, nothing.

Renee said her family is truly left with no options for health care, unless she and her husband close down their business and go to work for corporate America and get in a huge health insurance pool plan.

Renee, writing about her son, says she can’t get him health insurance because he has a preexisting condition. This bill, as soon as the President signs it, will say to the health insurance industry: You can no longer deny, refuse, or lock out insurance for a family because they have a child with a preexisting condition.

Think of the progress and of the thousands whom I mentioned in the beginning and the 1,700 children’s hospital beds in the children’s hospitals in my State. There are 200,000 uninsured children in Ohio. Many of them are sick enough that they are deemed by the insurance company as having a preexisting condition. No longer.

When the President signs this bill in January, children from Seattle to Cleveland, from Cincinnati to Columbus, will be able to be on their parents’ health insurance policy and be able to get the coverage they need.

I will share two other stories. Laurie writes:

As a mother who had to deal with a baby born with problems and had many days of hospital stays, and many months of in-and-out-of appointments and check-ups, I realize the vital importance of health care coverage.

I was one of the lucky ones I guess, as I did have good insurance at the time.

As a healthcare provider myself, I see too often parents not being able to get their child seen [by a physician] due to lack of insurance that does not cover the costs of anything.

It is our children who will be our future and those in Congress’ future. When will enough be enough?

An hour and a half ago, we answered that question, when will enough be enough, when will this decision collectively—60 of us, an overwhelming majority in the Senate—that children with preexisting conditions will no longer be denied health insurance.

Cassandra, a 14-year-old from Toledo, is uninsured simply because she is sick. She suffers from seizures and, as a result, no insurance company will cover her.

Cassandra is a nationally ranked figure skater and once skated with Michelle Kwan, before selling their home and everything else they own and putting $30,000 on their credit cards just to pay for Cassandra’s care, the family had to finally sell her ice skating equipment on eBay.

Cassandra’s parents do everything they can to protect their daughter, including buying dim lights and blackout drapes and making sure there aren’t too many breakable items in the house.

Cassandra gets treatment for her seizures through the State’s Bureau for Children’s Medical Handicaps, but they are on their own for Cassandra’s basic medical needs.