

own. My plan would help put a basic health insurance plan within reach of this mom and millions of uninsured Americans like her.

Second, we must help States that are developing innovative ways to cover the uninsured. States that make basic private health insurance available to all their citizens should receive Federal funds to help them provide this coverage to the poor and the sick. I have proposed using existing Federal funds to create Affordable Choices grants. These grants would give our Nation's Governors more money and flexibility to get basic private health insurance to those most in need.

Over the next few weeks, I will be talking more about my energy and health care proposals. We've set important goals, and now Republicans and Democrats must work together to make them a reality. Together we can reduce our dependence on oil, improve health care for more of our citizens, and make life better for all our citizens.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on January 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 26 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to Esmerelda Wergin, waitress, Ninfa's Tortilla and Taqueria. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Deborah Orin-Eilbeck

January 28, 2007

Laura and I were saddened to learn of the death of Deborah Orin-Eilbeck. Deb had a distinguished, decades-long career as a journalist, covering every Presidential campaign since 1980 and joining the New York Post's Washington bureau in 1988. Deb fought a valiant battle against cancer with the same tenacity, devotion, and determination that she brought to her work in the White House briefing room through numerous administrations.

Laura and I send our condolences to Deb's husband, Neville Eilbeck, and to her family, friends, and colleagues. She will be missed

by all of us at the White House who cared deeply for her.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Members of the Securing America's Future Energy Organization

January 29, 2007

A group of our fellow citizens from around the country, different backgrounds, have given me a report called "Recommendations to the Nation on Reducing U.S. Oil Dependence." These citizens have spent time thinking about the national security implications for a country which is dependent on oil from hostile regimes or sources of oil that could be affected by terrorist attack. And I really want to thank you for this comprehensive approach to reducing our dependency on oil. Some really smart ideas in here.

The reason I have asked to come and talk to them is, I wanted to assure them that this administration is committed, as well, to diversifying away from our reliance upon oil. And I believe, like they believe, that we've got fantastic opportunities to use new technologies to secure the American people and, at the same time, be better stewards of the environment.

Their plan and my plan are very—have got commonalities, and we're going to work together to get Congress to enact a comprehensive plan. I believe there's an appetite in the halls of Congress to become less dependent on oil. I believe there's a knowledge in Congress that when we spend money on cellulosic ethanol that will make us less dependent on oil.

And I'm going to continue to call upon citizens' groups and concerned citizens to work with Members of Congress so we can—I can sign a comprehensive plan that will assure the American people that as we look forward into the 21st century that we'll be more energy dependent and good stewards of the environment.

So thank you for your efforts. I appreciate your work. I'm honored to be at the table with citizens who care enough about their country that they would take time out of their private lives and present me with this comprehensive view.