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Let me say that one more time because it literally could be a part of this debate over the Fairness Doctrine today. President John F. Kennedy said: "We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values." Let me stop there.

You listen to talk radio today, it is almost as if John F. Kennedy had listened to it. There are an awful lot of unpleasant facts for people in power that get mentioned on talk radio. A lot of foreign ideas. Occasionally some downright alien philosophies. If you listen to late-night talk radio, there are sometimes literally alien philosophies, and there certainly are competitive values.

But John F. Kennedy went on to say: "A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

You know, America is a Nation of freedom and strong opinion, and our government must not be afraid to entrust our good people with all the facts and all the opinions necessary to make choices as an informed electorate. That is what democracy is all about. Now, is it comfortable for men and women in power who work in this rarified air of this marble building, no. But is it freedom? Is it what our Founders intended when they enshrined a free and independent press in the first amendment of the Constitution? You bet it is. I mean to tell you, our Founders did not enshrine the freedom of the press in the first amendment because they got good press. Our Founders enshrined the freedom of the press in the first amendment of the Constitution because they understood that a free and independent press is the only check on government power in real-time. And our Founders whose faces, some of which are chiseled into the wall or painted on canvases in this Chamber, believed in limited government and they believed in holding people like me and the other 434 Members of Congress who work in this Chamber accountable to a free and vigorous debate among the American people.

So I just come to the floor today to say thank you to my colleagues, thank you for standing for a free and independent press this week in the Free Flow of Information Act. I am deeply humbled and grateful for the work of my coauthor and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) as we passed the first Federal legislation protecting a reporter's right to keep a source confidential in American history. It passed the House this week. It passed by 398 votes.

I also want to thank my colleagues who stood with me this summer against broadcast censorship, voting

for my amendment to ban the Fairness Doctrine for 1 year, 309 Members, 107 Democrats in the Congress joined us, and I thank them for that.

I want to thank the 203 colleagues, all of the Republicans and one Democrat, who have cosponsored the Broadcaster Freedom Act that would send the Fairness Doctrine to the ash heap of broadcast history forever.

Now I want to close on this last legislative day of the week with a challenge.

□ 1500

I want to challenge my colleagues to sign the petition that's at the counter to bring the Broadcaster Freedom Act to the floor of the Congress for an up-or-down vote; and I say again, Mr. Speaker, to you and to my colleagues and to anyone who might be looking in, if 218 Members of Congress sign the discharge petition for the Broadcaster Freedom Act, we will bring this legislation to the floor of the Congress and it will pass.

I say that having been through literally thousands of votes on this House floor, many of which I didn't know the outcome before I showed up, some of which I had to wait a long time for the outcome, longer than I should have. But this one I say with confidence and with humility and with gratitude, if the Broadcaster Freedom Act that would do away forever with the Fairness Doctrine comes to the floor of the House of Representatives, it will pass with bipartisan support because freedom is not a partisan issue on the floor of the Congress.

I believe we proved this Tuesday with the Free Flow of Information Act what we will prove the day the Broadcaster Freedom Act comes to this floor, that every time freedom gets an up-or-down vote in the House of Representatives, freedom wins.

So I urge my colleagues, but especially those who supported broadcast freedom earlier this year, sign the discharge petition for H.R. 2905 and bring the Broadcaster Freedom Act to the floor of the Congress; 218 Member signatures will make it possible for the American people to have their say and send the Fairness Doctrine forever to the ash heap of broadcast history where it belongs.

Let's bring the Broadcaster Freedom Act to the floor. Let's let freedom reign, and let's do it together as we did this Tuesday, Republicans and Democrats, standing for the freedoms enshrined in the first amendment, the freedom of the press, the freedom of speech, the Broadcaster Freedom Act.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be before the House once again.

As you know, the 30-something Working Group, we come to the floor maybe once, twice, three times, if we can, a week to not only share with the Members the good things that we are doing but also some things that we are going to have to work together on, bills that we're going to have to work together on on behalf of America.

We've been able to do quite a bit this session, Mr. Speaker, and accomplish a lot in this first session. We have had record-breaking roll call votes never taken before. I think it's somewhere around 980 votes, I mean, not even counting the votes today, that have been taken here in the House that have never been taken in the history of the Republic, since the mid-70s. I believe it was 1975 or 1974 that held the record for roll call votes, and this year is not over yet, and we still have a lot of business to conduct.

I can't help but, Mr. Speaker, come to the floor and talk a little bit about what happened with the children's health care bill. I know just an hour ago we voted to override the President of the United States, and that's something that the Congress has the opportunity to do. The President decided to veto the children's health care bill. The Congress said that we would override. The Senate had the votes but the House, we weren't able to do it today. It wasn't because of Democratic Members of Congress, why we weren't able to override, and it wasn't because of 44 Republicans who voted with Democrats to override the President. It was 154 Republicans who decided to stand with the President and not voting for the override.

Now, we fell 13 votes short. What does that mean? I'm not here today to start calling names and pointing fingers, but I'm here today to make sure that the Members know that the good thing about America is that you have the second chance to do the right thing, and the Members had a second chance to do the right thing and failed to do so. The 13 Members or so failed to do so because they voted against the original bill that came before us that the President vetoed, but on the override they had the opportunity to say the right thing, and they didn't do it.

And within that 154 or within that 13, I just want to identify some of the States that will not receive health care or children's health care from the CHIP bill.

In California, 1.8 million kids have been denied health care. State of Florida, my very State, my State that I represent, those Members that voted, the 13 we fell short, voted against 616,000 kids. In Georgia, 467,000 for those Members that voted against the SCHIP bill override. Illinois, 435,000; Indiana, 199,000. And I'm just using round numbers here, Mr. Speaker. Iowa, 72,962; Kentucky, 112,000 will be denied health care because Members of the other side, 13 Republicans, said we needed to be able to close the gap, did not vote with us today to override the

President. In Maryland, 185,000; and Ohio, 338,000. In Pennsylvania, 312,000 will not be able to receive health care because we fell short of 13 votes. We did not get it from the Republican side of the aisle.

South Carolina, 122,000 children will be denied health care. In Texas, 966,000 will be denied health care. In Utah, 74,000 will be denied health care. And in Wisconsin, 94,000 will be denied health care, and in Wyoming, 12,000 will be denied health care because we did not have the said votes we needed to have, 13 votes on the Republican side that we needed to override.

Now, there were a lot of things said about the SCHIP bill, and a good part of the day and some 2 hours and change was devoted to both sides having an opportunity, Democrats and Republicans, to discuss their support or lack of support for overriding the President on this veto.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to kind of point out here, this picture is going to end up being one of my National Archives pictures when I, you know, relinquish them and I let them go. I kind of keep things as I come to the floor. There are certain charts, and as you know, Mr. Speaker, I do love charts and I'm glad because they illustrate not only for the Members but they illustrate a period of time in American history which now we're living in right now.

This picture was taken when a majority of the Republican Caucus went down and went to the White House and stood with the President on the first bill that we passed to put the heat on the Iraqi Government as it relates to the politicians there in Iraq living up to its responsibilities so that our U.S. troops don't have to continue to do patrols in the streets of Iraq, to be able to do exactly what the President called for as it relates to benchmarks or timelines, that certain things are supposed to happen or else. We put that in legislation, and the Republican Conference ran down there and had a press conference with the President saying we're standing with the President.

Well, today some of the folks in this photo here stood with the President, and they're within the 154 that voted against the SCHIP bill override. It's so unfortunate that the kids that I just called out and thousands and millions of other kids are going to be denied health care. Poor kids, they're going to be denied health care.

We also have, Mr. Speaker, something that I think is very, very important. Our obligation here is to make sure the children have health care and that the good people of the United States of America have access to health care, and I'm getting more and more concerned about folks being more loyal to the President, more loyal to special interests on the minority side than, in my opinion, being loyal to some of the constituents that need our assistance; and I think that's very, very important.

I think it's important also to note that this goes beyond politics, because I believe those that voted and within the 13 because I'm glad I'm not in that number of the 154 Republicans that voted against this override. They're going to have to, within that, the 13 that was needed to override the President decided not to, and I think that there's been some career decisions that have been made.

Obviously, I mean, everyone knows that I'm a Democrat, but if I was an independent or I was a Republican or I was someone that was thinking about voting one day and taking part in this democracy of ours as it relates to the ballot, if a Congressman came up to me and said, guess what, one day I'm going to have the opportunity to vote for health care for poor children that go to school with your kids that live in your neighborhood, folks that work either in your business or people that work with you at work, I'm going to deny them health care, not once but twice, vote for me on Tuesday. There's no way in the world I know a Member did not give that speech and will not give that speech, but today walked in here, slipped the voting card in here, voted "no" and left and went home for the weekend.

This was the close of business. It was the last vote that we took. It was a major vote. We took a Journal vote earlier today. There were only two votes, approving the Journal and voting to override the President of the United States on denying poor children health care. So no one could have gotten confused about, oh, maybe I pushed the wrong button or what have you.

I just want to make sure that the Members understand that this is about serious business here, and I'm going to tell you the American people voted for a new direction. Matter of fact, this reminds me of the old days when we had the rubber-stamp Congress, and I want to make sure my staff bring the rubber stamp down from my office because we haven't had it down here probably only once in the 110th Congress, but I'm going to make sure it gets down here to the floor before I leave the floor because I can tell you, you can't go wrong with friends like that illustrated here in this picture, you can't go wrong.

The President should feel comfortable, as far as I'm concerned should write a handwritten note saying thank you for sticking with me but not sticking with the poor children of the United States of America. Ten million children we're talking about insuring.

The President says, well, you know, maybe 1 million or 2 million or 3 million or 5 million, that's my proposal or what have you, going back and forth. The bottom line is without even a real discussion, without even a real discussion the President is willing to move forward on saying that we should be in Iraq forever, and I think that's a real issue for the people of the country. I think that's a real issue because when

you look at article I, section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, I mean, the Congress has a lot to do.

But what happens as it relates to not only the funding of the war in Iraq but also as it relates to policy, as we look at this issue of Iraq but we're having all this discussion about Iraq and then we try to do something domestic, major something domestic and reauthorizing a program that provides children's health care, and when you look at it, when you look at it here, Mr. Speaker, one day of funding in the war in Iraq costs \$330 million and could insure 270,000 kids. One week in Iraq, one week, we're not talking about, you know, one year, we're talking one week, \$2.3 billion insures 1.8 million kids.

□ 1515

One month in Iraq, \$10 billion, that is \$10 billion, that is with a capital B, 1.8 million kids can receive health care. And 37 days in Iraq, \$12.2 billion spent, 10 million kids can receive coverage.

Now, it is all right and the President is saying, why are you even asking the question? Why are you even questioning my wisdom for even saying that we should continue to fund the war in Iraq? But meanwhile, we are sitting back here and kids are getting the veto again.

I think it is important for the Members to understand what is going on here. And I think that the reason why a lot of average Americans have a great level of frustration with Washington, DC is the fact that we can do something 10,000-plus miles away from continental United States for children that we will not even do for children here in the United States of America. Now, that is a problem.

Now, I don't have a problem. I have been to Iraq three times. I have been to Afghanistan. I have been a little bit of everywhere as it relates to the Middle East, because that is a big concern as relates to our issues that we have not only diplomatically but also as it relates to safety and that we have to engage in dialogue. But I have a problem, Mr. Speaker, of what I know and what is actually happening here on this floor.

Now, again, I am glad this chart is here now. When we start talking about having your back, I mean, the Republican conference which is a number, I am not going to generalize because 44 of the members of that conference voted with the children of America today, with Democrats, and overriding the President of the United States; but the majority, the 154 that voted against were part of the same group. Again, I am going back to the President. The President is not running again for election, but I can tell you this much; that, I can tell you that it is very, very important that we pay attention to the pattern that is taking place. Yes, we have a Democratic majority in the House, we have a Democratic majority in the Senate, but I

think it is important for us to take note of the consistent voting loyal to the President. This is not a loyalty contest. People weren't elected to be loyal to any given party. They are elected to make sure that their constituents and the people of America get what they need out of their government. And when we look at this, foreign debt doubles under President Bush on the \$1.9 trillion in 6 years between 2001 and 2006. Forty-two Presidents that I have here, Mr. Speaker, 42 Presidents, 224 years, \$1.01 trillion, from 1776 to the year 2000, was only able to borrow from foreign nations \$1.01 trillion. So the President has already trumped, with the former rubber-stamp Republican Congress in the last Congress. But it is in another form now, Mr. Speaker. It is in the form to where you see, saying, well, we no longer have the majority. The American people have taken that from us. The American people have taken that from us. Now we are in the business of stopping the new direction Congress that Republicans, Independents, Democrats voted for a new direction because they were concerned about the Republican rubber-stamp Congress following the President of the United States, the rubber-stamp Congress that was here, following the President of the United States to the new Congress, now saying, well, we have enough votes to stop the two-thirds that is needed to override the President, so that is going to be our new stance, Mr. President. We are with you all the way.

Well, I can tell you this much, Mr. Speaker and Members. I think it is important for many of those Members in the 109th Congress that followed the President, the Pied Piper, saying, let's go this way, let's vote this way, stick with me, I am going to lead you. And, guess what? Many of them are at home right now reading the paper about what is happening here in the Capitol dome because they are no longer, they are no longer in Congress. Now, some of them were friends, some of them I knew personally. That is fine. But on the policy end, they were following the President and found themselves unelected.

Now, if this was a political discussion, Mr. Speaker, I would, I would go somewhere and I would go somewhere reading the newspaper or taking a break or something, or maybe reading a good book right now or on the plane going back down to Florida. But this is about politics. Because I would just allow the 154 that voted against the override to continue to vote like they had been voting if it was about politics, because the American people will make sure that they rise up come some given Tuesday in another year from now and vote those individuals out of Congress because they are voting against children's health care.

Saying all of that, I think it is important to say where we are right now in not only history but in the present. If it was just politics, I would just go

sit down, but it is not about politics. It is about children's health care. I must shed light on this and we must continue to put the pressure on. I commend the Speaker for holding her ground on this issue. I want the Speaker to continue to hold her ground on this issue because we cannot backslide on making sure that poor children have health care; not something that looks like health care, but actually has health care, so that they can be healthy and do the things that they have to do.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, as I was in my office preparing to come to the floor, I was just reading some of the clips. I am glad the rubber stamp has made it down to the floor, and I will address the rubber stamp, I will come back to it.

It says on the headline of the New York Times, and this is hot off the press here, it says: The House Fails to Override Child Health Care Bill Veto. And the bottom line is that the vote to override was 273–156, or 13 votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority of those voting. The bill was originally approved about a couple weeks ago, September 25, 265 voting for it and 159 voting against it.

Now, you know, one thing that this administration is not used to, Mr. Speaker, and some of our friends on the Republican side of the aisle are not used to is a bill coming to the floor already paid for. They are used to rubber stamping and saying, put it on the credit card for the next generation to pay for. I have a 10-year-old son and I have a 12-year-old daughter, and guess what? I care about their financial future. I don't want them in debt. I don't want to have them to turn around and, Mr. Speaker, having to pay to Japan, to China, to the U.K., to the Caribbean, to Taiwan, to OPEC nations, to Korea, to Hong Kong, to Germany of money that the President and the rubber-stamp Republican Congress before this Congress did because all they did was say, oh, that is fine, you want tax cuts, special interest billionaire, kazillionaire. We want to go into a new stratosphere of how many subsidies we are going to give you. We are going to do it. And guess what? We are not even concerned how we are going to pay for it. We are going to borrow from foreign nations. We are going to put it on the backs of those Americans that are not even eligible to vote right now, those Americans that were born since I have been on the floor here that are going to have to pay the bill. And in a new direction Congress, Democratic Congress, we said we weren't going to do it, and we haven't done it. And here we are again. This is a new form of the Republican rubber-stamp minority that is standing with the President all the way.

I am glad this rubber stamp is down here, because I spent a lot of time, Mr. Speaker, here on the floor with many of my colleagues. I think this stamp here one day will be properly placed

somewhere in a glass case because this is what used to be. The President said, let's give tax breaks to super-wealthy corporations, record-breaking oil subsidies. Boom. No problem. Rubber stamp. It is going to happen. So shall it be written, so shall it be done. Those days are over.

But now it is in a new form. We are going to stand with you when it comes down to overriding some of the major issues that Americans care about. A, this war in Iraq as it relates to the policy that we should be passing that so many Americans are very frustrated with, the fact that the Congress and the President has not been able to come through with policy that will eventually bring our men and women home, will eventually bring our combat troops home, because we will be providing technical assistance in the region for some time. But we are losing a number of our young people and our middle-aged folks that are reservists that have been deployed longer than any other fighting force in the past and we are still here going back and forth. And the reason why we are going back and forth is the fact that we don't have the necessary votes on the Republican side to be able to override the President. And the Senate, the procedural 60 votes that you need to bring certain issues are not there, because there is only a 51 majority Democrats there. So I think it is important, not only do we report the news, but we also talk about how we can do better.

Now, I come to the floor with a clear mind and a clear heart and ask my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle: We fell 13 votes short of providing poor children health care today. I ask, as we started to look at this issue again, and another vote will be coming up in weeks, that one goes within their soul and within their heart and think about voting in the affirmative so that we can pass the bipartisan health care opportunities for young people that we have done.

Now, this was a bipartisan bill. You know, you listen to the President, you think, oh, the Democrats sent me a bill. Well, I guess the 45 Republicans that voted with us on the original bill and the 44 that voted with us today, I guess they are Democrats, too. Or maybe they are just Members of Congress who say that it is their responsibility to make sure that poor children in their district and within the country have health care. Boy, that is something. And so I think it is very, very important that we move down and move in that direction.

I will put that rubber stamp off to the side because I never want to see those days again, but I wanted to bring it down to the floor because I thought it was fitting today that we do that.

I think it is important that we highlight the fact that there are a number of polls that have been out on this issue and who has said that Americans are in full, almost full support of expanding the children's health care bill.

Eighty-one percent in the CBS poll have said, I am for health care and expanding it for poor children; 81 percent, 15 opposed. And I think that is something to look at, and I think that is something that Members should pay very, very close attention to.

I also, Mr. Speaker, I think what is important, as we started looking at what is to be done in the very near future, we have to look at the fact that we have families, we have children, we have policymakers in the States that are counting on a children's health care program. We have doctors that are concerned about the lack of health care that children already are experiencing here in the United States, and so when we started talking about reauthorization, we started talking about expanding to more kids, they are happy but now they are concerned. We have over 170 organizations that deal with children and good government and support, still in support, of overriding the President on the health care bill on the SCHIP bill that he vetoed. That is history now. But I think it is important that, I want to encourage those Members that voted for the override, I want to encourage those Members on the Republican side, the 44 that voted with Democrats to override the President, to stay encouraged. To stay encouraged, because so many times we know about the glory, Mr. Speaker, but we don't necessarily know about the story. And right now we are writing the story on providing health care to poor children in the United States of America. And I say to children of the United States of America, because you have some Members here that are willing to vote for kids in Iraq and other places that have health care but not willing to vote for our own children here in the United States to get health care. And I think it is important that as we start to build this story, there is some good chapters and some bad chapters. And I think the good chapters that can be added to this story of getting to the glory part where we are able to have expanded benefits for children and also expanded coverage for children to provide health care for the next 5 years, or as long as we can get it at that number, for some Members who voted to not allow those children to have health care to come to the side of allowing them to have health care.

□ 1530

Voting in the affirmative for children's health care, now maybe the vote would have been a little different if this was 2008 and their constituents were paying very close attention to every vote that their Congressman or Congresswoman would take here on this floor.

But, you know, the good thing about it, some may say that, but I believe that the American people are paying attention to what's going on here. I also believe that the American spirit will rise up. I said that last Congress; and a lot of folks said, yeah, you know,

that's fine. The attention span, you know, of the average person is probably about, you know, a week or two or what have you. When it falls off the screen of the Today Show and other shows, it'll just kind of drift off.

But I can tell you this much: last Congress there were votes that were taken that the American people remembered. And I think it's important that folks understand that that will happen this time around.

And I'm not in the business of making sure that folks no longer serve in Congress. That's not my piece. I'm here to represent the people of the 17th Congressional District and the people of the United States of America to the best of my ability.

But I think that it's important because this is not politics, it's policy making, that those that voted against it be a part of a good chapter and allowing people to be able to have health care.

I want to commend the March of Dimes, all of the affiliates throughout the country that wrote their Congressmen and -women to vote in the affirmative to override the President.

I would like to thank those 501(c)(3) organizations. The lifeblood of their effort is through volunteers throughout America, and when they come in to volunteer for the March of Dimes, when they come in to volunteer for the Children's Defense Fund, I mean, all the different groups that are out there to do what they do on a daily basis that help this country be what it is today. I thank those individuals, because I don't want them to lose faith in the fact that we're not going to have their back. We're going to have their back. When I say "we," those of us that voted to override the President today.

I don't wake up every morning saying, hey, you know, I'm getting ready to go to the Capitol. We're going to override the President on a bill, on the children's health care bill or on making sure that we have sound policy in Iraq. I don't wake up on those days saying that I look forward to that opportunity. I don't look forward to that opportunity. I'd much rather us work in a bipartisan way to where we can move in that direction.

Well, let's look at the bill. The SCHIP bill received, I believe, 45 votes and the first time it came through here, that's bipartisan. Received, I believe, 14-plus votes in the Senate. Someone correct me if I'm wrong. That's bipartisan, Republican Members coming over and voting with Democrats to be able to move that bill through the process. That's bipartisan.

It gets to the President, all of a sudden it's partisan. Democratic Congress sent, no, it was a bipartisan Congress that sent him a children's health care bill. In the Senate, ORRIN HATCH, I mean, major Republicans are over there saying that the President's wrong and they had the votes, and they still do, to override the President of the United States. They have the votes over there.

In the House, we had a majority of votes, beyond a simple majority. We went well into, fell short 13 votes because Republican, on the Republican side of the aisle, 154 Republicans decided to stick with the President and not with the poor children in the United States of America.

I say all of that to say this: we would not have accomplished as much as we've accomplished, when I say "we," the 110th Congress, if it wasn't for a bipartisan spirit and allowing, not only Democrats, but also Republicans to have bills that they should feel good about when they vote for those bills.

Now, we talked about minimum wage passed on this floor. It was offered when we were in the minority in the last Congress, but never made it to the floor, never made it to a committee hearing.

The 9/11 recommendations, 9/11 Commission, great Americans put together a great document. It was a book, one of the best-selling books. And the President said he wasn't going to sign that. In a bipartisan way we passed that. Sent it to the President. He had to sign it.

And all of these signing opportunities, I don't call them ceremonies. You know, they usually kind of happen like on a Friday, you know, folks leaving town, about to go to Camp David, not going to make a big deal on his way out, just sign it into law instead of celebrating the bipartisan spirit we have here in the Congress and sending that legislation on.

Cutting student loan interest rates in half. That meant \$4,400 in the pockets of the individuals that have taken out the loans. And who are they? Children or young people that are trying to educate themselves to help us to be a stronger America and a more professional America so we can compete against other countries. It's not all about lock and load and shooting at someone. It's about making sure that we continue to stay the economic superpower of the world and to be able to provide the leadership in the world as it relates to a shining example of how one can educate him or herself and become all they want to be in the industry that they want to be, or provide a job to allow other Americans to work.

The President said he wasn't going to sign that. Thank you to the American people, thank you to the Members going back, talking to their constituents, thank you for all of those mothers and grandparents that wrote and emailed and said this is wrong, and that we want, if you want, you know, there's so many times we feel that we know what to do best here in Washington, D.C. because we understand what you need.

Well, guess what? \$4,400 in the pockets that they don't have to pay on interest rates, because the student loan companies were pocketing those dollars. We allowed those dollars to stay in the pockets of those individuals paying on the interest rate on those student loans; and they know what's best.

And guess what? I'm talking to independent voters too. I'm talking to Republican voters too. No one said, well, you know, based on my card, do I get it or not? No, not even based on your income. You get a student loan, you can be an individual punching in and punching out every day making the minimum wage, or you can be a family, a single parent, or you can be a two-parent household with a gross income of \$200,000, a household income of \$200,000 and you still get that \$4,400. And I think it's important, the President said he wasn't going to do it; he did it.

Now I'm asking the Members of Congress to stand in there on behalf of these children, not by their doing, but due to the fact that parents are trying to provide a way of life for them, and their only penalty is the fact that they can't afford health care. That's the only penalty that they have.

We have children that we're sending up to the military academies who cannot pass the tests, not the academic tests, not the fact that they didn't have the GPA to go to the Air Force Academy or to be able to go the Citadel or what have you. It's because they couldn't pass their physical because they didn't know they had a situation that could have been corrected to where they can be one of our best and brightest within our military and they're not able to do it because they don't have what they need to have.

The school lunch program started in World War II because kids were not healthy enough to be able to go into the military because they didn't have the very nutrients that they need to be able to function and grow up here in America. And that's the reason why we have that program today.

So when we started looking at things in a broader picture, I think it's very, very, important, Members, that we pay attention to the present. The 109th, 108th Congress I was a Member of. Before that, my mother was here 10 years prior to my arrival here in Congress. I paid very close attention to her movements, member of the Appropriations Committee, spent a lot of time trying to help a lot of people here in the United States of America. I am glad that it was a broad perspective versus a small perspective of saying, well, I need to stand with a person, with the President of the United States because he said he should not have his veto overridden. And I want to thank, he has a very good legislative staff that comes down here and talks to the Members and says, you know, you need to stick with the President, stick with the President.

Meanwhile, we had all these volunteers on the side of overriding the President, on the side of children's health care, that spent their own money, Mr. Speaker, to come here to Washington, D.C., walk the Halls. Thank God the Speaker had enough wisdom and the majority leader had enough wisdom to say we're going to

postpone the vote to allow those most affected, those that can afford to come to Washington or go to the district office of Members of Congress and the Senate and say please vote on behalf of children's health care because the President's wrong.

It's nothing wrong with being wrong sometimes, but not all the time. And I think it's important that when we look at this whole children's health care bill, I'm reading some articles about, well, you know, the Congress and the President, they need to sit down and come together on the line of compromise. And you know something? In Iraq, the President stands right at one point here on an issue and says this is it; this is what I'm going to do; this is how I'm going to do it and have enough Republicans to be able to stand with him so we can't be able to, well, if we pass a bill it will not be successful because he will veto the bill and it will come back here and then we'll fall 13 votes short. He stands firm, and then we have to end up having to work out some sort of compromise.

I'm going to tell you, I hope that this story, like I said, you have the story and the glory of everything. I hope as we continue to write this story and providing children the kind of health care, poor children the kind of health care that they deserve, that we stand. And when I say "we," the Democrats, the Democratic Caucus that voted to override the President, and the 44 Republicans that voted with us to give us the numbers that we needed.

And it's not just what I'm saying. It's what the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is saying. And it's what roll call vote No. 982 says. It says that 44 Republicans and 229 Democrats voted in the affirmative, a total of 273 versus 156 who voted against. So I think it's very, very important that we look at this and that Members pay attention to what's happening.

What side of history do you want to be on? What side of opportunity do you want to be on? And I think that's something that the Members are going to have to take into strong consideration.

I'm happy that the President signed bills that he said he wasn't going to sign. But it wasn't only because of our doing. It was because the American people mobilized and said, well, I know I am going to have my opportunity on a given Tuesday every other year to vote for my representation in Washington; but they mobilized to say that I have faith in this democracy and I'm going to continue to talk to Members of Congress of the importance of the children's health care bill.

And I'm asking for those Americans that took that time out to come to Washington, D.C., called, e-mailed, wrote letters, I want to commend them for doing the work that they did. It was the same group, the same volunteerism that came up out of the ground, literally, when the President wanted to privatize Social Security, and a good

majority of Republicans on that time was in the majority, rose up and said, well, we want to go with the President on the private accounts and privatizing. It was that same volunteer American spirit that stopped that movement.

So we can make something good happen here on behalf of children that are needing health care.

As I move into the close here, Mr. Speaker, and as I was here on the floor and I was listening to the Speaker close, I think that it's important the value of Members playing a very strong role in facts, not fiction. And I was proud to see, you know, there's a lot being said and people were saying different things. And there were some folks that said that, you know, on the Republican side, well, there's going to be funding for illegal aliens in the SCHIP bill. Well, that's not the case. That just wasn't the case.

And I'm glad that the Speaker brought this chart down here, and I asked for this chart when I came to the floor because I thought it was very, very important. Section 605, page 255, right here, right here, and I think it's important, maybe we put it on www.speaker.gov for not only the Members to see this and highlight it like this. So you go down to line 16, section 605, no Federal funding for illegal aliens. Period. So as I look through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Mr. Speaker, with my highlighter I could go through almost, when I hear from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, because they had very little to hold on to, I mean, how do you wake up in the morning and you say, well, I'm waking up this morning to deny 10 million children health care. Poor, at that. That's what I'm waking up to do this morning.

□ 1545

Or do you say "I'm waking up this morning to stand with the President on denying 10 million poor children health care"? Or do you say, "Well, maybe I can come up with this one: Somebody said it and I'm going to continue to say it, illegal aliens are going to receive health care from this bill, so that's the reason why I can't vote for it" when the law says that it doesn't?

I mean, I hope that the volunteers continue to talk to the 154 Republicans that voted against this. "Well, families that make \$83,000," that is not the case and the facts are right here. "These very wealthy families are going to get a government benefit," that is not the case. And I think it's important that we continue to shed light on this.

I think there should be some sort of meter here on the floor, to be honest with you, fact versus fiction, so that as Members come to the floor and they start talking and the meter starts moving over to the fiction side of it, then other Members will know how to judge what's accurate and what's not accurate. I think that would be very important because I think there will be

better policymaking and there will be fewer excuses why people didn't vote for certain bills.

I am not going to say that I'm mad. I'm just saying that I am disappointed. But the good thing about it, 14 years in public service, some of those years in the State legislature in Florida, 5 of those years, going on 6, here in Congress, there are votes that I remember. And this will be one of the votes that I will remember for the rest of my public career as long as the people from the 17th District will have me here from Florida, the day that we fell 13 votes short, not because of the lack of effort, not because we did not have the bipartisan spirit blowing through the air conditioning ducts here in the Chamber, not because there wasn't bipartisan input in the writing of the legislation need it be House or Senate, but because 13 Members out of 154 decided not to vote in affirmation.

I think it is also important to note, Mr. Speaker, that as we leave and we come back here, I believe, on Monday and we will be voting at 6:30, I hope that the Members engage their constituents on their vote, need it be against or for providing health care to poor children. I think that there should be a line of questioning as one walks through the airport when they get back home. Some of those volunteers out there should ask, "Congressman, how did you vote on overriding the President when he vetoed health care for 10 million poor children here in the United States?" I just want to make sure that one can answer that question with great accuracy. They may miss their flight or their connecting flight or they may even miss the ride home because it's going to be a long discussion. How can you be on the other side of 270 organizations that are not partisan organizations, that are non-partisan organizations, that are 501(c)3s, that are doctors, that are nurses, that are children's organizations, the different organizations and associations that have been created to be here for this very time to educate all of us on those disparities as it relates to health care, to expand the opportunity for 10 million children to have health care and deny it?

There was a bunch of name calling here in Washington, D.C. The President called it socialized medicine. What is socialized medicine? To sit up here and say "socialized medicine" after running up a \$1.19 trillion debt from foreign nations on a war and other things, tax cuts for the superwealthy, that more than 42 Presidents before him and \$1.01 trillion from 1776 to 2007 couldn't do.

You take out your veto pen only one time, one time in the first term when we had a Republican Congress, one time, and that was on stem cell research. And now, all of a sudden, you have a veto pen connected to your index finger in your right hand, walking around, waiting on bipartisan bills passing through this Congress, Demo-

crats and Republicans voting on these bills and sending them to you. And as soon as they get there, you want to veto them and then say something like the Congress is not doing what it's supposed to do.

When I was in the 109th Congress, I would already be home. We would probably vote 1 or 2 days out of the week and then we would go home. Now we're putting in the work, broke the record, 982 roll call votes and the year is not even over yet and we have a lot of work to do. Meanwhile, we have to take these votes to try to override the President. We could have been focused on another issue here today. We could have been focused on some of the appropriation bills that we were waiting to get through the process that we can't get through the process at this point.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that I had the opportunity to come down to the floor on this Thursday evening. I look forward to continuing to work with the bipartisan coalition, with the volunteer coalition in moving this issue forward. I look forward to listening to what Members are going to say in the press as to the reason why they voted for health care for children, which I am pretty sure can be a one-liner, versus those of the 13 votes that we fell short here on this floor in overriding the President and the 154 that voted against today, the dissertation that they have to write on the reason why they voted against children's having health care today.

I want to thank the work of not only the members of the committee but the staff here in working so hard here in Congress in trying to provide the health care that is needed.

I close with this, what I shared maybe about 20 minutes ago, Mr. Speaker: In the legislative process there's a great story. At the end, there is glory once we are able to provide 10 million children with health care. So as we write this story, the good thing about America is its okay to say maybe I took the wrong vote and I have made some mistakes. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have made some mistakes the years I have been in public service thus far, going on 14 years. I have taken some votes and later I said next time I have the opportunity, I'm going to vote the right way. I know more because I studied a little bit more. I have heard some input from both sides. And that's just the human spirit. I mean, that's fine. That happens. But when you have so much information and it is so clear and the evidence is there to show that we have States that are going to be running close to their program ending and children are not going to have health care and we are sitting here trying to override the President and we fall short 13 votes not because of the lack of will, not because of the lack of desire, it's because of whatever reason that those Members of Congress decided not to override the veto. The Senate has the

votes to override. In the House we did not have it, and 154 of my Republican colleagues voted against our doing that. And I think that is very important to note. Again, it's not politics; it's just the facts. And the facts are what they are. And when that roll call vote took place today, which I am pretty sure you will see printed today, roll call vote 982, it may very well be the vote that may give us some new Members of Congress here that may very well provide the kind of leadership that we need. But we cannot wait on that to happen because children will be denied health care, poor children will be denied health care.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to address the House, and I want to thank the majority leader for allowing me to have the hour.

I know that the story will continue. We look forward to the glory. And I want to ask those that are pushing to continue to push, and I believe we will make it to where poor children will be able to receive the health care that they deserve and this country should provide.

SCHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

There have been a number of times that I have come down here to convey a message to you and the American people. And after having listened to the gentleman from Florida and his 30-Something colleagues, my material has just gotten so massive, I'm not sure I can rebut all that in the time that I have, let alone convey the message that I came here to convey, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, there seems to be great confusion on the Democrat side of the aisle about the difference between health insurance and health care. They seem to believe, or at least would like to have the American people believe, that kids in America are being denied health care.

This debate about SCHIP has never been about health care. I would draw this comparison: You will hear often in the debates in this country about people are pro-immigrant or anti-immigrant. And when I say that, Mr. Speaker, people draw up an image about being pro-immigrant and anti-immigrant. Some people think illegal immigrants; some people think, appropriately, legal immigrants. When we say "immigrant," we should imply legal immigrant, and when we talk about illegal immigrants, we should say so.

The same goes with health care and health insurance. To interchange the terms and, I think, willfully inform the