Madam Speaker, last week the rubber stamp Republicans in

this House once again held true to their name by voting to stand with

the President and reject health care coverage for 10 million American

children. The spending priorities of the President's Republican allies

in the House are simply out of line with the priorities of the American

people. In fact, the 86 percent of Americans who support this

bipartisan CHIP reauthorization might be interested to know that for

the cost of just 37 days in Iraq, we could provide health care coverage

to 10 million children. Yet the President's irresponsible, open-ended

commitment to the occupation in Iraq continues, while the number of

American children without access to health care keeps climbing.

Madam Speaker, yesterday the President asked Congress to borrow

another $196 billion to continue his failed blank-check, no-plan policy

in Iraq. But he and his Republican friends in

this body apparently feel that spending $35 billion on a highly

successful program that provides health care to uninsured children is

excessive.

It's time for Republicans to stop blindly following the President and

start helping American families.