Mr. Speaker, President Bush and congressional Republicans

have no problem writing blank checks

for the war in Iraq, but ask them to prioritize the health care needs

for 10 million low-income children, and they can't be bothered. Every

month, every month we are spending $9 billion in Iraq that is borrowed

from our children, because the President has always demanded that

funding for the Iraq war be classified as emergency spending and,

therefore, not subject to the pay-as-you-go rules.

Three-and-a-half months of Iraq war funding equals the funding needed

to extend health care coverage to 10 million children over the next 5

years. Unlike the war, our children's health is fully paid for with

absolutely no deficit spending; yet President Bush vetoed this

bipartisan compromise because he said it included excessive spending.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans need to show the President that there

are other priorities in our Nation besides the never-ending war in

Iraq. They should send that message by joining us tomorrow in

overriding the President's veto and caring about our Nation's children.