

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3961, which, rightly understood, is just the latest deficit spending bill championed by my Democrat colleagues here on Capitol Hill. It is, in a very real sense, an addendum to the government takeover of healthcare that was just rammed through this House just two short weeks ago with a price tag in excess of \$1.3 trillion.

"The President of the United States just said in China, 'If we keep adding to the debt, even in the midst of this recovery, people could lose confidence in the U.S. economy.' Maybe it'd help if the President said that in America, instead of China. Then, maybe his party would get the message.

"Two days ago we learned the national debt just pushed past \$12 trillion. That means every man, woman and child in this country bears the burden of more than \$38,000 in federal government debt. In October alone, the deficit reached \$176.4 billion dollars, and now comes one more deficit spending bill to facilitate passage of a government takeover of healthcare. Under the guise of helping doctors and seniors, this one will cost taxpayers in future generations \$200 billion. And it all goes straight to deficits and debt. One analysis by the Heritage Foundation estimates the cost of this bill over 75 years nearly \$2 trillion, and Medicare premiums are estimated to increase by some \$50 billion.

"It seems there's no level of spending and debt that Washington Democrats aren't willing to pile on struggling families and future generations. We are here today considering this latest deficit spending bill because Democrat leaders refuse to address healthcare reform in a fiscally responsible way. It is worth noting that this so-called 'doctor fix' was a part of earlier versions of healthcare reform, but to perpetrate the fiction that their government takeover of healthcare was passed in a fiscally responsible way, we are doing this addendum to the Pelosi healthcare bill.

"Truth is, the spending policies of this Congress and this Administration are a fiscal time bomb being placed on the doorstep of our children's future. We have a responsibility to put our fiscal house in order, but sadly, there are those who would rather pursue an ambitious liberal agenda, no matter what the cost, at the possible expense of our children's posterity and prosperity.

"There is a Republican plan which we support; it'll fix the problem we're trying to address over the next four years, it'll pay for the bill, it'll lay the groundwork for meaningful healthcare reform, thereby ending an era of defensive medicine.

"This is, I just hasten to repeat, this is just one more deficit spending bill in an era when the American people are bone-weary of runaway federal spending. Frankly, when Republicans were in control, we did our share of deficit spending and the American people showed us the door. What we have here in Washington, D.C., as evidenced today, is runaway federal spending on steroids.

"You know, there's a rule back in Indiana, where I grew up, when you're in a hole, stop digging. Today, we're going to dig the hole of the deficit even deeper, and the American people deserve better. I urge my colleagues to oppose this measure and support the Republican plan."