Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak of the pressing need to fix our health care system. Every day, Americans not only worry about getting well, but whether they can afford to get well or stay healthy.

They are not the only ones who worry. All too often small businesses are forced to choose between coverage or layoffs. We have the most expensive health care system in the world; spending almost 50 percent more per person on health care than the next most costly nation. Yet we are no healthier for it.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that Congress and the President are working together on a plan to reform our health care system; a plan that will reduce costs, provide choices, and guarantee affordable, quality health care for all. We must act now for it is evident that the status quo is simply not working.

I yield back.