who pay the taxes we are asking about. But they cannot find the time to address the needs of America's families.

We already know they will not bring a patients' protection act to the floor because they will not stand up to the HMO industry, and now, 1 month before the start of the school year, they will not even bring up a school modernization bill to the floor because they will not stand up and be counted for the Nation's children.

So, this morning, we Democrats begin signing a discharge petition to force them to do so. Some of our children will be going back to schools where there is inadequate heating for the winter, and without the modern educational tools they deserve.

Yes, this Republican Congress is a do-nothing Congress, but much worse than that, it has no values. The values of our children should be upheld today.

AMERICANS CAN BE TRUSTED TO USE THEIR MONEY WISELY

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Glenn McCoy of the Belleville News-Democrat in Illinois. He is a political cartoonist whose cartoon has been circulating throughout the country this week. It shows the President of the United States at a McDonald's and the cashier behind the counter saying, ''You are right, Mr. President. I did charge you too much for your value meal, leaving me with extra cash, a surplus, if you will. However, I feel it would be irresponsible and risky to give you your money back.''

How ironic. The President, just a few months ago in Buffalo, New York, speaking about the Nation's budget surplus said, we could give it all back to you and hope you spend it right, but . . .

What we see unfolding today in Washington, D.C. is a sad example of the ideals of the White House and the President and the Democrat party who want to keep the change of the American taxpayers.

We have a different opinion on the Republican side. We believe the American taxpayers deserve their change back. Let us give them their change back and trust the American people to build good schools, to afford health insurance, and to run their families as they see fit.

A STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax deal is a step in the wrong direction. We must use this historic opportunity to save Social Security and Medicare and to pay down on our national debt. We should not be wasting it on huge tax breaks for America's wealthiest people.

The Republican tax bill does nothing to save Social Security, nothing to strengthen Medicare, nothing to reduce our national debt. A huge windfall for the rich, pocket change; pocket change for working Americans.

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Yes, it is pocket change for working families. It is a mistake. It is irresponsible. It is not the right thing to do. It is not the right direction to go.

TAX RELIEF

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we are faced with the largest tax burden since World War II, and what many people do not realize is that the Federal Government is taxing our American values.

For example, the death tax. The death tax is one of the most onerous taxes imposed by our own Federal Government. It is double and triple taxation on American families' hard-earned savings. Even worse, the death tax forces grieving sons and daughters to sell the family business or farms just to pay their taxes. It is outrageous for the Federal Government to do this to our families.

With almost no support from the Democrats, Republicans in the House and Senate have agreed to eliminate the death tax. But President Clinton has no compassion for American values. He is saying he will veto it.

Enough is enough. It is time to start repealing taxes on our American values. Americans want, need, and deserve tax relief now.

SUPPORT THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS AND PASS REAL HMO REFORM NOW

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week there was a newspaper article that highlighted one of the fundamental issues at the center of the HMO debate: Who decides medical necessity, an insurance company or our local doctors?

A doctor was treating a pregnant woman who had obstetric coverage and needed a shot to protect her unborn baby from the chicken pox virus. Despite the fact that this shot is routine in this situation, and the fact that her insurance coverage also covered obstetrical care, her HMO refused to pay for that shot.

The response by the American Association of Health Care Plans was that the decision to deny care was probably based on the fact that the service was not covered by that woman's health plan. Now it seems it is not enough simply to purchase a health insurance that covers obstetric care, but HMOs expect every employer in our country to make sure that every foreseeable problem or treatment is specifically covered.

Obviously, that would be impossible, and it is ridiculous to even suggest that. If our insurance plan covers a medical condition, our doctor should be able to decide how to treat us for that particular medical condition.

The right of doctors to determine medical necessity is one of the key issues that has been included in the HMO reform bill that is predominantly Democrat-supported.

THE MIAMI RIVER CLEANUP PROJECT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, scores of south Florida boaters and hundreds of volunteers will be picking up debris and trash from the Miami River on the last weekend of this month to contribute to the cleanup efforts that are paramount to the revitalization of this important waterway.

The cleanup is being organized by my office, by the Save Old Stiltsville group, and the Miami River Commission, to encourage others to become active in environmental issues and to promote volunteerism in our community.

The cleaning of the Miami River is vital to both the ecosystems and the economy of our south Florida community. The Miami River is the fifth largest port in the State of Florida, and it is an important link to the Caribbean and Latin America.

This cleanup effort is a good example of what can be accomplished when there is a successful coalition of businesses, civic leaders, environmentalists, and elected officials working together toward one common goal.

I congratulate the Save Old Stiltsville organization for caring so deeply about preserving our community's resources. Let us join them and clean up the Miami River.

THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES, AND THE REPUBLICANS HAVE NO SURPLUS TO SPEND ON TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, ''emergency,'' an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.

Today the House of Representatives, under Republican leadership, will declare an emergency, $4.5 billion for the decennial census. Since that is required