

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today released the following comments on his expectations for President Obama's State of the Union address this evening:

"I hope the President will address the economic and national security concerns of American families. Having spent the better part of the last year on an unnecessarily partisan health care debate, he must now focus sincere attention on the health of our economy and the strength of our homeland security.

"Lasting economic recovery must start at home with a renewed focus on hometown small businesses, entrepreneurs, and a revitalized manufacturing base. At the same time, Washington must get its fiscal house in order. Recent news of this year's \$1.35 trillion deficit is staggering. The combination of bailouts for Wall Street, excessive spending, and government overreach has run its course.

"We must also strengthen our commitment to national security and global stability. We have committed expansive resources in Iraq and Afghanistan, yet an extremist ideologue exposes our vulnerabilities by successfully getting a bomb on a plane. We must recognize the threats to our security are very real, ranging from such acts of terror to nuclear weapons proliferation, and demand engagement from an international community too often content to benefit from American sacrifice."

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