

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Jeff Fortenberry tonight released the following statement after President Obama’s 2011 State of the Union Address to Congress:

“The State of the Union is always a very grand occasion and opportunity for the three branches of government to come together and reflect on the well-being of our nation.

“The President set an important thematic emphasizing education, innovation, and rebuilding America; however, it took nine pages into the speech to get to the deeply serious fiscal condition of the United States Government. Addressing our deepening debt isn’t the ‘final step’—it should be our first step, and that will lead the way to economic recovery and job creation.

“Our government needs a total money makeover. It is important to remember that the size of government grew unsustainably over the last three years. We cannot continue the bailout era’s level of spending. As the American people are having to tighten their belts substantially in these difficult times, so should government. I think it is important to note the President mentioned the centrality of the family for the proper education of the child, and there was an important emphasis on creative energy policy for our national security and economic vitality.”

Fortenberry is a member of the House Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Committees.

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