WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Jeff Fortenberry tonight issued the following statement in reaction to the President's State of the Union Address before a Joint Session of Congress:

"The President began and ended his speech with a poignant and appropriate tribute to our military. I thought he strongly addressed reviving American manufacturing and creating a fair trade environment. He then followed with a litany of unsustainable and contradictory policy statements that suggested a concentration of power in Washington—most egregious among them a federal takeover of education. I find this aspect very troublesome.

"We need a return to the best of America—the potential of the individual, in concert with community, to create opportunity, solve problems, and build successes.

"Responsible individuals, families, and small businesses will renew America."

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