WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) issued the following statement after the House's introduction of health care reform legislation, the America's Affordable Health Choices Act.

"We are closer than we have been in decades to an agreement on how to make our health system work. The growing cost of health care is one of the single biggest drags on our economy and if we don't reform the system it will prevent a full economic recovery.

This is our chance to put doctors and patients back in charge. This is our chance to give Americans peace of mind, and allow them the option to keep the care they like and never be denied the care they need. This is our chance to lower costs, offer more choices, and end the unproductive practice of making job and life decisions based solely on the fear of losing health care coverage.

Reforming a severely broken system will not be cheap, and I know people are worried about what this new healthcare system will cost. The plan introduced today is "budget-neutral" so that we don't add to our debt. Now I need to spend time studying the different ways the three committees involved in crafting the bill have proposed to pay for health care reform.

I'm excited about this possibility for positive change that will affect all Americans."