

**WASHINGTON** – Congressman Spencer Bachus made the following comments after hearing President Bush's State of the Union address:

“It is important to remember the President's speech is about the state of the union, and the state of the union is sound. Political differences should not blind us to this essential fact:

The United States is the leader of the world and we should be proud to be citizens of this great nation.

“An emphasis on expanding health insurance is critically important. We have the best healthcare system in the world and Birmingham is blessed with the very best. But unfortunately, lack of health insurance makes that care either unattainable or a financial hardship for many.

The President has proposed a tax change that will make health insurance more accessible and affordable without getting us into government-run healthcare.

“Members of Congress from both parties working together and with the President need to make that happen. We already started doing precisely that with some of the bills coming out of the Financial Services Committee, where I serve as Ranking Republican.”

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