WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio tonight responded to President Obama's address to the joint session of Congress on health care.

"On Wednesday night, President Obama finally stepped up to the plate and outlined a path to Congress for a plan that would provide affordable health care for all Americans. A plan that would strengthen and ensure continued coverage for Americans who have health coverage today through their employers, self insurance, Medicare, or the VA and, a plan that would help small businesses, the uninsured and those who have lost their coverage to afford quality coverage. It is a plan to reign in abusive insurance industry practices and eliminate fraud and abuse in the health care system.

It's a challenge to Congress to re-set the debate; simplify and improve the existing legislation and deliver on a long delayed promise of affordable, quality health care coverage for all Americans.

We've been waiting 100 years; we shouldn't have to wait any longer."