WASHINGTON – American Action Forum President Douglas Holtz-Eakin issued the following statement after the House of Representatives rejected a plan to extend the payroll tax, unemployment benefits and the Medicare reimbursement rates for doctors through February.

“I applaud the House of Representatives for rejecting another gimmicky, short-term ‘fix’ that Washington so often resorts to instead of a long-term strategy for prosperity,” said Holtz-Eakin. “Extending the payroll tax cut through February would have merely delayed the debate for a few months and allowed Washington to head home for the holidays without having accomplished anything of substance. This delay-then-disappoint strategy is irresponsible. The fact that our economy continues to be mired in a ditch after repeating this approach so many times is not a coincidence. It is time for deep, permanent structural reforms to taxes and entitlement programs that will ease the burden on America’s entrepreneurs and re-ignite rapid economic growth.”

###