

I encourage my colleagues to imagine how many babies' lives we can save by simply investing in the right programs to prevent their deaths. Please join me in cosponsoring this bill and supporting its swift enactment into law.

DAYCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of working families across the country who are trying to make ends meet.

As a mother, a grandmother, and someone who has employed moms and dads, I know that raising a family is a great joy, but it can also be a great source of anxiety. Children are a blessing, but raising a family introduces serious challenges and costs.

In Missouri, the average annual cost of center-based infant care is estimated to be \$8,632. That is \$719 a month. Infant care in Missouri costs \$634 more per year than in-state tuition at a 4-year public college, and it is unaffordable for so very many families.

According to a study published by the Economic Policy Institute, a daycare center for two children—an infant and, say, a 4-year-old—costs \$17,940. That is 102 percent more than the average rent in Missouri. A typical family in Missouri has to spend a shocking 30 percent of their income on daycare for their two children.

In fact, it is estimated that the cost of childcare for two children exceeds annual median rent payments in every State. Paying for childcare is just plain hard for every working family I have spoken with in the State of Missouri.

In the 1970s, Congress heard America's families loud and clear and created the dependent care flexible spending accounts. These accounts allow parents to contribute pretax dollars to pay for qualified out-of-pocket dependent care expenses.

They are not only for children. These accounts can also be used to pay for adult dependents who use adult daycare, eldercare or similar services.

It is a great program, but it has not kept up with the needs of today's families. Despite rising childcare costs, Congress has not raised the FSA contribution cap since 1986. That is why, this week, I am introducing the Child and Dependent Care Modernization Act.

This bill will modernize the maximum amount a family can contribute to dependent care flexible spending accounts to track with the real costs of dependent care today. It will also index the maximum contribution limit so that the value of an FSA will increase in the future as dependent care costs increase.

Another challenge that many families enrolled in an FSA experience is the "use-it-or-lose-it" rule. If parents don't use the full balance in their FSA

before the year ends, they forfeit their unused money, limiting the ability of parents to save for ongoing costs of care. My bill will allow unused funds to roll over into the next plan year and return a little more freedom and flexibility to America's families.

This bill is part of my legislative work to make the lives of Missouri's families just a little easier. I look forward to introducing this legislation and working with my colleagues to make it law.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. Brad Jurkovich, First Bossier, Bossier City, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we come before You today fully aware that we face tremendous challenges and tremendous opportunities as a nation. Your word says in Proverbs 2:6, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

As we prepare to debate, discuss, and discern the right solutions and strategies for this great Nation, we ask You, God, to give us Your wisdom, Your knowledge, and Your understanding.

I pray for every leader here today that they know the power and presence of God is real and that there are millions of Americans praying for them to be men and women of courage, character, and conviction.

I pray the decisions that come from this place be those that honor You, Lord, and bless the people of this land. Help us, O God, to be a nation that stands strong for freedom for our generation and the generations to come.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROUZER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. BRAD JURKOVICH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to introduce my pastor and friend, Dr. Brad Jurkovich, as our guest chaplain. He has led us in prayer this morning, and we are so grateful to have him.

Pastor Brad is the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bossier City, Louisiana. First Bossier is a multigenerational church dedicated to reaching families throughout north Louisiana, America, and the world. Our motto is: Every person, every family, experiencing Christ in every way.

Pastor Brad received his bachelor of arts in biblical studies and his master of divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He received his doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his lovely wife, Stephanie, have four awesome children: Cassidy, Carter, Caroline, and Catherine.

Pastor Brad is a gifted speaker and a leader with a true servant's heart who loves Jesus and seeks to share the message of salvation with everyone he meets. He is a man committed to reaching this generation with the hope of Christ.

It is an honor to have him here today to ask God's blessings over us, our work, and our Nation at this historic time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help me in welcoming my friend and pastor, Dr. Brad Jurkovich.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALBERG). The Chair will entertain up