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#### CHILDCARE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about an important issue affecting families across our country, including in my home State of California.

I am a single mom, and I know firsthand that we have a childcare crisis in this country. Two years ago, I spent \$16,000 on childcare for my daughter Betsy to attend the U.C. Irvine-Verano Preschool. That is more than it would have been for an entire year of tuition for her to be an undergraduate at U.C. Irvine.

I was able to keep \$5,000 of the money that I earned pretax to go toward those childcare expenses in a flexible spending account, but that didn't go very far to cover childcare for Betsy, never mind my other two children. The \$5,000 doesn't even get me to tax day. This is the reality of raising a family in Orange County and in so many places across the country.

In only one State is childcare considered affordable. Let that sink in. In every State but one, the majority of families have to spend more than 7 percent of their income on childcare.

My constituents in the 45th Congressional District have asked me to help them make childcare affordable.

Jennifer, who works in my district, has two children under the age of 3. She and her husband will spend 23 percent of their gross income on childcare next year. That is not affordable.

In Irvine, Erica and her husband spend \$1,350 each month for childcare for their 3-year-old son. They have access to a flexible spending account through their employer, but the \$5,000 that current law allows only covers 31 percent of their annual childcare cost.

Even for those with school-age children, the most affordable city-sponsored camps so parents can work during the summer and spring break, exceed \$5,000. And the cost of eldercare is equally out of proportion to the current \$5,000 limit on the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.

That is why I am introducing the bipartisan Family Savings for Kids and Seniors Act. This bill will allow families to keep more of their own paychecks, pretax, to use for the care for kids, grandparents, and other family members that they incur so that they can work. The bill does this by adjusting the limit that Americans can put into their Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts, or FSAs. Families use this pretax benefit to help pay for preschool, camps, adult daycare, and childcare.

The \$5,000 limit under current law has not changed since it was enacted in 1986, but childcare costs have certainly

risen with the cost of inflation. There is no reason why a family's ability to save for dependent care shouldn't have increased with time as well.

If my bill were in effect now, families would be able to put \$11,300 in their flexible savings accounts. That is about the average cost of childcare for one child in this country.

The Family Savings for Kids and Seniors Act offers families a way to keep more of what they earn to pay for the childcare and eldercare that allows them to work. The work that parents do adds to the vitality and the strength of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting America's working families.

#### RECOGNIZING GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a faith community in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that truly embodies the virtues of kindness and charity. Grace Bible Church in Souderton, will be hosting its sixth annual Easter dinner, where all members of our community are welcome.

Like last year, Grace Bible Church will be offering transportation to residents of Grundy Manor in Telford and Valley Vista in Souderton so that they are able to participate in an evening of food and fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to all of the congregants of Grace Bible Church for opening their doors to our neighbors and for living out their Christian faith in their actions.

I would like to particularly thank and recognize one of the event's organizers, Carol Doyle, for her work, along with Pastor Dave Dunbar for his vision and for his leadership.

#### RECOGNIZING ALAN HARTL IN HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of a true professional and advocate in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, after his nearly 40 years of providing mental health counseling and recovery services to members of our community.

Alan Hartl will be stepping down as the chief executive officer of the Lenape Valley Foundation after a long and distinguished career. A psychologist, Alan has, for decades, been a strong advocate for those with behavioral health needs.

Widely respected throughout Bucks County and among his peers, Alan is a member of the board of directors of both the National Council for Behavioral Health and the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association.

Alan's dedication to improving the lives of our neighbors and his delivering hope to those most in need are truly admirable. I wish him all the best

in his new chapter, and I wish his successor, Sharon Curran, all of the best in her new role.

#### RECOGNIZING CAROLANN BEGLEY FOR HER WORK TO PREVENT HUNGER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding school administrator in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, who was recently recognized by a national nonprofit organization for her work to prevent hunger amongst our community students.

Carolann Begley, nutrition services area supervisor at North Penn High School, was named a Breakfast Hero by the organization, No Kid Hungry.

Carolann's work has been instrumental in making breakfast more accessible to students, notably through her work to implement a breakfast cart for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Speaker, our community school administrators and educators work tirelessly to give our students the resources they need to pursue their goals. I applaud Carolann for her service, and I would also like to thank North Penn High School Principal Pete Nicholson and the No Kid Hungry network, an organization, for all of the work that they do for our community.

#### COMMEMORATING THE FIGHTIN' FIFTY-FIFTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the longstanding bond our Midwest communities enjoy with the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth Wing, the United States Air Force wing right here at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. It has units all over the world.

The 55th Wing and the 55th Wing Association will jointly celebrate a uniquely treasured relationship at this year's reunion in April that will feature numerous dedications and commemorative events.

The Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's historic lineage began before World War II. Since 1940, the unit has distinguished itself as a preeminent Air Force organization, flying and supporting worldwide operations in peace and conflict. Of note, the 55th Fighter Group conducted fighter sweeps over the invasion beaches on June 6, 1944, using their P-38s. In 1966, the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth transferred to Nebraska as part of the Strategic Air Command.

For over 50 years, the 55th Wing personnel have supported national interests around the world, focusing on providing first-class reconnaissance, real-time intelligence, command and control, information warfare, and combat support capabilities. It is the largest wing in Air Combat Command and flies the most diverse types of aircraft.

Notably, since Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, the 55th Wing is the only Air Force wing with continuous operations, maintenance, and aircraft presence in