

the other side will not accept. Unfortunately, that is what is being done here.

So I regret that. I hope my friends at some point will decide to come back and bargain. I suspect they will. They usually do. But we are wasting precious time now. We could have completed all these bills.

Frankly, I will chastise the Senate here, too, because they are not moving very fast on the basic necessity of these bills. They have a tougher process. They can't just get a majority and ram things through the way my friends have the ability to do when they are in the majority and we have the ability to do when we are in the majority. It is a little bit different in the Senate of the United States. I recognize that.

But we should make a contribution. We should have stuck to our agreement. We need emergency spending, which I think we do. That should come outside the confines of this legislation in standalone, emergency legislation agreed to by both sides negotiating in good faith. We have done that four times this year already. We are pretty good at it. If we would do it again for a fifth—and they are trying to do it now in the Senate—then I think we could deal with those other items that are in these bills that, quite frankly, belong in a standalone supplemental dealing with coronavirus.

So, with that, I want to thank my friend for the time, and I want to thank him for the debate. As always, I look forward to working with him; but, for the moment, I urge the rejection of the rule and urge the rejection of the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the Rules Committee staff and members for all of their incredible work during the last few weeks. We have processed thousands of amendments. We have had hours and hours and hours of hearings. We have listened to countless Members testify, and we were able to get through it all.

But, again, I want people to appreciate especially the work of the staff. I say that in a bipartisan way that the Democratic staff and the Republican staff of the Rules Committee worked incredibly hard. I don't think most people even know it, but they ought to know it because this is a lot of work.

I say to the gentleman from Oklahoma who is my friend, we don't always agree on everything, but I am very fortunate to have him as a ranking member because I think he respects this institution and he fights very hard for his beliefs. I fight hard for my beliefs. But even when we disagree, it is not in a personal way. We can disagree without being disagreeable, and I appreciate him for that, and my other colleagues as well.

□ 1115

Mr. Speaker, this rule is about moving forward to consider a measure to

get annual and emergency funding moving to help put people back to work, to reinvigorate our public health system, to rebuild our aging roads and bridges, and to put an important check on this administration. This rule also is about whether we should debate hundreds and hundreds of amendments from Democrats and Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, this is ultimately about whether we fulfill one of our most fundamental responsibilities. I urge all of my colleagues to come together in support of this rule and the underlying legislation. Let's ensure this Congress continues to provide the leadership the American people are demanding.

The material previously preferred to by Mr. COLE is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 1067

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 6. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (S. 939) to establish limitations regarding Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of S. 939.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL ACT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1053, I call up the bill (H.R. 7027) making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McGOVERN). Pursuant to House Resolution 1053, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-58 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 7027

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

For an additional amount for "Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant", \$50,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for necessary expenses to carry out the Child Care Stabilization Fund grants program, as authorized by section 1 of this Act: Provided, That such funds shall be available without regard to the requirements in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of section 658E(c)(3) or section 658G of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be made available to restore amounts, either directly or through reimbursement, for obligations incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act for the purposes provided herein: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress.

CHILD CARE STABILIZATION FUND

SEC. 1. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CCDBG TERMS.—The terms "eligible child care provider", "Indian tribe", "lead agency", "tribal organization", "Secretary", and "State" have the meanings given the terms in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n) except as otherwise provided in this section.

(2) COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term "COVID-19 public health emergency" means the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID-19, including any renewal of the declaration.

(b) GRANTS.—From the amounts appropriated to carry out this section and under the authority of section 658O of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m) and this section, the Secretary shall award child care stabilization grants to the lead agency of each State (as defined in that section 658O), territory described in subsection (a)(1) of such section, Indian tribe, and tribal organization from allotments and payments made under subsection (c)(2), not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) SECRETARIAL RESERVATION AND ALLOTMENTS.—

(1) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this section for the Federal administration of grants described in subsection (b).

(2) ALLOTMENTS.—The Secretary shall use the remainder of the funds appropriated to carry out this section to award allotments to States, as defined in section 658O of the Child Care Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m), and payments to territories, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), and subsection (b), of section 658O of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m).

(d) STATE RESERVATIONS AND SUBGRANTS.—

(1) **RESERVATION.**—A lead agency for a State that receives a child care stabilization grant pursuant to subsection (b) shall reserve not more than 10 percent of such grant funds—

(A) to administer subgrants made to qualified child care providers under paragraph (2), including to carry out data systems building and other activities that enable the disbursement of payments of such subgrants;

(B) to provide technical assistance and support in applying for and accessing the subgrant opportunity under paragraph (2), to eligible child care providers (including to family child care providers, group home child care providers, and other non-center-based child care providers and providers with limited administrative capacity), either directly or through resource and referral agencies or staffed family child care networks;

(C) to publicize the availability of subgrants under this section and conduct widespread outreach to eligible child care providers, including family child care providers, group home child care providers, and other non-center-based child care providers and providers with limited administrative capacity, either directly or through resource and referral agencies or staffed family child care networks, to ensure eligible child care providers are aware of the subgrants available under this section;

(D) to carry out the reporting requirements described in subsection (f); and

(E) to carry out activities to improve the supply and quality of child care during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as conducting community needs assessments, carrying out child care cost modeling, making improvements to child care facilities, increasing access to licensure or participation in the State's tiered quality rating system, and carrying out other activities described in section 658G(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e(b)), to the extent that the lead agency can carry out activities described in this subparagraph without preventing the lead agency from fully conducting the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(2) **SUBGRANTS TO QUALIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The lead agency shall use the remainder of the grant funds awarded pursuant to subsection (b) to make subgrants to qualified child care providers described in subparagraph (B), to support the stability of the child care sector during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency. The lead agency shall provide the subgrant funds in advance of provider expenditures for costs described in subsection (e), except as provided in subsection (e)(2).

(B) **QUALIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER.**—To be qualified to receive a subgrant under this paragraph, a provider shall be an eligible child care provider that—

(i) was providing child care services on or before March 1, 2020; and

(ii) on the date of submission of an application for the subgrant, was either—

(I) open and available to provide child care services; or

(II) closed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(C) **SUBGRANT AMOUNT.**—The lead agency shall make subgrants, from amounts awarded pursuant to subsection (b), to qualified child care providers, and the amount of such a subgrant to such a provider shall—

(i) be based on the provider's stated average operating expenses during the period (of not longer than 6 months) before March 1, 2020 and at minimum cover such operating expenses for the intended length of the subgrant;

(ii) account for increased costs of providing or preparing to provide child care as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as provider and employee compensation and existing benefits (existing as of March 1, 2020) and

the implementation of new practices related to sanitization, group size limits, and social distancing;

(iii) be adjusted for payments or reimbursements made to an eligible child care provider to carry out the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) or the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.); and

(iv) be adjusted for payments or reimbursements made to an eligible child care provider through the Paycheck Protection Program set forth in section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)), as added by section 1102 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136).

(D) **APPLICATION.**—

(i) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this paragraph, a child care provider shall submit an application to a lead agency at such time and in such manner as the lead agency may require. Such application shall include—

(I) a good-faith certification that the ongoing operations of the child care provider have been impacted as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(II) for a provider described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I), an assurance that, for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency—

(aa) the provider will give priority for available slots (including slots that are only temporarily available) to—

(AA) children of essential workers (such as health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farmworkers, child care employees, and other workers determined to be essential during the response to coronavirus by public officials), children of workers whose places of employment require their attendance, children experiencing homelessness, children with disabilities, children at risk of child abuse or neglect, and children in foster care, in States where stay-at-home or related orders are in effect; or

(BB) children of workers whose places of employment require their attendance, children experiencing homelessness, children with disabilities, children at risk of child abuse or neglect, children in foster care, and children whose parents are in school or a training program, in States where stay-at-home or related orders are not in effect;

(bb) the provider will implement policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the corresponding State and local authorities, and in accordance with State and local orders, for child care providers that remain open, including guidance on sanitization practices, group size limits, and social distancing;

(cc) for each employee, the provider will pay the full compensation described in subsection (e)(1)(C), including any benefits, that was provided to the employee as of March 1, 2020 (referred to in this clause as “full compensation”), and will not take any action that reduces the weekly amount of the employee's compensation below the weekly amount of full compensation, or that reduces the employee's rate of compensation below the rate of full compensation; and

(dd) the provider will provide relief from copayments and tuition payments for the families enrolled in the provider's program and prioritize such relief for families struggling to make either type of payments;

(III) for a provider described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II), an assurance that—

(aa) for the duration of the provider's closure due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, for each employee, the provider will pay full compensation, and will not take any action that reduces the weekly amount of the employee's compensation below the weekly amount of full compensation, or that reduces the employee's rate of compensation below the rate of full compensation;

(bb) children enrolled as of March 1, 2020, will maintain their slots, unless their families choose to disenroll the children;

(cc) for the duration of the provider's closure due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the provider will provide relief from copayments and tuition payments for the families enrolled in the provider's program and prioritize such relief for families struggling to make either type of payments; and

(dd) the provider will resume operations when the provider is able to safely implement policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the corresponding State and local authorities, and in accordance with State and local orders;

(IV) information about the child care provider's—

(aa) program characteristics sufficient to allow the lead agency to establish the child care provider's priority status, as described in subparagraph (F);

(bb) program operational status on the date of submission of the application;

(cc) type of program, including whether the program is a center-based child care, family child care, group home child care, or other non-center-based child care type program;

(dd) total enrollment on the date of submission of the application and total capacity as allowed by the State; and

(ee) receipt of assistance, and amount of assistance, through a payment or reimbursement described in subparagraph (C)(iv), and the time period for which the assistance was made;

(V) information necessary to determine the amount of the subgrant, such as information about the provider's stated average operating expenses over the period before March 1, 2020, described in subparagraph (C)(i); and

(VI) such other limited information as the lead agency shall determine to be necessary to make subgrants to qualified child care providers.

(ii) **FREQUENCY.**—The lead agency shall accept and process applications submitted under this subparagraph on a rolling basis.

(iii) **UPDATES.**—The lead agency shall—

(I) at least once a month, verify by obtaining a self-attestation from each qualified child care provider that received such a subgrant from the agency, whether the provider is open and available to provide child care services or is closed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(II) allow the qualified child care provider to update the information provided in a prior application; and

(III) adjust the qualified child care provider's subgrant award as necessary, based on changes to the application information, including changes to the provider's operational status.

(iv) **EXISTING APPLICATIONS.**—If a lead agency has established and implemented a grant program for child care providers that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, and an eligible child care provider has already submitted an application for such a grant to the lead agency containing the information specified in clause (i), the lead agency shall treat that application as an application submitted under this subparagraph. If an eligible child care provider has already submitted such an application containing part of the information specified in clause (i), the provider may submit to the lead agency an abbreviated application that contains the remaining information, and the lead agency shall treat the 2 applications as an application submitted under this subparagraph.

(E) **MATERIALS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The lead agency shall provide the materials and other resources related to such subgrants, including a notification of subgrant opportunities and application materials, to qualified child care providers in the most commonly spoken languages in the State.

(ii) **APPLICATION.**—The application shall be accessible on the website of the lead agency within 30 days after the lead agency receives

grant funds awarded pursuant to subsection (b) and shall be accessible to all eligible child care providers, including family child care providers, group home child care providers, and other non-center-based child care providers and providers with limited administrative capacity.

(F) **PRIORITY.**—In making subgrants under this section, the lead agency shall give priority to qualified child care providers that, prior to or on March 1, 2020—

(i) provided child care during nontraditional hours;

(ii) served dual language learners, children with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children from low-income families, or infants and toddlers;

(iii) served a high proportion of children whose families received subsidies under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) for the child care; or

(iv) operated in communities, including rural communities, with a low supply of child care.

(G) **PROVIDERS RECEIVING OTHER ASSISTANCE.**—The lead agency, in determining whether a provider is a qualified child care provider, shall not take into consideration receipt of a payment or reimbursement described in subparagraph (C)(iii) or subparagraph (C)(iv).

(H) **AWARDS.**—The lead agency shall equitably make subgrants under this paragraph to center-based child care providers, family child care providers, group home child care providers, and other non-center-based child care providers, such that qualified child care providers are able to access the subgrant opportunity under this paragraph regardless of the providers' setting, size, or administrative capacity.

(I) **OBLIGATION.**—The lead agency shall obligate at least 50 percent of funds available to carry out this section for subgrants described in this paragraph, by December 31, 2020.

(e) **USES OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A qualified child care provider that receives funds through such a subgrant may use the funds for the costs of—

(A) payroll;

(B) employee benefits, including group health plan benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums;

(C) employee salaries or similar compensation, including any income or other compensation to a sole proprietor or independent contractor that is a wage, commission, income, net earnings from self-employment, or similar compensation;

(D) payment on any mortgage obligation;

(E) rent (including rent under a lease agreement);

(F) utilities;

(G) insurance;

(H) providing premium pay for child care providers and other employees who provide services during the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(I) sanitization and other costs associated with cleaning;

(J) personal protective equipment and other equipment necessary to carry out the functions of the child care provider;

(K) training and professional development related to health and safety practices, including the proper implementation of policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the corresponding State and local authorities, and in accordance with State and local orders;

(L) modifications to child care services as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as limiting group sizes, adjusting staff-to-child ratios, and implementing other heightened health and safety measures;

(M) mental health supports for children and employees; and

(N) other goods and services necessary to maintain or resume operation of the child care program, or to maintain the viability of the child care provider as a going concern during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The qualified child care provider may use the subgrant funds to reim-

burse the provider for sums obligated or expended before the date of enactment of this Act for the cost of a good or service described in paragraph (1) to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(f) **REPORTING.**—

(1) **INITIAL REPORT.**—A lead agency receiving a grant under this section shall, within 60 days after making the agency's first subgrant under subsection (d)(2) to a qualified child care provider, submit a report to the Secretary that includes—

(A) data on qualified child care providers that applied for subgrants and qualified child care providers that received such subgrants, including—

(i) the number of such applicants and the number of such recipients;

(ii) the number and proportion of such applicants and recipients that received priority and the characteristic or characteristics of such applicants and recipients associated with the priority;

(iii) the number and proportion of such applicants and recipients that are—

(I) center-based child care providers;

(II) family child care providers;

(III) group home child care providers; or

(IV) other non-center-based child care providers; and

(iv) within each of the groups listed in clause (iii), the number of such applicants and recipients that are, on the date of submission of the application—

(I) open and available to provide child care services; or

(II) closed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(B) the total capacity of child care providers that are licensed, regulated, or registered in the State on the date of the submission of the report;

(C) a description of—

(i) the efforts of the lead agency to publicize the availability of subgrants under this section and conduct widespread outreach to eligible child care providers about such subgrants, including efforts to make materials available in languages other than English;

(ii) the lead agency's methodology for determining amounts of subgrants under subsection (d)(2);

(iii) the lead agency's timeline for disbursing the subgrant funds; and

(iv) the lead agency's plan for ensuring that qualified child care providers that receive funding through such a subgrant comply with assurances described in subsection (d)(2)(D) and use funds in compliance with subsection (e); and

(D) such other limited information as the Secretary may require.

(2) **QUARTERLY REPORT.**—The lead agency shall, following the submission of such initial report, submit to the Secretary a report that contains the information described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of paragraph (1) once a quarter until all funds allotted for activities authorized under this section are expended.

(3) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after a lead agency receiving a grant under this section has obligated all of the grant funds (including funds received under subsection (h)), the lead agency shall submit a report to the Secretary, in such manner as the Secretary may require, that includes—

(A) the total number of eligible child care providers who were providing child care services on or before March 1, 2020, in the State and the number of such providers that submitted an application under subsection (d)(2)(D);

(B) the number of qualified child care providers in the State that received funds through the grant;

(C) the lead agency's methodology for determining amounts of subgrants under subsection (d)(2);

(D) the average and range of the subgrant amounts by provider type (center-based child

care, family child care, group home child care, or other non-center-based child care provider);

(E) the percentages of the child care providers that received such a subgrant, that, on or before March 1, 2020—

(i) provided child care during nontraditional hours;

(ii) served dual language learners, children with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children from low-income families, or infants and toddlers;

(iii) served a high proportion of children whose families received subsidies under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) for the child care; and

(iv) operated in communities, including rural communities, with a low supply of child care;

(F) the number of children served by the child care providers that received such a subgrant, for the duration of the subgrant;

(G) the percentages, of the child care providers that received such a subgrant, that are—

(i) center-based child care providers;

(ii) family child care providers;

(iii) group home child care providers; or

(iv) other non-center-based child care providers;

(H) the percentages, of the child care providers listed in subparagraph (G) that are, on the date of submission of the application—

(i) open and available to provide child care services; or

(ii) closed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(I) information about how child care providers used the funds received under such a subgrant;

(J) information about how the lead agency used funds reserved under subsection (d)(1); and

(K) information about how the subgrants helped to stabilize the child care sector.

(4) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(A) **FINDINGS FROM INITIAL REPORTS.**—Not later than 60 days after receiving all reports required to be submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide a report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, summarizing the findings from the reports received under paragraph (1).

(B) **FINDINGS FROM FINAL REPORTS.**—Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, summarizing the findings from the reports received under paragraph (3).

(g) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds expended to provide child care services for eligible individuals, including funds provided under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) and State child care programs.

(h) **REALLOTMENT OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.**—

(1) **UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.**—A State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization shall return to the Secretary any grant funds received under this section that the State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization does not obligate by September 30, 2021.

(2) **REALLOTMENT.**—The Secretary shall award new allotments and payments, in accordance with subsection (c)(2), to covered States, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations from funds that are returned under paragraph (1) within 60 days of receiving such funds. Funds made available through the new allotments and payments shall remain available to each covered State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization until September 30, 2022.

(3) COVERED STATE, INDIAN TRIBE, OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—For purposes of paragraph (2), a covered State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization is a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization that received an allotment or payment under this section and was not required to return grant funds under paragraph (1).

(i) EXCEPTIONS.—The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), excluding requirements in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of section 658E(c)(3), section 658G, and section 658J(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3), 9858e, 9858h(c)), shall apply to child care services provided under this section to the extent the application of such Act does not conflict with the provisions of this section. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require a State to submit an application, other than the application described in section 658E or 658O(c) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c, 9858m(c)), to receive a grant under this Act.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$50,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(2) APPLICATION.—In carrying out the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 with funds other than the funds appropriated under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall calculate the amounts of appropriated funds described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 658O of such Act (42 U.S.C. 9858m) by excluding funds appropriated under paragraph (1).

SEC. 2. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to any amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 3. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2020.

This Act may be cited as the “Child Care Is Essential Act”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of my bill to save the childcare industry: The Child Care Is Essential Act.

Let me recognize my colleagues who join me here this morning, especially the Chair of the Committee on Education and Labor, Chairman BOBBY SCOTT.

To make clear our fight and our purpose, I quote The Washington Post from July 4.

The title of the piece: “Lack of childcare slowing recovery. Working Parents Swamped At Home. Productivity slump pinned on school, center closures.”

“The childcare crunch triggered by the pandemic has rapidly become a cri-

sis for many workers and companies that is hindering the economic recovery, disproportionately harming women and threatening to leave deep scars for years to come.”

The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee has been central to our response to this pandemic and has provided much-needed funding to deal with the crisis—providing \$3.5 billion for childcare in the CARES Act, and \$7 billion in the House-passed HEROES Act.

But, to be frank, \$7 billion in the HEROES Act is not enough to save the childcare sector. It could take at least \$9.6 billion per month to keep current childcare providers in business. This is a crisis. More than half of childcare programs could close if we do not act quickly.

The biggest worry of the providers in my State of Connecticut are the loss of revenue, how to pay non-payroll business expenses, and they are concerned that families will not return after the public health emergency. Affordable childcare was a significant and a severe issue before the pandemic and will be after this pandemic is over.

This is not about going back to normal. We cannot afford to do that either. If we cannot make families feel safe that their kids are going to be in a safe and secure environment, we are not going to get our economy back on track. Parents are not going to send their children to unsafe places or they have no place to send them.

Mr. Speaker, the Childcare Is Essential Act creates a \$50 billion childcare stabilization fund within the existing Childcare and Development Block Grant Program. The bill provides grant funding to childcare providers to stabilize the sector and support providers so that they can be safely reopening and running.

This legislation helps childcare providers and working families by:

Ensuring that the grants adequately support providers’ operating expenses and funding gets to them quickly;

Requires that providers continue to pay their staff;

Providing tuition and copayment relief for working families;

Promote health and safety through compliance with public health guidance;

Prioritize providers that serve underserved populations;

Ensuring grants are awarded equitably across childcare settings; and

Conducting oversight through robust reporting requirements.

Mr. Speaker, we bailed out the airlines—almost \$60 billion—and we thought that that was necessary to do for our economy.

Corporations have received \$522 billion for PPP loans, and we knew that that was important to undergird our economy.

Hedge fund managers and real estate developers got a \$135 billion tax break completely unrelated to the pandemic. We did not need that.

We need to save the childcare industry. It is a matter of values, of right and wrong, and it is a matter of the values of who we believe needs to be protected: Our children? Our families? Or special interests?

It is a matter of economic security for women and families, and lack of childcare has been cited as a reason why women are still highly reflected in the unemployment rolls.

Small businesses are concerned. One half of all essential workers in this country are women. Who are the essential workers? Grocery store workers, public transport, cleaning and sanitation, healthcare, retail workers. They have to go to work. Where do they put their kids?

And it is a matter of addressing racial disparities, which this virus has further exposed, particularly when providers in communities of color continue to struggle to access small business loans, like those through the PPP because of systemic discrimination in banking practices, the wealth gap, higher debt. We must help now.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I say: Let us move boldly in this historic moment for women, for families, for children, for small businesses, for communities of color. Let us stabilize the childcare sector. Childcare is essential. There is no reopening of our economy without it. So let us provide that \$50 billion today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 7027. As the country navigates the ongoing reality of the coronavirus pandemic, childcare is one of the most important issues we have to resolve. Congress must put childcare solutions in place to help working families address their needs, but this bill before us is not the answer.

This bill would appropriate \$50 billion for the childcare industry—more than its entire annual revenue. Overly burdensome and complicated application requirements would accompany those funds. This means providers would spend their time on applications and reporting requirements rather than caring for the children and keeping them safe. The bill creates unnecessary confusion by requiring providers to follow CDC guidance and that of their State and local governments even when those requirements may conflict.

The Committee on Appropriations has had no hearings or markups to consider this bill. There has been no input from the minority, and there is no opportunity today for amendments. Unfortunately, the majority has yet again used this crisis as an opportunity to push through partisan policy proposals instead of working together to address the very real challenges we face. We can and we must do better than the bills we are considering today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman DELAURO for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today not just as a representative of New Jersey's 11th District, but also as a working mom with four children—a mom who knows how important childcare is for our families, our businesses, and our communities.

I have long said it is critical to have women serving in Congress to legislate on these important issues, and it has been my own experience—as I try to ensure that my children are doing their schoolwork while I am attending Zoom meetings, conference calls, and working to serve the families throughout the 11th District—that has led me to call experts to discuss the challenges to providing safe childcare during the pandemic.

It is my experience now, as I try to piece together childcare between my husband and my two sisters and myself, and trying to come down to Washington to vote, that informs my understanding of what is going on across the Nation.

Before the pandemic, 5 million children and their families relied on childcare. How we address this childcare crisis will have deep reverberations throughout our economy and on the health and safety of our families and our workers. Without the proper support for childcare to open safely and effectively, there will be no real reopening for much of the workforce.

Without proper childcare options, that means childcare facilities that have the money to implement health and safety precautions necessary to protect children and workers, women will be forced to choose between staying home or going back to work. If childcare is scarce or feels unsafe, moms will be staying home in the vast majority of cases.

In fact, an economist at Northwestern University who studies the gendered impact of the pandemic, noted that 19 million children live in single-parent households, 70 percent of which are led by single moms. If women have to leave the workforce or cut back hours, these decisions will have long-lasting impacts on the future of their careers, salary, promotions, equitable pay, and the economic security of their families.

I have heard from leaders in research institutions who have said that while men are submitting research papers at a faster clip than ever, their female

counterparts have not. They attribute this to the burden of childcare that rests on women without access to childcare services.

□ 1130

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON).

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support today for the Child Care Is Essential Act.

As a working mom, I know that finding quality, affordable childcare is not easy even under the best of circumstances, but the strain of COVID-19 has pushed the childcare industry to the brink of collapse.

Nearly half of all childcare providers have closed at some point during this pandemic, and those that have reopened are facing increased costs to implement new safety measures, including reduced capacity, intense and frequent disinfecting and cleaning, and the purchase of PPE for providers. Without immediate financial support, many are at risk of closing permanently.

Congress and this administration must recognize there cannot be a strong and full economic recovery without access to quality, affordable childcare for working families.

This important bill will create a \$50 billion childcare stabilization fund and invest in childcare across our country to ensure that providers have the resources they need to safely reopen. The Child Care Is Essential Act would bring an estimated \$985 million to my home State of Virginia to keep childcare providers open and their employees on payroll.

Parents simply cannot return to work if they can't find childcare. We are facing a crisis, and Congress must take decisive action on behalf of the working families and parents in America.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Child Care Is Essential Act.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Child Care Is Essential Act, a bill that will help childcare centers stay open through this pandemic and help us reopen our economy.

For almost 5 months now, families have struggled to balance work and childcare. Meanwhile, essential workers, including farmworkers, healthcare workers, police, and firefighters, rely on childcare for their families and for them to do their jobs.

But as this pandemic continues, it gets more difficult for childcare providers to keep their doors open. Just 29 percent of childcare and education centers in Monterey County in my district

are currently open and operating. Without help from the Federal Government, our childcare centers will have to close, and our essential workers will be unable to serve our communities.

That is why I urge my colleagues to vote for the Child Care Is Essential Act, because, with these grants to childcare providers, they can stay open and safely operate during this pandemic but also play a critical part in our Nation's rebuilding and recovery.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire about the amount of time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 5 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Texas has 13½ minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is an extraordinary time in our Nation's history. We are watching families today who are in the most serious economic and healthcare crises of their lives. What this pandemic has exposed are the serious, serious inequities that exist, the racial inequities that exist.

What is becoming clear, from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, is that there are two classes of people. We have essential workers, who I pointed out are the grocery workers, the transit workers, the sanitation people, the retail workers who clock in and out every single day and who have to be on the job, and they have been told if they don't show up, they don't get paid. But they have kids; they have families.

What is the main responsibility of a parent? The pride you take in making sure that your children are safe, that they are secure, that you are doing all you can for them to be able to survive.

So, what is your choice? Leave your kid by themselves? You can't take them to work. You know, I had a lengthy conversation, almost 2 hours, on the phone with farmworkers in our country. Know what they do without access to childcare? They leave their kids home alone, or they take them to the fields.

Who are we? This is the United States of America. Where are our values? What do we care most about?

Let me just tell you about that \$135 billion that is in the CARES bill. I will just say that the Democrats took it out in the HEROES bill. But as I see the bill that our Republican colleagues put forward in the last 24 hours, it is still in there. It is a tax break for 43,000 people in this country, and they get a \$1.6 million tax cut. They claw back to 2018, 2019. No one knew the word "coronavirus" in 2018 and 2019. It has nothing to do with this pandemic.

I will mention those essential workers again to you today because there are 17.9 million children under the age of 13. Their parents are frontline workers, as I have laid out.

I will also add, in full disclosure, that two-thirds of these children do not require emergency care because they

have another parent. They have a family member or an adult caregiver available to them. But this implies that we have 6 million kids who need emergency care at 45 hours per week.

There are 6 million children who need to be in childcare. The providers that remain open are providing emergency care to these workers, and they are incurring costs, including paid premiums for staff, substitute workers for staff who are out on paid sick or family leave, higher prices for food and materials, including recommended personal protective and sanitation equipment and supplies.

You know, public safety demands that each center or home-based provider serves fewer children than they normally do. Why? For safety reasons.

Understand, people want to talk about the economy reopening. Are parents going to send their kids to—first of all, we are talking about schools where the CDC has said that the worst situation is 5-day, in-person. Yet, what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to do is to tie their education funds to whether they do that, which is outrageous to begin with, and now they do not want to provide any funding for childcare providers.

In the HEROES bill, it is \$5 million and \$10 million in grants. The National Women's Law Center has told us it will be about \$9.6 billion a month to deal with this issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable. All I can say is, if we can bail out the airlines, if we can bail out the business community, we should be done with the \$135 billion. Let's move forward: \$50 billion for childcare legislation today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PARNETT.) The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the Committee on Appropriations has expired.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 15 minutes.

The gentleman from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for this legislation.

I salute Congresswoman DELAUNO for her leadership over the years, constant, persistent, dissatisfied, and relentless, in terms of looking out for our children.

I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, the chair of the Education and Labor Committee, for his leadership throughout all of this. I think he knows this issue, chapter and verse, over the years, and so I am so happy that we are coming to the floor for this.

In our community, there is such a need for childcare. It is endless. We

don't even come close. We have been thinking incrementally. We have to think transformatively.

Even little children know. In our community, we have T-shirts, "Children Learning, Parents Earning," the direct connection between quality childcare, where children are given a good start on where they are going.

I rise during this devastating time for America, as the health and economic crisis of COVID-19 hurtles further out of control. Ten weeks ago, the Democrats delivered a solution by defeating the virus and safely opening the economy with the HEROES Act—it was actually 10 weeks ago today—supporting our heroes, crushing the virus, and putting money in America's pocket. Yet, for 10 weeks, we haven't had the action that we need on that.

So, here we are. For all the statements that were made over time about need for childcare, this virus has really shown a bright spotlight on why it is so important. Parents know; children know; we all know. But this virus has been an instructor, because if parents are forced to go to work as essential workers, who is going to take care of the children if their schools cannot open actually and some are virtual?

Again, when I ran for Congress, over 30 years ago, people said to me: "Who is taking care of your children?" My children were big. Four of them were already in college and one a senior in high school. But that was the question: Who is taking care of the children? And that is a question for our Nation: Who is taking care of the children?

In order for us to succeed with this, we have to meet the needs of the children, their families, and childcare workers. Our childcare workers are the workforce behind the workforce, risking their health and safety on the front lines to ensure that parents can go to work.

But they face a devastating situation. The childcare system needs at least \$50 billion in the next 6 months in order to survive. Just one in five childcare programs believes that they can stay open for more than a year without Federal support.

This is essential. An estimated 326,000 workers, nearly one-third of the sector nationwide, have lost their jobs since February—326,000 since February.

□ 1145

Half of the providers have closed, and those that are open to serve children of essential workers are risking their health, too often without PPE, and parents are paying the price. We can't get people back to work until we have widespread access to safe, quality, and affordable childcare.

Here is the situation in the childcare workers' own words. Terry from Wisconsin said: I have gone from 81 kids a day to two. I can't stay open with two, we are considered essential, but how can I stay open without the help needed? I love my kids, staff, and families, but to ask me to go under because all

of a sudden I am essential—really? This is what we say: People are essential. We have to treat them as if they are essential.

Traci from Pennsylvania says: We are a nonprofit center, mainly funded by families who pay out of pocket. We need a way to maintain payroll of staff so that they can be ready to return when we are allowed to reopen. We need help paying our rent and health insurance costs. We will need help understanding how to stay open safely and how to adjust to new regulations, how to afford related training, and what to do if our families can't afford to return.

And Mary in New York says: Since COVID, my childcare center has gone from 89 percent to about 10 percent. Fifteen employees will lose their jobs. We are the only center in a 1-mile radius in a very low-income area. We are the only voice for our parents and children. Please help us be heard.

And so action is needed now, which is why I am proud to support two bills that will be a lifeline for childcare workers and for the economy, while keeping our children safe and helping them and helping parents go back to work:

H.R. 7027, the Child Care Is Essential Act, creating a \$50 billion childcare stabilization fund to provide funding to childcare providers over the next 6 months and helping them safely reopen and operate during and after the COVID-19 crisis; and

H.R. 7327, the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act, expanding access to quality childcare to help workers safely return to their jobs and stimulate the economy with Federal investments and tax subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman NITA LOWEY, a maestro of the legislative process, who has advanced immeasurable progress for generations of Americans.

I thank RICHARD NEAL for his leadership on the tax credit and Federal investments work.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Congresswoman ROSA DELAUNO, chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and the godmother of much of the work for families and children that we do in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Chairman BOBBY SCOTT and Senator PATTY MURRAY, ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, for their leadership on this bill. Thank you, Mr. SCOTT, for every day reminding us and leading us on how we can help our children.

And I thank and recognize the outside organizers who have been relentless, persistent, and dissatisfied, as is Rosa, as they have fought for the strong investments in the childcare sector that our children and workers need.

When people ask me, "What are the three most important issues facing the Congress?" I always say the same thing

and have for over 30 years. The three most important issues facing the Congress are our children, our children, our children: their health, their education, the economic security of their families, a safe environment in which they can thrive, a world at peace in which they can reach their fulfillment, and my motivation for even coming to Congress was one in five children in America who lives in poverty.

But it isn't only families in poverty who are affected by this childcare issue; it is our entire society and entire economy, and that is why we have to think transformatively about this.

As we observe the 100th anniversary of women having the right to vote, as we observe the fact that we have over 100 women in Congress, many of them moms of small children, we do have to recognize that, for our economy to thrive, we have to have the full participation and leadership of women, because we do believe, when women succeed, America succeeds, for that to happen. And dads have this responsibility, too, so we want them to succeed as well.

But for all of that to happen, we have to make sure that we know who is taking care of the children, and the role that we play is to facilitate all of that to make sure it is of the highest quality and safety for the children and ensure that they are served by the legislation that we are considering.

For the sake of the children, their health, their safety, and our children's future, as we recover from COVID but learn from it, I urge our colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7027, Democrats' partisan Child Care Is Essential Act, which, based off its troublesome provisions, would be better titled as the no care for children act.

Republicans and Democrats agree that there is a critical need that exists in our country today: the need to help childcare providers reopen their businesses safely.

Childcare is the cornerstone of the American workforce. If parents do not have a safe place to send their children, they cannot work. If our Nation is going to recover swiftly and successfully from the COVID-19 pandemic, childcare providers must be an integral part of the solution to getting America reopened and back to work.

Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today, H.R. 7027, is just another messaging bill for House Democrats, who are more interested in political posturing than enacting meaningful solutions.

Before I get into the lowlights of this legislation, I would like to point out that childcare falls under the jurisdiction of the House Education and Labor Committee. However, our committee did not hold a single hearing or a single markup on today's bill. This is becom-

ing a recurring theme in Speaker PELOSI's House of Representatives.

The fact that Chairman SCOTT allowed Speaker PELOSI to make the opening comments on this bill is a further indication that this is Speaker PELOSI's bill. The blatant disregard for congressional precedent and proper way of doing our job is appalling. Too many pieces of legislation are being written behind closed doors in the Speaker's office. This type of backroom horse trading is not how the Nation's deliberative body should operate.

On top of this, House Democrats are casting votes and conducting legislative business from the comfort of their own homes or, in some cases, their fishing boat, and bringing partisan messaging bills to the House floor without going through the legislative process, all while collecting a taxpayer-funded paycheck.

We have gone from a representative Republic to an autocracy. Members of Congress were elected to represent Americans here in Washington, yet Speaker PELOSI seems set on silencing those voices. This is downright shameful and indicative of Speaker PELOSI's out-of-touch politics-over-progress agenda.

Back to the flawed legislation at hand.

We all agree that Congress should help childcare providers reopen safely; however, we cannot spend taxpayer dollars recklessly while layering on additional burdens when childcare providers on the ground are already facing burdensome red tape.

The Democrats' flawed, one-sided bill appropriates \$50 billion, which is higher than the entire annual revenue of the childcare industry and substantially more than Democrats felt was necessary to include in their so-called HEROES Act.

We know the Democrats preferred solution for any problem is to throw more taxpayer money at it, but the Bipartisan Policy Center estimated that the industry would need about half of the amount included in H.R. 7027 to recover.

Additionally, H.R. 7027 places burdensome requirements on childcare providers, which could lead to providers spending more time and money applying for and reporting on the funds rather than doing what is most important: serving children.

Providers already have to figure out how to implement new and necessary health and safety rules, from social distancing and limits on group size to increased cleaning protocols. As if this isn't already weighing heavily on childcare professionals, Democrats now want to enact even more cumbersome requirements for them to deal with.

This legislation also tries to dictate from the Federal level how providers run their businesses, which can hamper their ability to reopen safely and stay open.

This ill-advised bill also denies support for certain eligible providers, such

as churches and public recreation camps who are licensed-exempt, operating legally in a State, and meeting all State and local requirements.

H.R. 7027 fails to address the barriers many new providers face, an issue that can increase cost and limit slots for children.

Mr. Speaker, the no care for children act will drive up costs substantially, tie many providers' hands unnecessarily, and shift the focus away from serving children and supporting parents returning to work.

It is worth repeating that Republicans and Democrats wholeheartedly agree on the overarching goal of this debate we are having today. A lack of childcare options could seriously delay our Nation's economic recovery. That is why it is extremely disappointing that we are spending our time debating another partisan messaging bill from House Democrats rather than focusing on common ground and working in a bipartisan fashion to solve our differences on this issue and deliver for American families.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a "no" vote on H.R. 7027, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the distinguished ranking member that we did have a hearing in February and, actually, a briefing in May that the minority party decided not to participate in.

And insofar as the Speaker, she was here. If I had opened, she would have had to listen to me and to you and would have been here waiting all that time. The Speaker is busy, so I called on the Speaker so she could speak and return to her busy schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, the childcare industry has suffered tremendous losses since the start of this pandemic. Centers are facing increased operating costs and are working overtime to provide adequate PPE and sanitation materials to keep our children safe.

Countless American families rely on the childcare industry, and we must provide them with the materials and equipment that they need to give our children the best possible care. To help small businesses grow, support hardworking Georgians, and uplift our economy, parents must have a safe place to send their children.

□ 1200

Truly, the childcare industry helps give our kids the foundation for their future, and it needs our help.

Hardworking families deserve our support, and the Child Care Is Essential Act would give providers the funding and resources they need to nurture the next generation.

I thank Representative DELAURO for her leadership and Chairman SCOTT for his leadership.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Child Care Is Essential Act.

Everyone in this Chamber can agree that access to childcare will be vital to the continued reopening of our economy, especially as more and more parents return to work. However, this legislation is not the answer. It would cost an astronomical \$50 billion, an amount higher than the total revenue of the childcare industry in the United States, and twice as high as the Bipartisan Policy Center reports that childcare providers actually need.

Further, this legislation places so many reporting requirements on agencies that \$5 billion of that money, a whopping 10 percent, will go to administrative expenses, rather than helping children get the care that they need. This is not where the red tape is, by the way. The bill places additional and unneeded regulatory burdens on childcare centers that would increase their costs and require them to follow State and CDC guidelines on operations, even when those guidelines may directly contradict each other. The Child Care Is Essential Act also unfairly limits access to these funds. Licensed-exempt facilities like at many churches will be prohibited from accessing these funds.

Childcare is essential as parents begin returning to the workplace, however, this bill spends too much taxpayer money and places an undue and unworkable regulatory burden on facilities, Federal agencies, and yes, on families.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this legislation, and I ask my Democratic colleagues to actually come to the table on a bipartisan solution to this issue.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Child Care Is Essential Act. This bill is badly needed to clear a massive roadblock on our Nation’s path to economic recovery. The choice is clear. Without assistance, only 18 percent of existing childcare programs will remain open a year from today.

Last month, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, not known as a strong supporter of social services, announced its support for emergency aid for childcare providers, declaring that “for millions of Americans, returning to work is not just contingent on the lifting of stay-at-home orders . . . but on securing care for their children.” This aid is critical because childcare providers are small businesses and have been operating at reduced capacity and much

higher costs, if they are open at all. This situation is not sustainable. Every month more centers are closing as costs exceed revenues. Some estimates predict that we may lose as many as 4.5 million slots nationwide unless Congress acts and acts fast.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has long undervalued the role that childcare plays in enabling our workforce, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed that deplorable lack of investment. Making sure the childcare industry survives, as the Chamber testified, will shorten the recession by getting parents back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and neighbor, ROSA DELAURO and Chairman SCOTT for their work on this bill and I urge a “yes” vote.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation continues to respond, recover, and reopen our economy following the outbreak of COVID-19, we can all agree that childcare is necessary in getting Americans back to work.

No parent will return to work if they do not have a safe place for their child, which is another reason why schools safely reopening should be a priority of my Democratic colleagues.

However, Democrats are pushing a partisan proposal that carelessly overspends taxpayer dollars and further burdens our childcare providers, who already face bureaucratic red tape, with more mandates, like overly extensive application requirements that will cost them more time and money when their time is better spent caring for our children.

These mandates will prevent new providers from entering the industry, ultimately increasing costs and limiting the amount of available slots for children.

This again is a one-size-fits-all, top-down government program. How much of this money will actually get there to take care of a child?

H.R. 7027 appropriates \$50 billion, which is higher than the entire annual revenue of the childcare industry—think about that—and twice the amount that the Bipartisan Policy Center estimated the industry would need. Is it going to cost another \$25 billion to administer this thing for all the burdensome red tape that goes along with it?

Once again, the Democrats’ solution is more government control, more regulation, and more taxpayer dollars wasted with burdensome strings attached. When are the American people going to wake up?

It denies support for certain eligible providers, such as churches and public recreation camps, who are license-exempt and operating legally in a State that meet all State and local requirements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Georgia an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that, rather than finding common ground, my colleagues across the aisle are moving forward with a bill that will only hurt families who want to return to work and need access to childcare.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and let’s all go back to the drawing board so that we can find support for our working families.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Resources.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Child Care Is Essential Act.

Childcare is one of the most urgent and stressful issues facing families during this pandemic and stabilizing it will be a key factor in opening our communities safely.

I recently spoke about this issue with Oregonians who are struggling, parents, early child educators, and small business owners. I released a report urging support for the childcare industry. As one mom told me: “if childcare crumbles, if it even gets a fraction more difficult to find, then our collective ability to work crumbles too.”

The childcare crisis disproportionately affects women, who, because of entrenched gender roles, continue to take on the majority of childcare and household responsibilities.

A lack of affordable childcare reduces the ability of women to work outside the home and extends the gender pay gap. This is also an issue of racial justice. Many childcare workers are women of color.

I am grateful for previous stimulus efforts, but it is not enough. The Child Care Is Essential Act will provide immediate relief through \$50 billion, which I will note is less than the amount that went to the Nation’s airlines in coronavirus legislation. This is in direct grant funding to help childcare providers cover operating expenses, purchase PPE and cleaning supplies, pay providers through the pandemic and beyond, and importantly, give parents the relief they need from high copayments and tuition.

Investing in our children now has long-term benefits for our families, for our communities, and for our economy.

I thank Congresswoman DELAURO and Chairman SCOTT for their leadership, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, could you advise me how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 10 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 4¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER).

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, parents can't go back to earning until their children can go back to learning. The topic of reopening schools has been top of mind in recent weeks. We also need safe care for our young ones though, because their parents need to work, too.

Childcare is essential, for parents and children. Many childcare providers have closed during this pandemic, some for safety, some for financial reasons.

But childcare isn't just about parents' jobs. High quality early childhood education is the single best way to close the opportunity gap and give disadvantaged children a strong start. Every dollar invested in early childhood education pays back \$7 down the road, and that is a phenomenal investment.

The Child Care Is Essential Act provides financial assistance so providers can reopen safely.

By passing this bill, we support children, working families, and childcare providers; all worthy of our investment.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Politico wrote recently, "A lack of safe and affordable childcare amid the coronavirus pandemic is keeping many working parents from returning to the office as more companies call employees back to their jobs, threatening to extend the economic crisis and erode decades of gains for women in the workplace."

In fact, the Bipartisan Policy Center found that at the height of the COVID-19 outbreak, 60 percent of childcare centers closed, and one-third of the childcare workforce lost their jobs.

The topic of today's debate is an issue that both Republicans and Democrats agree must be addressed. Unfortunately, the legislation being pushed by Democrats spends taxpayer dollars recklessly and layers on additional burdensome requirements.

That is why my Republican colleagues have introduced the Back to Work Child Care Grants Act of 2020, which is led by Senator ERNST and Senator ALEXANDER in the Senate and Representative REED in the House.

Unlike the Democrat bill we are considering today, the Back to Work Child Care Grants Act will offer childcare providers solutions and resources, not burdensome red tape. The GOP-led initiative would support childcare providers by offering short-term financial assistance, critical resources to reopen and stay open, all while holding providers accountable to State and local health and safety guidelines.

Regrettably, the Democrats' childcare bill picks winners and losers by denying help to many providers who are license-exempt and operating legally, such as churches and public recreation camps. The Back to Work Child Care Grants Act of 2020, on the other hand, ensures all providers in need of support have access to funding.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7027, the Child Care Is Essential Act.

Failing to solve this childcare crisis will set women back in the workforce for generations.

We know that if we let our childcare industry collapse, the burden will fall heavily on women.

I saw firsthand the challenges childcare providers face when I visited the Building Blocks Learning Academy in Batavia, Illinois earlier this month.

They are doing heroic work, but they need support.

If Congress doesn't act, thousands of childcare providers will close, and millions of childcare slots will disappear.

I am proud that Illinois has been a model for how States can respond to support childcare providers, but they still need the Federal help that this bill delivers, and we must pass it today.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Child Care Is Essential Act.

From the beginning, this pandemic has exacerbated the existing inequities in society and revealed the cracks that we have always known existed in our childcare system.

The stress on this economy has left it teetering on the edge of total collapse. The tone from parents and providers who call my office about this issue have become increasingly more desperate.

Providers in Connecticut tell me stories about being behind on rent payments, having to furlough workers, having to dip into their own savings to stay solvent, and trying to figure out if there is a way to safely open without continuing to mount debt.

We may lose over half of licensed childcare providers in my State.

Even before coronavirus, the childcare industry and families in Connecticut were struggling. We often hear that there is dignity in work, and without childcare, work can't happen for many people.

I am a working mother. I rely on before and aftercare, and right now, like many of my constituents, I am struggling. We live in a country where women contribute to the economy, where women contribute to societies, where families are struggling to go back to work.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Connecticut an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, that is why I am excited to be here today with my colleagues, voting on legislation that will provide immediate relief to community providers and inject stability into the childcare industry.

This bill would keep the workers that help our children learn, grow, and thrive employed. It would keep small businesses afloat and respond to the crisis at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Child Care Is Essential Act and put their money where their mouths are.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we need more childcare slots, but rather than opening more doors, H.R. 7027 denies support for certain eligible providers such as churches and public recreation camps who are operating legally, and fails to address the barriers to entry new providers face, an issue that can increase costs and limit slots for children.

Given the capacity issue of existing centers, legislative proposals should allow for more slots and reduce the barriers to entry for new providers. This bill does the opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, we have a childcare crisis in America.

In Michigan, when our auto manufacturers had to stop producing to address the impacts of COVID-19 and we saw production orders go to zero, with that, our daycare centers witnessed and experienced a dramatic drop in participation. Today, 40 percent of daycare providers in Michigan are at risk of imminent closure.

We say, "Let's get back to work. We are ready to get back to work. We want to get back to work safely," but we need our daycare centers. We need the Child Care Is Essential Act because of the very fact that childcare is essential in America.

This is too much of an impediment for the hardworking people in Michigan and across this country, and it is a long overdue and realized endeavor that we must take on to address the coronavirus pandemic and what we need to do to get back to work safely in America.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS).

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Child Care Is Essential Act.

Without additional Federal assistance, half the childcare capacity in

California and across the country is at risk of disappearing. This bill would provide much-needed relief for these facilities in my State and support working families.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DELAURO for her leadership on this issue and for working with my friend, Representative BACON, and me to include language from our bill in this package.

My bipartisan bill ensures childcare providers can pay for cleaning supplies and safety equipment to protect children and childcare workers from the coronavirus.

According to a nationwide survey, 91 percent of childcare centers are incurring additional costs for cleaning supplies. We must provide the necessary resources to protect the health and safety of our children and childcare workers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this bill to ensure childcare facilities nationwide can continue to serve our families.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close when the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN).

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT for allowing me to speak on this critical issue.

I rise in strong support of the Child Care Is Essential Act and am grateful for the inclusion of my bill, the Children's Mental Health Care Access Act.

Quality, affordable childcare is critical, not only for children and families across the country, but investing in the physical health and safety of our children as well as the mental health of our children is critical.

After months of social isolation, disrupted schedules, and an environment that has created stress, uncertainty, and anxiety for families, children are included in this. I introduced the Children's Mental Health Care Access Act to provide mental health services at childcare facilities through the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, a 2019 study showed that 16.5 percent of American children experience mental health issues, and fewer than half receive treatment. My bill ensures that caregivers have a support system and are prepared with evidence-based and trauma-informed solutions to help our children.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful my bill is included, and I urge support of the Child Care Is Essential Act.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the able Chairman SCOTT for allowing

me this 1 minute, and I congratulate him on this legislation, also to Chairwoman LOWEY on a related bill, and Chairwoman DELAURO.

I rise in support of the Child Care Is Essential Act and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act.

Parents in our communities want and need quality, affordable childcare. Since the Childcare and Development Block Grant's enactment in 1990, the program has been the largest source of financial assistance to families struggling to afford childcare.

Today, the need for childcare assistance in this country has never been greater, and coronavirus has made the situation so much worse. In Ohio, the average annual cost of infant care is \$9,697 a year. That is a staggering \$808 a month, which is unattainable for the majority of families in Ohio.

With the ongoing pandemic, there could not be a better time for Congress to make investments in stabilizing the childcare sector to support providers, workers, and families they serve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the additional time.

The Child Care for Economic Recovery Act adds to and modifies tax provisions allowing for an increase and refundable child and dependent care tax credit, allows employers payroll tax credits, while also increasing the general funding for childcare entitlement under the Social Security Act.

Furthermore, the Child Care Is Essential Act allows providers to use stabilization grants to support personnel pay and benefits, sanitization and PPE, training and professional development, and mental health services. According to the Economic Policy Institute, investing in children could increase economic recovery by \$5.6 billion in new economic activity in Ohio alone.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these important bills.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) has 2¾ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Congress should provide childcare centers nationwide with resources that will allow them to recover from the many challenges they have endured over the last few months. Unfortunately, this body has yet again missed an opportunity to come together in a bipartisan manner, solve our differences, and tackle an issue we all

agree needs to be addressed. Instead, we have more partisanship, more political posturing, and more one-sided legislation on the House floor absent of any committee consideration.

Mr. Speaker, American families and childcare providers across the Nation deserve better than the legislation before us. I strongly urge a "no" vote on the Democrats' no care for children act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, for her work in support of children, families, and childcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Child Care Is Essential Act.

Access to affordable childcare is critical to working families in helping our economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without childcare, parents cannot return to work, businesses cannot reopen, and young children cannot access invaluable early learning opportunities.

At this moment, the childcare industry stands at the brink of collapse. Childcare providers already struggled financially before the pandemic. Now, dramatically low revenue and increased operating costs are pushing providers towards permanent closures.

In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic has already cost the jobs of roughly one in four childcare workers, and researchers estimate that we could permanently lose up to 4.5 million childcare slots. The pandemic has already impacted the lives of parents, 13 percent of whom have had to lower their work hours or quit their jobs entirely due to difficulties in childcare.

Our constituents are calling us to take action. A recent survey found that more than 8 in 10 voters across the political spectrums favor a substantial Federal investment in childcare. We must save the childcare system, which is critical for working families, our economy, and the healthy development of our Nation's children. We can do that by voting in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 7027, the Child Care Is Essential Act, a critical effort that I have proudly cosponsored, as child care providers have been among the hardest hit by the economic turmoil caused by this public health emergency. At least half of all providers have been forced to close at some point during this pandemic, and almost a quarter of child care staff have lost their jobs.

The Child Care Is Essential Act will establish and provide \$50 billion for the Child Care Stabilization Fund, so that grants can be awarded to child care providers during and after this COVID-19 pandemic. Child care providers that are currently open or temporarily closed due to this pandemic are eligible to receive this funding, which will be calculated by

the provider's operating costs before COVID-19 and adjusted for the increased costs of providing child care now. These providers will be able to use this stabilization funding for numerous activities, including personnel costs, personal protection equipment, training for health and safety practices, mental health supports for children and staff, and fixed costs.

As a Congress, we must stabilize our critical child care infrastructure, as they play a critical role in ensuring that our working families are not forced to make difficult decisions regarding reduction in work hours or loss of employment. For our nation to recover economically from this pandemic, we must strengthen the child care providers that enable our economy to function.

In Texas, our providers, families, and communities deserve this federal support. The Center for American Progress has estimated that my state will lose 54% of its child care supply and 483,632 licensed child care slots without adequate federal assistance, and this loss will be monumental in its impact. If this Congress can push the Child Care is Essential Act into law, Texas will receive an estimated amount of \$5,372,096,736 from the \$50 billion Child Care Stabilization Fund through allocations to my state.

As representatives of Americans from all corners of our country, we have a responsibility to protect the livelihood and well-being of our families and communities, especially during this moment of national upheaval caused by this novel coronavirus. On behalf of my home state of Texas, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7027.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1053, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Rodgers of Washington moves to recommit the bill (H.R. 7027) to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

In section 1(d)(2)(B) of the bill, strike "that—" and all that follows through "(ii)" and insert "that", and redesignate subparagraphs (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii).

In section 1(d)(2)(D)(i) of the bill, redesignate subclauses (V) and (VI) as subclauses (VI) and (VII), and insert the following after subclause (IV):

(V) an assurance the eligible provider will provide professional development to new and returning employees on safety protocols, including any updates to protocols or best practices due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, that shall include educating such staff on how to recognize social and emotional concerns of children in their care and

the families of such children and how to identify and report child abuse in light of new protocols for interacting with such children;

In section 1(d)(2)(F) of the bill,—

(1) insert " , or for new providers" after "2020",

(2) in clause (i) insert " , or plan to provide," after "provided",

(3) in clause (ii) insert " , or plan to serve," after "served",

(4) in clause (iii) insert " , or plan to serve," after "served", and

(5) in clause (iv) insert " , or plan to operate," after "operated".

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as we heard in the debate today, we all agree keeping children safe and healthy is our top priority.

For people to get back to work, parents need childcare; they need safe options and more flexibility for the care of their children. That is why Republicans have introduced sensible legislation that supports all childcare providers so that we can expand access to childcare to pre-COVID levels and beyond.

However, unlike our solution, there are problems with the majority's underlying bill that limits parents' ability to find care.

The underlying bill won't help businesses start up new childcare options; it won't help smaller childcare providers, often women- and minority-owned businesses, reopen or finally accomplish their dream of starting their own business.

As a result, this bill will prevent more providers from opening. That is a serious problem, especially in places where shutdowns and stay-home orders force providers to permanently close. That means parents will have nowhere to turn if new options aren't available, if they want a smaller setting for childcare, or if large childcare centers hit caps on enrollment.

To fix this, my motion helps a new childcare business start and increases the number of available childcare slots for children. It would amend the underlying text to ensure that all providers are able to access funding, including those that have recently opened to support working parents.

Republicans weren't provided the chance to debate adding these provisions to the bill because the majority seems to be more interested in scoring political points these days than actually working together to solve problems.

Another issue they didn't address today is child safety. While we talked

about adhering to new recommended sanitation and social distancing requirements—all critical—there was no discussion of keeping children safe from abuse, neglect, and violence. My motion will ensure we are focused on recognizing and addressing child abuse and neglect.

Many of us in this Chamber have raised the alarm that the stress, the isolation, the fear caused by COVID-19 has increased the threat of abuse and domestic violence. The numbers are alarming.

□ 1230

This amendment to the underlying bill requires anyone receiving funding in this program to provide an assurance that all their employees have completed education on safety protocols and know how to recognize child abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I am a mom of three school-aged kids, and this spring was difficult for them and their mom and dad. I am speaking every day with hardworking men and women who want to keep their families healthy, who are eager to get back to work and eager to get their kids back in school and in daycare.

There is a lot of fear about children losing an entire year of their education if we don't get back on track. There are concerns about parents, parents in Pend Oreille County in my district, where 14,000 people live and work in industries like mining, timber, tourism, and healthcare. Even before coronavirus hit, there was only one childcare provider in the entire county—just one.

While there have been less than 40 cases of coronavirus in Pend Oreille, they have been hit hard by economic shutdowns and stay-at-home orders. This community deserves every chance to come back stronger than before.

For counties like Pend Oreille, and for places that have been hit hardest by the virus, we can't afford to be limiting parents' choices. We need to give parents more control and the ability to navigate this new future, a future where we have the confidence to provide for our families and the courage to dream again because our kids are safe, healthy, and learning.

For more options in child safety, this amendment should have been part of the underlying bill. I ask the majority to recognize that they missed this critical issue. Now is the time to correct them.

I urge bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, let me first start by saying that licensed providers already receive this training, that licensed providers already are equipped for identifying abuse and reporting abuse. Now is not the time to focus on startups.

Today, I ask my colleagues to support childcare providers who need help now, to not allow these pillars in our community to go bankrupt, to prevent our most vulnerable children from becoming disconnected from their childcare providers and centers.

Every working parent in this room and around the country knows the feeling of vulnerability that comes with trusting your children in the hands of someone in order to support your family.

Every working parent in this room and around the country knows the sense of helplessness that comes when that critical care is in jeopardy and your family is left scrambling for an alternative. That feeling of helplessness is what parents across the country are facing right now in the middle of a global pandemic as childcare centers have closed their doors, many of them permanently.

Coronavirus has had a devastating effect on childcare providers. Since March, almost a quarter of providers have lost their jobs, and as many as two out of five centers have recently indicated that they will go out of business without financial support. 4.5 million childcare slots are at risk of disappearing, including over 46,000 in my own home State of Connecticut. That is 4.5 million working families who will be left behind without childcare.

It is frustrating to see my colleagues acting in such bad faith here today, attempting to sabotage a commonsense plan that would help Americans get back to work, that would help working parents and children in their States as well as mine.

Let us talk about what the bill actually does. The Child Care Is Essential Act provides \$50 billion in grant funding within CCDBG for providers to reopen and stay open safely. As part of receiving these grants, the bill requires all providers to commit to employ and pay their employees at pre-COVID-19 levels and to provide families with relief in the cost of care.

H.R. 7027 requires providers to follow the CDC guidance and local authorities to keep children and staff safe.

Yes, follow the science to keep children safe.

Childcare is not a partisan issue, or it should not be. Nine out of 10 Americans support a relief package like the Child Care Is Essential Act. Our childcare industry enables millions of Americans to go back to work and will help millions of parents fully return to the workforce when the pandemic passes.

We cannot calculate the revenue of this industry without considering the impact it has on the total overall economy.

As a body, and in a bipartisan way, we supported \$50 billion in relief to the airline industry. As a body, in a bipartisan way, we supported \$670 billion, without restrictions, to the restaurant industry to save those businesses.

In all of these relief packages, childcare workers and providers were

left behind. We all talk about the need to reopen the economy, but that can't happen without the necessary funding to ensure the sustainability of childcare providers.

As the pandemic continues to race through this country due to this administration's failed response, parents who are called back to work have to make a difficult decision: either send their child back to a childcare center or stay home and lose wages or potentially their jobs.

Show me your budget, and I will show you your values. That is something that I often say. If we will not make childcare resources a line item in our budget, we cannot claim it is our national priority.

My colleagues have a habit of saying they agree with the Democratic proposal on the issue of childcare. But when it is time to make any investments, they retreat. "It is not a good use of taxpayer dollars," is what they often say.

I remind you here today that the American families who are asking for this help are the taxpayers.

In case there is any doubt here today, Republicans have made it abundantly clear to the American people that they would rather use taxpayer dollars to bail out private industry than support America's working families and their children.

House Democrats are here to work for the people, here today to address the childcare crisis in this country, something that my colleagues should get serious about fast.

I encourage you all to join us in investing in high-quality childcare and the industry that helps to make that happen.

Even as a high school teacher, it was always evident to me which students attended high-quality childcare centers. Their language, socialization skills, problem-solving skills, and increased parental involvement were always evident. We have to support childcare. It is essential.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER Pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

CHILD CARE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1053, I call up the bill (H.R. 7327) making addi-

tional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PRESSLEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 1053, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7327

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Care for Economic Recovery Act".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—EMERGENCY CHILD CARE SUPPORT APPROPRIATIONS

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICES TAXPAYER SERVICES

For an additional amount for "Taxpayer Services", \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, for making grants under the Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Matching Grants Program established under section 7526A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986: *Provided*, That the matching funds requirement in section 7526A(b)(2) shall not apply to funds made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

For an additional amount for "Social Services Block Grant", \$850,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for making grants to States pursuant to section 2002 of the Social Security Act: *Provided*, That the amount made available under this heading in this Act shall be used for necessary expenses for family care for essential workers, pursuant to section 409 of division B this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

For an additional amount for "Child Care and Development Fund", \$10,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for necessary expenses for infrastructure grants to improve child care safety, including needs assessments, pursuant to section 418A of Part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, as added by division B of this Act: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading in this Act may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve child care safety: *Provided further*, That all construction, alteration, or renovation work, carried out in whole or in part with funds appropriated under this heading in this Act,