

in strong support of H.R. 7327, the “Child Care for Economic Recovery Act”, which expands the availability of quality child care, helps workers return to their jobs when it is safe, and enables America’s economy to recover from the COVID–19 recession.

The Child Care for Economic Recovery Act creates a new tax credit that helps employees access quality, affordable child care, and by expanding the employee retention tax credit, it incentivizes employers to keep child care workers on payroll.

Further, this bill provides \$850 million to states, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories to fill in the gaps in dependent care for essential workers during the COVID–19 pandemic as well as invests \$10 billion in infrastructure to improve child care safety.

Madam Speaker, just last week, the United States reached a historic and unfortunate milestone with over 4,000,000 confirmed coronavirus cases.

Today, there are over 4,400,000 cases nationwide and 151,000 deaths.

In my home state of Texas, a current hotspot, there are over 413,000 cases and 6,500 deaths.

At the county level, Harris County, which includes my district, has approximately 67,660 cases and 1,127 deaths.

As we seek to regain control over this virus and poise our economy to rebound from the effects of the coronavirus, we must take the necessary steps to address the cracks and disparities that have come to light by way of the pandemic.

The child care industry has served as a crucial backbone to the United States’ economy for many years, and it too continues to be rocked by the coronavirus.

Child care facilities provide an immense and unquestionable public value.

This was demonstrated by the key role child care centers had as they continued to provide child care for essential workers who continued to work at the beginning of the pandemic.

According to the Washington Post, before the coronavirus pandemic, approximately one-third of all children under 5 attended a paid care facility, day-care center, preschool or pre-kindergarten.

Workers in every industry rely on child care centers to provide capable care for their children, helping them juggle both parenting and employment responsibilities.

The child care industry is even more essential to single parent households.

In 2019, 15.76 million children lived with a single mother and approximately 3.23 million children lived with a single father.

For these millions of families, child care is a lifeline.

However, as millions of businesses continue to feel the economic effects of the coronavirus and fight for survival, the child care industry is facing its own crisis.

Nationwide, an estimated 1.5 million childcare workers have lost their jobs.

Before the pandemic, Texas had more than 11,000 child care operations.

Yet, as a result of this disease, there were only 883 facilities still operating in the state as of early this month, according to CNN.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today, voicing my support for H.R. 7327 because it serves as a vital component to our nation’s economic reopening strategy.

The federal government must do everything in its power to ensure that the child care in-

dustry remains available to all who need it, and that means voting yes on this bill.

By enacting this piece of legislation, Congress commits to ensuring the long-term success of the child care industry by investing \$10 billion over the 2020–2024 period to improve child care facilities and infrastructure.

Doing so will address longstanding inadequacies of child care facilities as well as respond to the immediate infrastructure needs that the COVID–19 pandemic has caused, including structural changes to facilitate social distancing and improve sanitation.

Madam Speaker, this legislation also requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a first-ever comprehensive inventory of the structural challenges facing child care in the United States and its territories.

For far too long, the child care industry has been overlooked and undervalued, and it is no coincidence that this industry is comprised of 94 percent women, a majority of whom are women of color.

But child care is not just a woman’s issue. Everyone has a stake in ensuring the viability of the child care industry.

I have been a long-standing advocate for the child care industry because I understand the challenges many working families face when it comes to obtaining reliable, affordable, and quality child care.

Prior to the pandemic, HHS considered childcare affordable if no more than 10 percent of a family’s income was put towards it, but parents were ultimately spending much more, on average.

However, because of the coronavirus and the economic devastation it has caused, what was once deemed affordable is bound to change.

By passing H.R. 7327, we have the opportunity to bring much-needed relief to financially struggling child care providers, to families who need child care in order to return to work, and to the U.S. economy.

With this legislation, we will expand access to care and ease the financial burdens placed on parents and employers, so that we can reopen and recover from this public health crisis without leaving kids, parents, and businesses behind.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 7327, the “Child Care for Economic Recovery Act.”

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

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

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

SAMI’S LAW

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4686) to amend title 23, United States Code, to compel States to require illuminated signs and other measures on ride-hailing vehicles, to prohibit the sale of such signs, to require ride-hailing companies to implement an electronic access system on ride-hailing vehicles, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4686

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 “Sami’s Law”.

SEC. 2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RIDE-HAILING VEHICLES AND RIDE-HAILING COMPANIES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR TNC PLATFORMS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each transportation network company shall establish and implement a system and policy within the transportation network company’s TNC platform that shall make available to each passenger a digital method to verify that the driver with whom the passenger has been matched through the transportation network company’s TNC platform has been authorized by the transportation network company to accept the passenger’s trip request prior to the beginning of the trip. Such system shall include—

(1)(A) an initial notification sent to the passenger’s personal mobile device, or otherwise communicated to the passenger, containing verifiable information specific to the TNC driver or TNC vehicle with which the passenger has been matched;

(B) the ability for the passenger, driver, and TNC platform to confirm the verifiable information matching the passenger to the authorized TNC driver or TNC vehicle prior to the beginning of the trip;

(C) a TNC platform restriction on a TNC driver from commencing a trip via the TNC platform until both the passenger and the TNC driver verify the other’s identity using the system; and

(D) a way for a passenger to use a non-visual arrangement to verify the TNC driver under the system used in accordance with this subparagraph; or

(2) as an alternative to implementing the system required under paragraph (1), a transportation network company may implement any successor technology-based system that enables verification that the driver with whom the passenger has been matched through the transportation network company’s TNC platform has been authorized by the transportation network company to accept the passenger’s trip requests received through its digital network prior to the beginning of the trip.

(b) OPT OUT.—A transportation network company may offer a passenger an option