

THE CARING FOR AMERICA'S  
CHILDREN ACT

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Caring for America's Children Act, in an effort to effectively stimulate the demand for higher quality care for our Nation's children while simultaneously removing barriers and providing resources to improve the quality of child care in the United States.

Child care continues to be a worry for most families as stories continue to surface about the lack of quality child care. Moreover, research has clearly demonstrated that a high-quality child care program is one that makes the healthy development and education of children its first objective and strives to stimulate the learning process of all children through developmentally appropriate activities that foster social, emotional, and intellectual growth. In addition, families in today's society are increasingly required to have both parents enter the work force. Accordingly, the demand for quality child care is increasing as is the need for credentialed and accredited child care providers.

Accordingly, this act will stimulate the demand for higher quality child care for our Nation's children while simultaneously removing barriers and providing resources to improve the quality of child care in the United States.

Many of my colleagues may have read about the tragic circumstances surrounding the Fiedelhotz family in Florida. The Fiedelhotz' son Jeremy died after only 2 hours at a day care facility. Though this tragedy should have never happened, it is an unfortunate example of what can and may continue to happen unless we encourage and inform all parents about the need for accredited and credentialed child care providers and facilities.

Caring for America's Children Act through the Tax Code will encourage the demand for accredited or credentialed child care. This will be accomplished in the following manner: First, by increasing the amount which an employee can contribute to a dependent care assistance plan if a child is in accredited or credentialed child care; second, changing the dependent care tax credit to allow parents to receive a higher and more equitable dependent day care credit; third providing tax benefits for employees which provide quality child care; fourth, extending eligibility for businesses to take a qualified charitable deduction for the donation of educational equipment and materials to public schools, accredited or credentialed nonprofit child care providers; fifth, establishing a \$260 million competitive grant program to assist States in improving the quality of child care; sixth, expanding public information and technical assistance services to identify and disseminate to the public what is important for child development in child care; seventh, providing \$50 million to create and operate a technology-based training infrastructure to enable child care providers nationwide to receive the training, education, and support they need to improve the quality of child care; eighth, creating a child care training revolving fund to enable child care providers and child care support entities to purchase computers, satellite dishes, and

other technological equipment which enable them to participate in the child care training provided on the national infrastructure; and ninth, requiring that all Federal child care centers will have to meet all State and local licensing and other regulatory requirements related to the provision of child care, within 6 months of the passage of this legislation.

I want to urge all of my colleagues to review this bill and to cosponsor this important bill. Our children are our future and we must insist that they receive the best care possible, especially during their early development years.

Accordingly, I urge your support.

CONGRATULATING PETER AND  
FRANCES KENDALL

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate J. Peter Kendall, mayor of Oakland, New Jersey, and his wife, "Fran," on being chosen as the recipients of the 1999 West Bergen Mental Healthcare's Distinguished Service Award. Mayor and Mrs. Kendall have given many years of exemplary public service to their community, both in the field of mental health and otherwise. This honor is certainly well deserved, and today I wish to add the recognition of the United States House of Representatives to that which they have received from West Bergen Mental Healthcare.

Over the years, the Kendalls have been strong advocates of affordable mental health services for families in their community. Together, they have been actively involved with West Bergen Mental Healthcare in numerous ways, contributing generously of their time and talents.

Mrs. Kendall has adopted "doing for others" as a personal philosophy. She divides her time between community service, her family and neighbors, a great talent for art and a never-ending interest in politics, people and participation. In 1994, her commitment to Oakland was recognized when she was chosen as the Oakland Women's Club as Woman of the Year. Fran has truly been a close, supportive friend to the community and all who know her.

An awarding-winning artist, Mrs. Kendall has been honored at numerous art shows, including the CAA Interstate Show, the CAA National Juried Art Show, the Urban Farms Art Show, the Mid-Atlantic Juried Art Show and many others. Her work "displays a highly individualized sense of color" and has been featured in galleries throughout the area as well as in numerous corporate shows and private homes in the United States and abroad. Mrs. Kendall is actively involved in community activities including Oakland's 300th anniversary, "First Night Oakland," and the Bergen County Women's Republican Club among others.

When the New Jersey Conference of Mayors chose Mayor Kendall as the 1998 Mayor of the Year, they acknowledged a treasure long recognized by the people of Oakland. Currently serving his second four-year term as mayor and in this 14th year of elected office in Oakland, Mayor Kendall is a dedicated public servant. Whether it is in the political, social, economic or family arena, no task is too great or too small.

Mayor Kendall has brought his successful business experience to the benefits of Oakland, stabilizing taxes, reducing municipal staff, directing improvement projects, preserving open spaces and spearheading the building of the Oakland Senior Citizens Center. He is the chairman of the 300 anniversary celebration, initiated the "First Night Oakland" event and many others. Whether he is playing in a softball game to raise money for a sick child, working with students at Valley Middle School or playing Santa Claus, he is always there to help. In every way, Mayor Kendall has brought the people of Oakland together as a community and family.

Mayor Kendall and I have worked together on many local projects over the years and he has always provided me with sound advice and counsel, and authoritative information.

The Kendalls have lived in Oakland 22 years and have three sons—John, Mark and Sean. John and his wife, Carla, have two sons, Christopher and Peter, while Mark and his wife, Rose, have three children, Bianca, Dalton and Madisyn.

Peter and Fran Kendall are hard-working, dedicated public servants. Their efforts to improve the quality of life in their community are exemplary. Their dedication and generosity are known throughout Northern New Jersey. They are true friends to all the people all the time.

RECOGNITION OF CATHEDRAL  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY  
FOOTBALL AND GIRLS VARSITY  
SOCCER

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the Boys Varsity Football team and the Girls Varsity Soccer team of Cathedral High School in Springfield, Massachusetts. Their two teams demonstrated superb athletic excellence and great character in the fall season of 1998. Their exploits bring pride and joy to the City of Springfield and the many alumni of Cathedral High School. Their accomplishments deserve our recognition.

The Cathedral High School Football team has a long and proud tradition. Undeclared seasons can be traced back to the 1930's. The Cathedral Football legacy includes the first Notre Dame player to win the Heisman Trophy, Angelo Bertelli. Mr. Bertelli was a member of Cathedral's 1939 undefeated squad. Another legendary graduate is Nick Buoniconti, a co-captain at Notre Dame and member of the back-to-back Super Bowl Champion Miami Dolphins of 1973-74. Mr. Buoniconti was a member of the 1955 undefeated Cathedral Panthers.

The Cathedral Football team of 1998 capped an 11-0 season with the Western-Central Massachusetts Super Bowl Championship. Third year Head Coach Matt Ballard, and Assistants Tom Sheehan, Stefan Davis, and Greg Gebro, led a senior-laden squad back to the heights first reached by the likes of Bertelli and Buoniconti. Although the 1998 team was led by upperclassmen, Coach Ballard is looking forward to the return of 27 of his Champions next year.