

years. Full-time childcare for just one child can cost families more than \$10,000 annually, and for families below the poverty level—those who are already struggling the most to make ends meet—childcare can, on average, swallow one-third of what those parents are able to bring home.

This is a real problem for far too many hard-working parents, and it is a problem for our economy, because when parents are struggling to find reliable, safe, affordable care for their children during the day, it is harder for them to give their all on the job. Even worse, childcare is so expensive, some parents—most often mothers—are deciding it is not even worth returning to the workforce. This means families are being held back from gaining the economic security they are working so hard to achieve.

The child and dependent care tax credit was of course intended to help parents overcome these barriers, but today the benefit working parents get from the credit is a small fraction of what childcare actually costs. Because of how it is structured, the lowest income working families cannot benefit from it at all, meaning they have to bear the full brunt of childcare costs on very low wages.

It is clear this credit is one of the policies we need to bring into the 21st century, and that is exactly what we were doing when we introduced the Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act. This legislation will boost the benefit working families can receive for childcare costs, and it will make the child and dependent care tax credit refundable so those working parents who are struggling the most to make ends meet can better afford the childcare they need to work and support their families.

If Congress passes our bill, next year working families could see a credit of \$1,600 for one child or \$3,200 for more than one child. That is almost three times the maximum benefit many families are currently eligible to receive.

Our bill would be a real help to hard-working families who are trying to raise their children, pay the bills, save for college, and put something away for retirement. It could break down one of the biggest barriers mothers face when thinking about reentering the workforce.

The need to expand access to affordable childcare is something I often talk about with my own constituents in Washington State. During those conversations, what I hear from parents is: I am so glad you focused on this. It is a real issue for us.

Updating this tax credit to reflect the needs of families in today's economy would be a critical step forward in terms of our larger effort to ensure that working parents, dads and moms, have a fair shot.

I believe by putting in place policies to make childcare more affordable, make sure women get the equal pay they deserve by raising the minimum wage so millions of workers have a better shot at lifting themselves out of

poverty, and by taking steps to ensure students are not overwhelmed by debt after they graduate from college, we could break down some very real barriers that are holding our families and our economy back. There is no reason we should not start that right now with the bill we are introducing today.

I hope all of our colleagues will take a minute, look at this—Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act—and take this seriously. I hope we will be able to make it easier for moms and dads to afford safe reliable care for their children while they are at work. I think we can all agree parents deserve to have that peace of mind. I believe if we enact this bill and build on it with other critical policies to help working families, our economy will be much stronger now and over the long term.

I thank Senators SHAHEEN, BOXER, and GILLIBRAND again for all of their hard work and leadership on the part of working families.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3454. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3455. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3456. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3457. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3458. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3459. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3460. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3461. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3462. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3463. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3464. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3465. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3466. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3467. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3468. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3469. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3470. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3471. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3472. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3473. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3474. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3475. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3476. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3477. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3478. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3479. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3454.** Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

**SEC. 1** . . . . . **EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite