

CELEBRATING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S REBIRTH

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate our friend and ally, the State of Israel, on the 64th anniversary of her founding.

A week ago, I had the honor of attending the National Days of Remembrance ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. As I listened to the program, I was reminded again that there was nothing pre-ordained about the rebirth of the State of Israel. When he was President, Dwight Eisenhower said, "Our forces saved the remnants of the Jewish people of Europe for a new life and a new hope in the reborn land of Israel." Even upon its founding 64 years ago Israel's survival was not assured. That is still the case today, but we must commit to a lasting State of Israel, for all that she represents and stands for.

I have seen Israeli families terrorized by rocket attacks, so I understand the daily threat they face. The political movements sweeping the region from Libya to Syria have the potential—if hijacked by extremists—to pose mortal threats to Israel's existence. I am ever mindful of Israel's precarious position, which is why I have voted for over \$35 billion in economic and military assistance for Israel during my time in Congress, and I will continue to support such measures in the future.

Ultimately, the only way to achieve lasting peace and security for the citizens of Israel is to secure a just, permanent, and peaceful settlement between Israelis and Palestinians, and their neighbors. In the past, genuine, measurable progress towards that goal has come when the United States has been most directly engaged in trying to bring the parties together. The Camp David and Oslo accords are examples. I remain convinced that real progress can be made towards peace—but our country must take the lead in bringing the two sides together. Just as our unshakeable commitment to our friendship and partnership with Israel should not be questioned by the PA, neither should the world community be allowed to doubt that our nation understands that resolving this conflict is essential to achieving peace throughout the Middle East.

On Israel's 64th anniversary, my hope remains that the future of Israel and the Middle East is one of peace, cooperation, security, and prosperity. I am pleased to join the Jewish community of New Jersey and all Americans in celebrating Israel's national successes, her great contributions to the international community, and her continued existence as an inspiration not only to Jews, but to all people.

ENSURING CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I and my colleagues are introducing the "Ensuring Child Care for Working Families Act of 2012."

This bill creates an entitlement to the states to provide guaranteed child care assistance for children up to age 13 for low-income families with incomes up to 200 percent of the poverty level. In the context of growing poverty, declining incomes, and high unemployment, we must invest in child care.

Working families today are faced with the challenge of finding stable, high quality child care to enable them to work. This challenge is compounded for low-income working families who are severely impacted by federal and state cuts to child care assistance. These cuts have profound economic and social costs. Research is clear that child care assistance helps low-income mothers afford the reliable child care they need to get and keep a job. Child care helps children, families and communities prosper. It gives children the opportunity to learn and develop the skills they need to succeed in school and in life. It gives parents the support and peace of mind they need to be productive at work.

Yet today, only one in six children eligible for federal child care assistance receives help. Twenty-two states have waiting lists for child care assistance. Despite the importance of child care assistance, families in thirty-seven states were worse off in February 2011 than in February 2010 under one or more key child care assistance policies.

In 13 states, a family with an income above 150 percent of poverty cannot qualify for child care assistance. Yet in the majority of communities across the country, a family needs an income equal to at least 200 percent of poverty to meet its basic needs, including housing food, child care, transportation, health care, and other necessities, based on a study by the Economic Policy Institute. What we define as poverty no longer reflects what it really means to be poor in this country.

Reliable high quality child care makes the difference in the economic health and survival of families and in the educational development of children. Too many families are forced to find ways to pay for child care assistance while they struggle to put food on the table and pay their rent. Child care assistance enables us to have a stable work force, with fewer absences and more productivity. Yet, absent an increase in funding in 2013, as few as 1.4 million children might be served in 2013. This would result in the smallest number of children served since 1998.

According to the National Women's Law Center 8th annual review of key child care subsidy policies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, families were worse off in 2011 than they were in 2010, but they are also worse off than they were a decade ago. Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided an additional \$2 billion for child care, states had used most of that money by the end of 2010 and were battling severe budget deficits.

Enacting the "Ensuring Child Care for Working Families Act of 2012" will help lessen the burden of struggling parents as it will:

Maintain state investments in child care prior to the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, including existing provisions relating to federal matching of state expenditures.

Provide federal grants to States and qualified Indian tribes and tribal organizations in amounts necessary to provide child care as-

sistance to any family with a dependent child requiring such care in which: family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty line, and child care assistance will enable a family member to work or participate in an education or training program.

Require States and Indian tribes/tribal organizations receiving such grants to guarantee the provision of child care assistance to all families meeting the specified criteria.

Ensure that States continue to comply with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, including the requirement to set aside a minimum of 4 percent of funding for quality.

Direct the Secretary to promulgate regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

Provide that such amendments are effective on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the 12-month period beginning upon enactment.

This legislation is based on a 2007 paper presented at the Center for American Progress entitled "Next Steps for Federal Child Care Policy." Our federal child care policy must catch up to the economic and social reality of the world in which we live. The number of families falling further into poverty, but don't yet qualify for child care assistance, is increasing. This costs our society billions in lost productivity and increased spending on health care. This bill helps ensure our society will be strong and prosperous well into the 21st century.

ENSURING CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Section 1—Short Title. The "Ensuring Child Care for Working Families Act of 2012."

Section 2—Child Care Funding. Amends Section 418 of the Social Security Act to:

Maintain state investments in child care prior to the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, including existing provisions relating to federal matching of state expenditures.

Provide federal grants to States and qualified Indian tribes and tribal organizations in amounts necessary to provide child care assistance to any family with a dependent child requiring such care in which: family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty line, and child care assistance will enable a family member to work or participate in an education or training program.

Require States and Indian tribes/tribal organizations receiving such grants to guarantee the provision of child care assistance to all families meeting the specified criteria.

Ensure that States continue to comply with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, including the 4 percent quality set-aside.

Direct the Secretary to promulgate regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

Provide that such amendments are effective on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the 12-month period beginning upon enactment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HUNTER LANE, JR.

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Hunter