Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 6, the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. This bill will not only do away with the unfair tax burden on married couples, but it will also double the per-child tax credit from $500 to $1,000. For the 25 million married couples saddled with the marriage penalty, for low and middle income parents, and for their children, this relief will not come a minute too soon. No one should be penalized for being married. No family should be penalized for having a stay at home parent. Yet without this critical legislation we would miss an opportunity to do right by the people who sacrifice everyday to not only make a home for their family but also to pay their share of taxes. Following up on our passage of H.R. 3, this bill is another big step in the right direction.

Relief from the marriage penalty, a greater child tax credit and lowered marginal tax rates, will mean real help for real families. When fully phased in, a married couple with 2 children earning $35,000 filing jointly will save over $1,800 dollars a year. That's real money to invest in their children's education, pay the bills, and save for the future. This bill is pro-marriage, pro-child, and pro-family. Not just young married couples and families, but older ones, too. The numbers don't lie. H.R. 6 would give 6 million seniors marriage tax relief in 2002 and increase to 9 million seniors in 2010. I urge my colleagues to vote for the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. Vote to support our nation's families.

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