

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 29, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 26, 2007, at 10:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3678.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

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 a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ANTHONY DEJUAN BOATWRIGHT ACT

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1473) to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1473

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 the "Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

Section 658e(c)(2) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E)(i) by adding at the end the following: "The State shall include as part of its regulatory process for issuance and renewal of licenses to providers of child care services, a recommendation to each provider that it carry current liability insurance covering the operation of its child care business.", and

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) in clause (ii) by striking "and" at the end,

(B) in clause (iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon,

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

"(iv) a requirement that each licensed child care provider—

"(I) post publicly and conspicuously in the service area of its premises a notice specifying whether or not such provider carries current liability insurance covering the operation of its child care business;

"(II) provide to parents of children to whom it provides child care services a written notice stating whether or not such provider carries current liability insurance cov-

ering the operation of its child care business, including the amount of any such coverage;

"(III) obtain the signature of at least 1 parent of each such child on such written notice acknowledging that such parent has received such notice; and

"(IV) maintain such notice (or a copy of such notice) as signed by such parents (or a copy of the signed notice) in such provider's records during the period in which the child receives such services.", and

(D) in the last sentence by inserting "clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) of" after "Nothing in".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1 of the 1st fiscal year that begins more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlemen from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert material relevant to H.R. 1473, as amended, into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, back home in Augusta, Georgia, there's a little 7½-year-old boy named Anthony DeJuan Boatwright, who is in a semicomatose state and hooked up to a ventilator. He wasn't born that way, but that is how he ended up. He ended up that way because of an accident, negligence, really, that never would have happened if his mother had been given the information that this bill requires.

Back in 2001, Juan's mother, Jacqueline Boatwright, was doing what millions of mothers all over the country do every day: she placed her child in day care so that she could work to improve her life and that of her child. She was a sophisticated consumer. She had done her homework and she shopped around and found a day care center. It was licensed by the State; it was clean and it complied with all sorts of Federal regulations under the Child Care Development Block Grant Act governing such things as the prevention and control of infectious diseases, building safety, premises access, and mental health and safety training for staff.

But there was one thing that Jackie Boatwright did not know: that these folks could take her money, they could take her child, they could harm her child, and they would not be financially responsible for any of the harm that they could do. That is because they had no liability insurance and there was no law, State or Federal, that required them to tell her that.

Mr. Speaker, sure enough, that is what happened. They ignored little

Juan long enough for him to find a bucket of water. Like every child that age, he had just enough strength to pull himself up and to look over inside and to fall inside, head first, but not enough upper body strength to push or pull himself back up. It was a death trap, and little Juan fell into it. Well, Juan survived, but his life and that of his family have been ruined and changed forever.

This bill would have prevented all of this from happening. It would not have done it by creating a whole new bureaucracy of day care inspectors to watch the watchers. It would have done it in the least expensive and most efficient way possible, by simply requiring the day care center to tell Jackie Boatwright what they knew but did not tell her, that they were willing to accept the moral responsibility of taking care of her baby, but they were going to accept none of the financial responsibility for failing to do so.

That would have prevented this from happening, because that is all it would have taken to prevent this tragedy from happening. Because if Jackie had known that, she would have done what any other parent would do: she would have taken her business someplace else, someplace where they accept some degree of financial responsibility for the consequences of their negligence and incorporate the cost in the cost of doing business, just like every other financially responsible business does.

Jackie has tried to make something positive out of this. She has determined to prevent this from happening to anybody else. Thanks to her efforts, financial responsibility disclosure laws are now on the books in four States: Georgia, California, Virginia and New Hampshire. This bill will close the gap by requiring financial responsibility disclosure for licensed day care facilities in the rest of the country.

In 2005, there were literally millions of kids in this country receiving day care in facilities that are governed by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. Only a fraction of these kids live in the four States that have now stepped forward to enact financial responsibility disclosure laws. That means that millions of kids still go to licensed day care facilities all around the country today whose parents have no idea that their day care centers can harm their child and accept none of the financial consequences of doing so.

This bill will give the parents of these millions of children the same information that parents are entitled to as a matter of law in the States of Georgia, California, Virginia, and New Hampshire. These parents have just as much need to know about the financial responsibility of the folks they give their kids to, and this bill will give them the same information.

This bill does not require any day care facilities to go out and get liability insurance. It merely requires licensed day care centers to tell parents

whether or not they have insurance, and, if so, how much. That is all. It then leaves it up to the parents to do what Jackie Boatwright would have done if only she had had this information, and that is to decide for themselves whether or not to leave their child with someone who wants to accept the responsibility for caring for your child, wants to take your money for doing so, but is unwilling and unable to accept any of the financial consequences for failing to fulfill this responsibility.

Indirectly, Mr. Speaker, this bill actually does more than that. By giving parents the information that they have a right to know, it places a powerful economic incentive on all day care centers to do what all of the financial consequences for failing to fulfill this responsibility and to incorporate the costs of that into the cost of doing business that goes along with the moral responsibility to take care of the children in their care. Anyone who wants to do business without doing that will be at a competitive disadvantage compared to those who do.

This approach gives the invisible hand of self-interest the opportunity to do some good in the marketplace; the interests of day care centers to do the right thing or compete at a disadvantage compared to those who do, and the interests of parents in placing their children in day care centers that are ready, willing and able to do the right thing if and when they mess up.

We have truth in labeling; we have truth in lending and truth in advertising. This is truth in day care. The States have led the way, and now it is time for the Federal Government to follow their lead. The families that end up being harmed because they are kept in the dark deserve no less.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1473, to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance.

Working parents depend on child care so they can earn an income needed to support their families, as well as ensure that their children are well cared for in a safe environment while they are working. As such, child care is an integral part of the daily routine of millions of American families with young children. Research clearly shows us that the quality of child care has a lasting impact on a child's well-being and ability to learn.

Children in poor quality child care have been found to be delayed in language and reading skills and display more aggression toward other children and adults. School-age children's academic performance is enhanced by at-

tending formal child care programs of at least adequate quality, according to several studies.

The bill before us today does not reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Rather, it amends current law to do several things. Most importantly, it requires each provider to openly post whether or not they have current liability insurance covering the operation of the child care business, and it requires each provider to supply parents with a written notice stating whether or not the provider carries liability insurance, including the amount of such coverage.

This legislation does not supersede any State regulations regarding facility licensure or insurance requirements. We as the Federal Government are simply asking providers to inform parents whether or not they hold liability insurance. While we have not utilized the normal process of committee consideration through hearings and markup of this legislation, we do support the purpose of this legislation in providing notification of insurance to parents. I hope to see the Child Care and Development Block Grant come before this committee for reauthorization during the 110th session of Congress. As we move forward reauthorizing this program, we must consider policy that makes way for learning environments to exist where children can obtain the cognitive skills or other skills needed for them to succeed socially and academically.

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Federalizing child care is not the purpose of this bill, but rather properly and consistently informing parents of whether or not the child care center has liability insurance. In the future, we must ensure that Federal policy continues to provide States maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies as well as parental choice so the parents are able to decide the best-suited care for their children. I thank Representative BARROW for introducing this bill, and ask my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks in support of the bill, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1473, the Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act. It is named in honor of Anthony DeJuan Boatwright who suffered a terrible tragedy at a licensed child care facility in Georgia.

In the wake of her son's accident, Anthony's mother, Jackie, has become a child care advocate who has worked tirelessly to help provide better information to parents navigating the child care system.

This important legislation is modeled after laws in the States of Georgia and Virginia. H.R. 1473 amends the

Child Care and Development Block Grant Program in order to help parents receive more information about potential child care providers. The Child Care and Development Block Grant is a very important Federal program providing almost \$5 billion to States to help low-income families afford child care.

Almost 2 million children receive child care subsidies through this child care program, and it has enabled millions of families to enter or remain in the workforce. H.R. 1473 strengthens the Child Care and Development Block Grant by adding a safety standard. H.R. 1473 requires licensed child care providers to give written notice to parents about whether or not they have liability insurance and requires child care providers to post publicly whether or not they have liability insurance.

H.R. 1473 also requires States to recommend to licensed child care providers that they carry liability insurance.

Child care quality can influence whether a child arrives at kindergarten ready to succeed. Providing parents with additional information about the child care providers in their communities will help parents make the right choice for their children and for their families.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) for bringing this legislation forward. In moving this bill forward, we can help other families avoid the terrible loss suffered by Anthony DeJuan Boatwright's family.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1473.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1473, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2007 AS "COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH"

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 58) expressing support for designation of the month of October 2007 as "Country Music Month" and to honor country music for its long history of supporting America's armed forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows: