

and, as well, H.R. 8162, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues and ask my colleagues to support the legislation.

Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor and Founding Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7909, the "Ensuring Child and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020," which requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide educational materials and technical assistance to states related to the safe provision of child care services during COVID-19. Despite their vital role during the pandemic, child care providers have received insufficient actionable guidance on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while providing high-quality care.

With this bill, child care facilities not only receive information on COVID-19 prevention but also professional development for providers on health and safety as well as guidance on the acquisition and use of personal protective equipment. It also instructs HHS to recommend additional steps to Congress about ensuring the safe provision and adequate supply of childcare during COVID-19, including whether and how to expand the supply of child care to meet demand.

As an increasing number of states open up and more individuals return to work, parents are relying on child care facilities once again, making the need for proper guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at child care services more essential than ever. As of this morning, the United States has over 6,606,859 cases of coronavirus and over 195,961 related deaths. Adequate and updated information is key to getting control over this disease, and we must ensure that this guidance is easily and readily accessible to all.

It is no secret that the child care sector provides an immense public value to our society and our economy. According to the Washington Post, before the coronavirus pandemic, approximately one-third of all children under age 5 attended a paid care facility, day-care center, preschool or prekindergarten.

Child care plays a crucial role in the lives of working parents, especially in single parent households. In 2019, there were about 15.76 million children living with a single mother and approximately 3.23 million children living with a single father in the United States. We must never forget that child care is often a lifeline to single, working parents that allows them to balance both their parenting and professional responsibilities.

I am proud to be a leader on this critical piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues from both parties to join me in voting to pass H.R. 7909.

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

Madam Speaker, in these challenging times, childcare providers, especially those who run small operations, are at risk of shutting their doors. The call for Congress to act is loud and clear.

With the additional health and safety requirements providers are expected to navigate, it is important to help them implement these requirements so the children in their care remain safe and free from harm. H.R. 7909 will ensure

that childcare providers receive guidance and assistance to safely operate so that parents can return to work and our economy can continue to recover. I think most of the people, when I am back home, are just looking to return to normal, and this moves that forward.

For these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 7909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I wish to once again thank Representatives FINKENAUER and GUTHRIE for their leadership in crafting this urgently needed bipartisan bill and all of my colleagues who have spoken in support of the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act. This is such an important issue.

Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. This bill will help make sure that childcare providers who are entrusted with the health, safety, and development of our Nation's very future have the support they need to succeed.

I also want to note, as my colleague from Iowa noted, that the consideration of this bill comes after the House passage of the Child Care is Essential Act, which will provide \$50 billion in direct grant funding to help childcare providers cover operating expenses, purchase PPE and cleaning supplies, pay providers through the pandemic and beyond, and, importantly, give struggling parents relief from high-cost copayments and tuition.

This is a good investment in our children, our families, our economy, and our future. I continue to urge Senator MCCONNELL and the full Senate to take up the Child Care is Essential Act, as well as this excellent bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation before us today, H.R. 7909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7909, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1130

CHILD CARE PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2683) to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring

requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2683

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 "Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. TASK FORCE TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING CHILD SAFETY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force for Child Safety (referred to in this section as the "Task Force") to identify, evaluate, and recommend best practices and technical assistance to assist Federal and State agencies in fully implementing the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f(b)) for child care staff members.

(b) COMPOSITION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Task Force, which shall—

(1) consist of only Federal officers and employees; and

(2) include—

(A) the Director of the Office of Child Care of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Director's designee), the Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Associate Commissioner's designee), and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (or the Director's designee); and

(B) such other Federal officers and employees (or their designees) as may be appointed by the President.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the Task Force shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force shall consult with representatives from State child care agencies, State child protective services, State criminal justice agencies, providers of child care services, including providers in the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders on identifying problems in implementing, and proposing solutions to implement, the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as described in that section. Such consultation shall include consultation with State agencies that are at different stages of such implementation.

(e) TASK FORCE DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

(1) develop recommendations for improving implementation of the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, including recommendations about how the Task Force and member agencies will collaborate and coordinate efforts to implement such requirements, as described in that section; and

(2) develop recommendations in which the Task Force identifies best practices and evaluates technical assistance to assist relevant Federal and State agencies in implementing section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, which identification and evaluation shall include—

(A) an analysis of available research and information at the Federal and State levels regarding the status of the interstate requirements of that section for child care staff members who have resided in one or

more States during the previous 5 years and who seek employment in a child care program in a different State;

(B) a list of State agencies that are not responding to interstate requests covered by that section for relevant information on child care staff members;

(C) identification of the challenges State agencies are experiencing in responding to such interstate requests;

(D) an analysis of the length of time it takes the State agencies in a State to receive such results from State agencies in another State in response to such an interstate request, in accordance with that section;

(E) an analysis of the average processing time for the interstate requests, in accordance with that section;

(F) identification of any fees (and entities responsible for paying any such fees) associated with the interstate requests in each State to meet requirements, in accordance with section 658H of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f), including identification of—

(i) the extent to which such fees are consistent with subsection (f) of that section; and

(ii) information regarding factors that impact such fees;

(G) a list of States that are participating in the National Fingerprint File program, as administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and an analysis of reasons States have or have not chosen to participate in the program, including barriers to participation such as barriers related to State regulatory requirements and statutes; and

(H) a list of States that have closed record laws or systems that prevent the States from sharing complete criminal records data or information with State agencies in another State.

(f) MEETINGS.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall hold its first meeting.

(g) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the first meeting of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a final report containing all of the recommendations required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (e). The report shall also include a list of the members of the Task Force, the agencies such members represent, and the individuals and entities with whom the Task Force consulted under subsection (d).

(h) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS.—A member of the Task Force shall serve without compensation in addition to any compensation received for the service of the member as an officer or employee of the United States.

(i) EXEMPTION FROM FACAs.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(j) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate 1 year after submitting its final report under subsection (g).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Over 75 percent of preschool-age children attend some form of early care and education before reaching kindergarten. For this reason, it is imperative that we ensure we are providing our children with the best educators that will give them the best education possible.

The 2014 reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant—or as we will say today, the CCDBG Act—made changes to the original 1990 bill, including adding background checks to ensure that childcare centers receiving funds through the CCDBG are employing quality professionals.

However, in the 6 years since the reauthorization, barriers to background check information have hindered the hiring process for quality childcare providers.

So as of right now, there is no uniform process to share this information across States. Each State has its own set of laws and policies, making it harder for childcare providers to gather the necessary information for the employees that they are hiring.

S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020, would create an interagency task force that will identify the obstacles in the background check process and recommend best practices to overcoming them.

When children attend safe, high-quality, early care and education programs, they develop the skills that help them succeed in school and in the future.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020, the same bill offered by my colleagues Representatives MCBATH, KELLER, TAYLOR, FINKENAUER, and AXNE.

In 2014, Congress passed the Child Care Development and Block Grant Reauthorization Act with broad bipartisan support and it required that States conduct specified comprehensive criminal background checks for all childcare staff members.

As part of this crucial requirement, interstate checks must be completed in any State where the prospective employee lived over the last 5 years. However, given the variation of individual State laws and practices, interstate background checks have proven difficult for many States to complete.

With only three States able to fully implement the Child Care and Development Block Grant background checks as of March 1st, 2020, it is time for Congress to determine the root causes of the roadblocks to interstate background checks.

The Child Care Protection Improvement Act does just that by establishing

a task force at HHS. The task force includes the FBI and respective CCDBG Federal agencies, as well as those who are operating State background check systems in order to determine the issues with the current systems.

By establishing a task force, Congress can take action to improve the operability and preserve the resources of the grantees who are already burdened by the red tape in the interstate background check system.

Approximately 1.3 million children receive a childcare subsidy from the Child Care and Development Fund every month. Their parents deserve the peace of mind that their children's caretakers have gone through comprehensive background checks.

While good-faith efforts toward compliance have been shown and incremental improvement has been demonstrated, more can be done to expediently implement these crucial safety measures for our children. The task force established in this bill is a promising step to achieving criminal background check implementation in every State.

I thank my colleagues for working across the aisle in crafting this legislation. I thank Chairman SCOTT of the Education and Labor Committee and Republican leader FOXX for helping bring this bill to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY), my friend and an important member of our committee.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act.

As a father of three and a member of the Education and Labor Committee, the issue this legislation seeks to improve is near and dear to me.

After reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant in 2014, which passed with broad bipartisan support, Congress added a requirement for States to implement background checks for any childcare employee put in charge of supervising children.

Childcare is an essential service as well as a source of employment for many Americans, so safety and care are of the utmost concern. Parents want to know that their children are in a good, honest, and safe environment.

However, since this reauthorization, implementation has been very problematic. Many States have experienced a great amount of difficulties actually performing robust background checks.

In fact, as of March 1, 2020, only three States have been able to fully implement the required background checks.

If passed, this bill will establish a task force at the Department of Health and Human Services to monitor background checks and to make recommendations for improving implementation at childcare businesses.

Keeping children safe from harm is a parent's number one concern when they leave them in someone else's care.

Parents will be more assured when they know their caretaker and all of

its employees have histories absent of criminal activity, sexual abuse, or any other forms of neglect.

We are facing so many challenges in this Nation at this time, but regardless, we can never stop working to make our children safe.

I thank my colleague, Senator BURR from North Carolina, for leading this initiative in the upper Chamber. I thank my colleagues in the House for doing the same. I look forward to its passage here in the House.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), who has been an architect of this piece of legislation.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act, legislation that is essential to the safety of millions of American children.

I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 3986, which is almost an identical companion bill in the House.

Childcare services play an integral role in our society. Families across the Nation entrust childcare providers with the well-being of their children on a daily basis. Every parent deserves the peace of mind of knowing that their childcare providers are passionate, caring, and above all, qualified.

While this is the case with a great many providers, it is imperative for States to be able to effectively conduct background checks, especially across State lines.

Faults in our criminal background check system can leave our children vulnerable to bad actors. No child should ever be placed in the care of an unqualified or dangerous person.

S. 2683 will help States address challenges in implementing background checks required under current law, ensuring our children receive the safest and highest quality of care possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, the childcare industry is critical to the well-being of American families, and each family across our Nation deserves to know that those who are caring for their children have gone through thorough and necessary criminal background checks.

The Child Care Protection Improvement Act helps protect children and gives parents peace of mind when it comes to sending their children to a childcare facility.

This legislation is a perfect example of what Congress can accomplish when bipartisanship and meaningful collaboration take priority over politics.

I encourage a "yes" vote on S. 2683.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2683. We must do everything that we can to ensure the safety of our children. Families deserve to know that their kids are being cared for by qualified providers.

Before we close out, I thank my colleagues, Representatives VAN TAYLOR, CINDY AXNE, FRED KELLER, and ABBY FINKENAUER for working with me to introduce the House companion for this bipartisan legislation.

It is so great that we were able to work together to keep our children safe, set them up for educational success, and ensure our qualified childcare providers have access to the opportunities they have worked so hard for.

I also thank the Education and Labor Committee staff for their hard work of helping us advance this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2683, 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.

DANNY'S LAW

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3659) to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3659

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as "Danny's Law".

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) This Act is named in honor of Daniel Fitzpatrick, who, in August 2016, when he was 13 years old, tragically took his own life as a direct result of bullying.

(2) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bullying is among the most commonly reported discipline problems in public schools.

(3) Potential effects of bullying include social and emotional distress, physical injury, and increased risk for lowering academic achievement.

SEC. 2. ANTI-BULLYING ROUNDTABLE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an independent commission to be known as the "Anti-Bullying Roundtable" (in this Act referred to as the "Roundtable").

(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Roundtable shall be to study and report on bullying in elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States by consulting with State educational agencies and local educational agencies regarding—

(1) current policies on bullying;

(2) teacher education on bullying and bullying prevention policies;

(3) parent and student education on bullying and bullying prevention policies;

(4) instances of student violence as a result of bullying;

(5) instances of student self-harm as a result of bullying;

(6) preventative measures in place at State and local levels; and

(7) instances of cyberbullying and practices for addressing cyberbullying.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Roundtable shall be composed of 15 members, appointed as follows:

(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education, and those 3 members shall represent 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(B) 6 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall each select individuals who represent at least 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(C) 6 members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the Senate, and 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the Senate. The President pro tempore, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the Senate shall each select individuals who represent at least 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(D) In appointing members of the Roundtable, the Secretary of Education, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President pro tempore of the Senate, to the extent practicable, shall take into account all the other nominees to the Roundtable to ensure as many as possible of the categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2) are represented.

(2) REPRESENTATION.—The members of the Roundtable shall include, to the extent practicable, at least one representative of each of the following:

(A) Teachers.

(B) School leaders.

(C) Parents of schoolchildren.

(D) Individuals who are at least 16 years of age and who have experienced bullying.

(E) Physicians.

(F) Child psychologists.

(G) Paraprofessionals.

(H) School resource officers or other appropriate professionals responsible for school security.

(I) Specialized instructional support personnel.

(J) Other staff.

(K) Other individuals with expertise working with bullied youth.

(3) CHAIR.—The members of the Roundtable shall elect one individual to serve as chair.

(4) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the duration of the existence of the Roundtable.

(5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Roundtable shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made under paragraph (1) and in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

(6) PAY.—Members of the Roundtable shall serve without pay.

(d) TIME FRAME FOR FORMATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the designated Members of Congress and the Secretary shall appoint the members described in subsection (c)(1).