

Committee on Natural Resources on this important issue.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio
Chair.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4611, the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II. This bill would modify and simplify the city of San Diego's required permitting process under the Clean Water Act to operate the city's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The bill would make permanent a regulatory exemption under the Clean Water Act, and, in exchange, the city would promote water recycling and conservation efforts at its facility. This would result in increased water supply for the region and reduce treated wastewater discharges to the ocean.

The bill will help ensure that San Diego has long-term certainty for its water supply, all while saving the city and regional ratepayers millions of dollars by simplifying our permitting process.

I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS). This is his legislation.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

For 40 years, the city of San Diego has treated the region's sewage through the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is a chemically enhanced primary treatment facility that treats wastewater to a level that can be discharged into the ocean without harming the environment.

The Clean Water Act generally requires sewer systems to implement a secondary level of treatment. However, scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography have consistently said that forcing San Diego ratepayers to pay billions of dollars to upgrade the Point Loma facility to secondary treatment would be a waste of money because the enhanced advanced treatment the plant currently provides, combined with its 4-mile-long outfall, causes no harm to the ocean environment. In fact, the construction of a new facility along the coastline could do more harm than good. For these reasons, San Diego has been allowed to avoid building a new facility through a Federal waiver process at a cost of millions of dollars every 5 years.

Water has always been in short supply in southern California, yet, during my first years on the San Diego City Council in the early 2000s, I was one of only three council members to support blackwater recycling to improve the reliability of our regional water supply.

Even though all water is recycled, our opponents at the time dubbed it "toilet to tap." Now, however, we recognize that historic droughts, combined with the shortage of melting snow, have made our water supply

shortage a permanent challenge for the West. And today, San Diego's proposed water recycling plan with the more accurate moniker, the "pure water program," has widespread support from among local elected leaders, environmental advocates, and State regulators.

In 2019, I introduced the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II, or OPRA II, to support the dual goals of increasing fresh water supply and reducing pollution output to the ocean.

Under OPRA II, the city of San Diego must demonstrate that the pure water program can produce 83 million gallons a day of water by 2036. This is an estimated one-third of the entire city's drinking water needs. Over the same period, the program is expected to reduce pollution discharge from the Point Loma plant by over 100 million gallons.

Pure water will still require substantial investment from San Diego ratepayers; however, this bill replaces the complex and expensive secondary treatment waiver application with a simpler and more environmentally effective process if the city meets stringent water recycling milestones.

OPRA II has been a decades-long labor of love among the city of San Diego, its regional partners, and State and Federal Government. It will deploy cost-effective technology and will protect our region's water sources, technology that could one day be deployed by other vulnerable communities to help address water shortage issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank my colleagues.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the simplified permitting process under H.R. 4611 will provide more certainty to communities in the San Diego area, will increase water recycling and conservation efforts there, as well as reduce treated wastewater discharges into the Pacific Ocean.

I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4611, 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. NORTON. Mr. 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 will be postponed.

CHILD CARE IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2020

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 8326) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to require eligible recipients of certain grants to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy that directly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable, quality child care, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8326

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 is Economic Development Act of 2020" or the "CED Act".

SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302(a)(3)(A) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" before "balances resources"; and

(2) by inserting ", and directly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable, quality child care" after "sound management of development".

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall issue guidance on implementing the amendments made by subsection (a) to include the accessibility of affordable, quality child care in a comprehensive economic development strategy developed under section 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 8326.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8326, the Child Care is Economic Development Act, or the CED Act.

Access to childcare is essential to economic development but it is often ignored in planning. This legislation changes that by making sure that local Economic Development Districts consider the availability and accessibility of affordable, quality childcare when creating their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Job creation is an important part of economic development. But doing so without considering childcare leaves an enormous blind spot. For many communities large and small, access to affordable childcare remains one of the

largest barriers to job recruitment. If people cannot find quality and affordable childcare, they may not relocate to a region for a new job no matter how good the job may be.

A report from the Center for American Progress found that more than half of American households live in a childcare desert. This is especially problematic in smaller and rural communities where the rate of families with childcare deserts grows to three in five households without adequate childcare.

If our economic development plans don't consider childcare, we are limiting the type of workforce that is available to compete for jobs and limiting our economic development and competitiveness. Jobs that don't work for working families don't work for our communities.

The childcare crisis in our country has been further exacerbated by COVID-19. As many as 4.5 million childcare slots may be permanently lost due to COVID-19, further reducing the limited supply of affordable childcare nationwide. With declining childcare options, many families are forced to reduce working hours or leave the workforce altogether, oftentimes leaving women with the greatest share household duties.

Limited childcare availability has for years reduced women's participation in the workforce, and the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed that even further. In September alone, four times as many women as men left the labor force—over 865,000 women in one month alone. And women and children who have remained in the workforce report reducing their working hours by 20 to 50 percent to provide childcare services to their families.

Left unchecked, the childcare crisis, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, will reverse decades of progress for women's equity and opportunity in the workforce, including reducing pay equity and opportunity gaps.

While there is a lot we need to do to address the childcare crisis in our country, the CED Act provides us a first step forward by recognizing the intrinsic connection between economic development and access to childcare. It allows communities to identify their needs and strategies and forces an integration of early childhood needs into broader economic plans.

I am proud to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 8326, the "Child Care is Economic Development Act of 2020." In order to permit H.R. 8326 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consider-

ation of H.R. 8326 with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H.R. 8326, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward with regard to any matters in the Committee's jurisdiction. I appreciate your commitment to work with the Committee to address any outstanding issues as the bill is considered in the Senate. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation that involves the Committee's jurisdiction and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 8326.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
*Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 8326, the Childcare is Economic Development Act of 2020. I appreciate your decision to waive formal consideration of the bill.

I agree that the Committee on Financial Services has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I further agree that by forgoing formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Financial Services is not waiving any jurisdiction over any relevant subject matter. Additionally, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Financial Services should a House-Senate conference be convened on this legislation. Finally, this exchange of letters will be included in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the floor.

Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Committee on Financial Services on this important issue.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8326 ensures that recipients of Economic Development Administration grants consider childcare availability as they develop comprehensive economic development strategies.

These strategies currently incorporate various considerations, and this legislation would ensure childcare availability is also considered, which obviously helps women to contribute to the workforce.

I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 8326 will ensure that childcare availability is incorporated in the eco-

nomic development strategies that are required for EDA grants.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Homeland, and Budget Committees, and Founding Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8326, the "Child Care is Economic Development Act".

First and foremost, I wish to thank my colleague, Congresswoman ABBY FINKENAUER, for her leadership on this vital, bipartisan piece of legislation.

H.R. 8326 requires grant applicants for certain public works and economic development projects to describe in their comprehensive economic development strategy how they will increase the accessibility of affordable, quality child care.

By doing so, this bill makes it easier for child care to be an essential part of plans for local economic development projects.

The child care industry has served as a crucial backbone to the United States' economy for decades, and it, too, continues to be rocked by the devastating effects of the coronavirus.

Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks, we have seen a tremendous surge in the number of coronavirus cases across the United States.

As of today, health authorities have identified more than 11 million COVID-19 cases throughout the United States since the start of the pandemic in January.

Just last week, my home state of Texas surpassed 1 million cases and reported over 20,000 related deaths.

At the county level, Harris County, which includes my district, has reported more than 175,000 cases and over 2,360 related deaths.

Before the pandemic, Texas had more than 11,000 child care operations.

Yet, as a result of this disease, that number has reduced dramatically as these facilities have had to permanently close their doors.

According to a survey conducted by the Bipartisan Policy Center, nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of parents across the United States had difficulty finding child care amidst COVID-19.

Furthermore, about 47 percent of parents are concerned they won't be able to afford child care when they can return to the workforce.

As we seek to regain control over this virus and poise our economy to rebound from the effects of the coronavirus, these closures will, without a doubt, affect parents and families who need to return to work yet no longer have a child care provider.

Child care facilities provide an immense and unquestionable public value.

Workers in every industry rely on child care centers to provide capable care for their children, helping them juggle both parenting and employment responsibilities.

The child care industry is even more essential to single parent households.

In 2019, 15.76 million children lived with a single mother and approximately 3.23 million children lived with a single father.

For these millions of families, child care is a lifeline.

I have been a long-standing advocate for the child care industry because I understand the challenges many working families face when it comes to obtaining reliable, affordable, and quality child care.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have supported numerous initiatives that strengthen the viability of the child care sector.

Most recently, I supported:

H.R. 7327, the “Child Care for Economic Recovery Act”;

H.R. 7027, the “Child Care is Essential Act”; and

H.R. 7909, the “Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers are Safe Act”.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, voicing my support for H.R. 8326 because it serves as a vital component to our nation’s economic reopening strategy.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, approximately 50 percent of parents who have not yet returned to work cite childcare as a reason they have not returned.

By passing H.R. 8326 today, we have the opportunity expand access to quality child care, so that individuals who are pursuing opportunities with these public works projects will not have to worry about choosing between employment opportunities and child care.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 8326, the “Child Care is Economic Development Act.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8326.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5919) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children’s Museum to provide the National Children’s Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5919

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 “National Children’s Museum Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–81) designated the Capital Children’s Museum, the predecessor to the National Children’s Museum, as the “National Children’s Museum”;

(2) the National Children’s Museum operates under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is organized under the laws of the District of Columbia;

(3) the mission of the National Children’s Museum is to inspire children to care about and change the world; and

(4) the National Children’s Museum is located in the federally-owned Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

(b) NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM.—Chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “§ 6735. National Children’s Museum

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children’s Museum for the operation of the National Children’s Museum in the approximately 32,369 square feet of space commonly known as suite C-001 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Space’) of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center for the duration of the retail space license agreement between Trade Center Management Associates, LLC, or a successor entity, and the Museum, dated December 4, 2017, including any exercised renewal options.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall include provisions that—

“(1) require, for the period in which the General Services Administration owns or controls the Space, the General Services Administration to provide rent for the Space; and

“(2) terminate such agreement if—

“(A) the Museum does not continue to qualify as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(B) the Museum no longer uses the Space as a children’s museum; and

“(3) prohibits the Museum from transferring the interest in such agreement.

“(c) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Administrator shall use funds derived from—

“(1) the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation fund; or

“(2) the International Trade Center fund.

“(d) REPORT.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall require the National Children’s Museum to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate an annual report on the operations and finances of the Museum.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 6735. National Children’s Museum.”.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5919, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5919, the National Children’s Museum Act. This is a bill that I wrote and am grateful that the House is considering it today. I thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for their support of this bill.

This bipartisan bill would require the General Services Administration to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children’s Museum, a congressionally designated museum, to allow the museum to remain in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, as it is called, a federally owned building in the Nation’s Capital, without charge for the duration of its existing lease. There is precedent for Congress’ requiring the General Services Administration to enter into a cooperative agreement for the use of a Federal building in the District of Columbia by a private museum without charge. The National Building Museum operates under such an agreement.

This bill would allow the National Children’s Museum—the Nation’s first combination children’s museum and science center—to remain centrally located in the Nation’s Capital for the benefit of the millions who visit and live in the city and the national capital region. Originally named the Capital Children’s Museum, the National Children’s Museum was a staple in the District for decades. The institution opened in 1974 in a former convent on H Street Northeast. In 2003, Congress recognized the immense value of having a children’s museum in D.C. and officially designated the museum as the National Children’s Museum. Now the museum is bringing new and innovative science, technology, engineering, arts, and math—or STEAM—exhibits to the Nation’s Capital, building on more than 30 years of educating D.C. children and families.

Importantly, this bill would relieve concerns about the ability of the museum to survive the coronavirus pandemic. When the museum reopened in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center this year, it immediately attracted many visitors from throughout the national capital region and the Nation but was forced by the pandemic to close 18 days later.

At this time, the museum remains temporarily closed until further notice. Still, the museum has continued to offer valuable STEAM resources to our children as they navigate these new challenging learning circumstances, including over 75 at-home experiment and project video programs, monthly