

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

**Help Working Families Afford Child Care**

**Cosponsor the *Support Working Parents Act*, H.R. 5260**

Dear Colleague:

Across the country working mothers and fathers face an all-too-common dilemma: finding quality childcare that won't break the bank. In 39 states, the cost of one year's worth of infant day care exceeds the cost of one year's tuition at a four-year public university. Putting Americans back to work is central to our economic recovery, but too many families are forced to limit their productivity and earning potential because of the high cost of childcare.

**That's why we have introduced legislation, the *Support Working Parents Act*, to nearly double the current tax break middle-income families receive for childcare costs.** With our proposal a typical American family with two children would receive a tax credit to cover up to \$2,100 in childcare costs, up from just \$1,200 under the current law.

We achieve this by eliminating a penalty on middle-income families and making the tax code fairer for everyone. Under current law, taxpayers earning less than \$43,000 a year receive a credit that's equal to 35 percent of their expenses. However, for families earning more than \$43,000 a year—a figure well below the median national income for two wage earner families—the tax credit phases out to just 20 percent of expenses. Our proposal would eliminate this phase-out and allow all families, regardless of their income, to receive the full credit of 35 percent of their child care expenses.

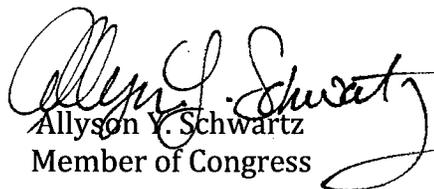
Over the last 35 years, the number of two-income families has nearly doubled and the cost of childcare has skyrocketed. Working parents are the backbone of our economy and it is time this tax provision caught up with today's modern family.

The *Support Working Parents Act* has the support of:

Third Way, Early Care & Education Consortium, Every Child Matters, First Focus Campaign for Children, and Voices for America's Children.

For more information, or to cosponsor H.R. 5260, please contact Kelly Hall in Rep. Schwartz's office at [Kelly.Hall@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kelly.Hall@mail.house.gov) or 5-6111.

Sincerely,

  
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