

Thank you Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

I'm here today to encourage your committee to consider and pass a bipartisan bill that I wrote with the help of my Republican colleague Lori Chavez DeRemer from Oregon, as well as small business owners on the Central Coast of California.

I'm sure there are many people here today who will claim that their bills are simple and straightforward – but our bill, the Child Care Investment Act, really is.

We are just trying to make sure that the federal child care tax incentives already in our tax code are actually working.

We already have a tax credit set up to help businesses offer child care as an incentive when hiring and retaining workers.

We just want to update it, and expand the ways they can provide that care.

We already have a tax structure set up for families to save for child care tax-free.

We just want to update the cap on child care FSAs – which in this case are called Dependent Care Assistance Plans; to keep up with the current cost of care.

Keep in mind: these caps have not been updated since the 1980s.

And, we already have tax credits to help working families who may be struggling to cover child care expenses.

We want to make sure that tax credit is updated, and keeping up with inflation.

The Child Care Investment Act has the support of multiple different Chambers of Commerce from my district, as well as the First Five Years Fund, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Early Care and Education Consortium.

And did I mention, its bipartisan?

Child care is without a doubt a pressing economic issue.

It keeps families out of the workforce if they can't find the care they need. It prevents businesses from hiring, expanding, or operating at the levels they want if they cannot find the workers they need.

As this committee considers updating our tax code to support our small businesses and working families, I hope you will consider including this commonsense, bipartisan bill.