



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021

SENATOR BROWN CHILD TAX CREDIT FLOOR SPEECH AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – I want to talk directly to Ohio parents for a moment:

Parents – check your bank accounts.

A week ago today, we once again put money directly in the pockets of the families of most Ohio parents.

We know how hard you work – at your jobs, and at raising your kids. Any parent knows how much work it is to take care of children, especially young children – and it's only gotten harder over the last year and a half.

And so often, your hard work doesn't pay off like it should.

We have not recognized in this country that raising kids IS work.

And if you have a job outside the home, you're probably not getting paid what you're worth.

We've seen what's happened over the past few decades:

Productivity has gone up, stock prices have soared, executive compensation is stratospheric – but wages have barely budged.

Meanwhile, you all know how expensive it is to raise kids.

Child care, health care, school lunches, diapers, clothes, school supplies, braces, sports fees, the list never seems to end.

And that's not to mention trying to put money away for college, or send your kid to camp, or maybe, just maybe, take the family out to dinner once in a while, or take a family vacation.

You feel like you can't keep up, no matter how hard you work.

It's why we passed the Child Tax Credit – the largest tax cut for working families, ever.

It's about finally – finally – making your hard work pay off, so you can keep up with all those extra expenses that keep coming when you're raising a family.

Stories have poured into our office from parents across Ohio about these tax cuts. Listen to how these Ohio parents are using these checks:

Katie, Akron: “Help pay for school supplies”

Caitlin: “Pay for preschool for my son”

Lyndsay: “Back to school clothes”

Fern: “It will pay for preschool for both of them and the rest is going in a savings account for them.”

Melissa: “I used part of it to buy school uniform pieces for my 4 year old”

Jennifer: “Put away for college tuition”

Maia: “Food and school supplies.”

And one of the most common stories we hear over and over is that parents are using this to afford child care, so they can go to work, or keep working, or work more hours.

One mother, from Minford, in Southeast Ohio, wrote to me – she said:

“My husband and I are middle class, raising two children under 6 years old. We have been worried about the financial burden of paying for 2 children in full-time child care.

“The \$300, per child, will be placed entirely towards child care so that we do not have to worry about how my participation in the workforce affects us, and allow us to participate more in the economy.

She continued, “I believe these payments will allow more parents, especially mothers, to participate more fully in the workforce, allow them more time to pursue training, and help American families keep food on the table. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

That’s what these tax cuts are all about – they’re about the Dignity of Work.

ALL work has dignity – whether you punch a clock or swipe a badge, whether you’re on salary or work for tips, or whether you’re caring for children.

Raising children IS work.

It’s a hell of a lot more work than moving money from one overseas bank account to another, or than checking the balance in your stock portfolio.

Yet that didn’t stop Mitch McConnell from rewarding the wealthiest CEOs and hedge fund managers and Swiss-bank-account-holders.

We all remember what happened.

Mitch McConnell – and the lobbyists in his office, and the politicians who always do his bidding – passed their tax cut for the wealthy and for corporations that outsource jobs.

They promised it would trickle down to everyone else. We know it didn’t happen.

They kept the money for themselves.

Corporations turned around and spent that money on stock buybacks – which, unsurprisingly, end up in the pockets of their executives.

Now this year, without a single vote from Republicans in Congress, we passed tax cuts for everyone else.

It's a pretty simple contrast – whose side are you on?

Do you want tax cuts for billionaires and corporations? Or do you want tax cuts for working families?

Every single month, we're showing parents and workers: we're on your side.

And we will not stop fighting to make sure parents' hard work pay off for years to come.

###