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TRIBUTE TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES WHO ARE CAREGIVERS

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, across the country there are more than 6 million children living in grandparent and other relative headed households.

About 2.5 million of these children are living in homes without either parent present. Regardless of the many reasons children enter relative care, including death of a parent, neglect, and substance abuse, it is never, ever the fault of the child. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for these children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable, homes, often at great personal and financial sacrifice.

Stories of a 78-year-old grandmother raising a four year old, a 71-year-old grandfather raising 5 teenagers, or a single grandmother raising more than 6 grandchildren are all too common throughout Colorado and our nation.

Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often goes unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, today, I offer my formal acknowledgement and deepest appreciation for the ongoing service of these caregivers to our country and our nation's most valuable asset, our children.