

IN SUPPORT OF SUBSIDIZED
GUARDIANSHIP**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, across America, too many children remain in the foster care system for far too long. Through efforts known as subsidized guardianship, though, the amount of time from entrance into foster care to permanent placement is being slightly reduced.

Currently, there are more than six million children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. The reasons vary, some children enter due to the death of a parent, others have been neglected while others have suffered abuse and still more live in foster care because of poverty or the military deployment of a parent. Whatever the reason, these children lack the security that permanent residency affords. I celebrate grandparents and other relatives who unselfishly and at great financial sacrifice provide safe, stable homes for these children. There are compassionate programs such as subsidized guardianship, that permit children to transition from the foster care system into the permanent custody of loving and supportive relatives in a comparatively short period of time.

In my State of Pennsylvania, 7 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed. I appreciate and congratulate those who put the interest of our Nation's children first. Future generations will be better because of those who provide the continuing services of subsidized guardianship.
