Recognizing Direct Support Professionals

Strengthening the Direct Support Workforce Through Federal Data Collection

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) support millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live full lives in their communities.

DSPs provide supports that are primarily funded by Medicaid and cover a wide range of habilitation services including, support and skill-building for activities of daily living, employment, transportation, and other supports that promote independence and community inclusion thereby avoiding unnecessary and expensive institutionalization and hospitalization.

Currently, "Direct Support Professional" is not recognized at the federal level because it does not have a unique Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code for data collection.

WHY SUPPORT A NEW SOC FOR DSPS?

- The classification system does not include a distinct code for DSPs.

- SOCs are used to collect data and help all levels of government (local, state, federal) identify employment trends.

- DSPs are often inaccurately and inconsistently incorporated into a variety of SOCs which do not capture their full spectrum of work activities.

- A SOC for DSPs will enable state and federal agencies to collect data on the high turnover rate of DSPs and inform policies to address the workforce shortage.

- This legislation has no cost. The Congressional Budget Office has given this bill a score of zero.

HOW CAN CONGRESS HELP?

+ ⟶ Support S. 1332/ H.R. 2941

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Support the bipartisan Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act (S. 1332/ H.R. 2941), which urges the Office of Management and Budget to consider the creation of a separate category within the Standard Occupational Classification system for DSPs.

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