



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

The Arc
2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006

T 202 534-3700
F 202 534-3731
thearc.org

July 9, 2024

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chair
House Education and Workforce Committee
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Education and Workforce Committee
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support H.R. 2941, the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act

Dear Chair Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of The Arc of the United States, we thank you for scheduling H.R. 2941, the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act, for a mark-up on July 10th. *We urge every member of the House Education and Workforce Committee to support this legislation.*

The Arc is the nation's largest and oldest advocacy and services organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families with nearly 600 chapters in 47 states and the District of Columbia. The Arc serves more than 1.5 million people with IDD and family members through more than 4,000 service locations.

Direct support professionals (DSPs) help people with IDD become independent and integrated into their communities. In contrast to other direct care workers, a DSP does more than just assist people with activities of daily living. DSPs focus on helping individuals develop the skills necessary to participate in society. The supports DSPs provide help individuals with IDD avoid unnecessary, costly institutionalization and hospitalization.

The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is a federal statistical standard used to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. Most of the supports DSPs provide are paid by states through Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) waiver programs. The lack of a distinct occupational classification for DSPs hinders the ability of states to appropriately set rates for the services these workers provide. Adding a SOC code for this profession is a necessary first step in addressing a decades-long workforce crisis that threatens individuals with disabilities' access to critical supports.

H.R. 2941 will help ensure federal recognition of the critical role DSPs play in providing supports for people with IDD and will help address the ongoing DSP workforce crisis by ensuring there is adequate data collection to inform future policymaking. We urge every member of the Committee to vote YES on H.R. 2941.

Sincerely,

David Goldfarb
Director of Long-Term Supports and Services Policy
The Arc of the United States