



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

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April 19, 2024

The Honorable Senator Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: The Long-Term Care Workforce Support Act

Dear Senators Casey, Kaine, and Baldwin:

I am writing to express our appreciation of your leadership in introducing legislation to begin to address the direct care workforce crisis. *The Long-Term Care Workforce Support Act* includes a number of critically important provisions to address unmet needs and make investments in supporting these vital workers. The Arc of the United States has a longstanding history of advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through supporting expanded access to home and community-based services and addressing the direct support professional (DSP) workforce crisis. DSPs are critical to advancing the independence and dignity of people with IDD. Bold steps are needed to address these interrelated issues.

The current crisis in the direct care workforce will only grow as our society ages. Improving compensation is paramount to reducing turnover and vacancies, which ultimately impact the quality of care provided to individuals with disabilities and older adults. Additionally, ensuring that these professionals are treated with respect, provided with a safe working environment, and protected from exploitation is crucial for their well-being and the well-being of those they serve.

At the same time, this country must continue to rebalance the Medicaid program towards home and community-based services (HCBS). Today, nearly 700,000 individuals are on waitlists for these services. People with IDD account for nearly three-quarters of these waitlists. A major system change is needed to accommodate the growing demand for these services and to be able to provide skilled and compensated staff to meet these needs.

The Arc and our chapters have fought for rate increases in many states and have supported state level pass through requirements to ensure that DSP wages go up as part of new rate increases. The Arc is reviewing the compensation pass-through conditions outlined in Section 101 and Section 102 and looks forward to working with you to ensure there are no unintended consequences from these provisions.

We applaud your efforts in developing legislation to address this pressing issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff to continue to advance the interests of people with disabilities and the direct care workforce.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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