



September 18, 2019

Hon. Robert C. Scott, Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Direct Creation, Advancement, and Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act.

Dear Chairman Scott,

On behalf of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), I am writing to express support for the Direct Creation, Advancement, and Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act. This legislation jump-starts innovative service delivery models to meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities who rely on direct service providers to live, learn, work, worship and thrive in their own homes and communities.

Currently, the professional home health care workforce is unprepared to meet the emerging gaps created by aging “baby boomers” and an aging family caregiver network. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for home health and personal care aides will far outpace the current rate of growth. Jobs for home health aides and personal care aides are projected to grow 41 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, low wages and difficult work make this occupation less desirable to a modern workforce.

The Direct CARE Opportunity Act addresses the direct care workforce crisis by investing in promising strategies to recruit, retain and advance the direct care workforce pipeline. It incentivizes state, regional and local innovation to attract direct care workers such as training, career pathways, or mentoring. This legislation provides an immediate and concentrated effort to increase the direct service provider workforce so that older adults and people with disabilities can have the same freedom and liberty as everyone else.

Thank you for introducing this much-needed legislation. Please contact me by email at eprangley@nacdd.org if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Erin Prangley
Director, Policy
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

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