



Resolution in Support of the Community Choice Act

The Direct Care Alliance is the national advocacy voice of direct care workers in long-term care. We empower workers to speak out for better wages, benefits, respect, and working conditions, so more people can commit to direct care as a career. We also unite powerful allies nationwide who support our agenda.

We believe that:

- The intimate, interpersonal, yet professional relationship between direct care workers (home care aides, personal care attendants, personal assistants, nursing assistants, direct support professionals and others) and the people they support fundamentally determines the quality of services and supports received by millions of Americans with chronic conditions or disabilities.
- In order to ensure high quality services and a life of dignity, respect, and autonomy for people who use long-term care services, we need an empowered, valued, and appropriately rewarded direct care workforce.
- The interdependence of consumers, workers and employers requires that any system change be sensitive to the needs of each group.
- Direct care is a non-exportable source of jobs for millions of Americans and one of the few growing sectors of the economy. Home care and personal assistance are particularly fast-growing occupations, with a projected need for more than 800,000 additional workers between 2006 and 2016
- The funding system for long-term care services is irrational, inadequate, and in need of reform. It renders invisible the crucial role played by direct care workers, neglecting to provide them with adequate pay, benefits, training, or career advancement opportunities.

Resolution

Whereas the Community Choice Act:

- Allows eligible individuals who meet the functional criteria for long-term services to choose home care and other community-based services in place of institutional long-term care;
- Guarantees all eligible individuals direct services and supports ranging from assistance with activities of daily living (eating, toileting, grooming, dressing, bathing, transferring) to instrumental activities of daily living (meal planning and

preparation, managing finances, shopping, household chores, phoning, participating in the community) to health-related functions, and other hands-on supervision, thus creating the need for thousands of additional home care workers

Therefore let it be resolved as follows:

1. That the Direct Care Alliance shall urge its members and allies the disability, elder and employer communities to ensure that the Community Choice Act is passed, rebalancing our long term care system;
2. That the Direct Care Alliance shall work closely with its allies to ensure that the Community Choice Act includes provisions for adequate training, career advancement opportunities, pay and benefits for the millions of home care workers who will be needed when the Act is passed.