



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Statement on the Exclusion of Direct Care Workforce Amendment from  
H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**

“As the advocacy voice for more than 3 million direct care workers, the Direct Care Alliance applauds Senator Robert Casey (D-PA), Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), and Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) for their leadership in introducing an amendment to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR3590) to include the direct care workforce as a “high priority” focus area of the National Healthcare Workforce Commission created under the legislation.”

“We also applaud the extraordinary commitment and effort of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to advance health care reform toward final Senate approval. In particular, we are pleased that the Senate bill includes a number of key benefits for direct care workers and their families, including expanded choice and access to affordable health insurance coverage, increased training and education opportunities, and Community Living and Supportive Services (CLASS) Plan provisions.”

“However, we join with Senators Casey, Kohl, and Feingold and the over forty national organizations who endorsed their amendment in expressing deep disappointment that this measure was not included in the amended senate health care reform legislation. The goal of the commission is to gather and review information on the nation’s health care workforce and provide comprehensive recommendations to Congress and the Administration on ways to strengthen this workforce. Given the significant shortage of direct care workers that is expected in the coming years, building a stable direct care workforce that provides high-quality care and services to the elderly and people living with disabilities should be a priority of the commission.”

“The DCA especially appreciates the strong leadership and support of HELP Committee Chair Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), together with Senators Casey, Kohl, Feingold and others who have been champions for direct care workers in health reform.”

“We look forward to continuing to work with our congressional champions, direct care worker leaders, and allies on this issue. Together, we will ensure that the health care reform bill signed into law by the President will both improve the health care system for and address the workforce needs of our nation’s direct care workers.”

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The Direct Care Alliance is 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 convene powerful allies nationwide to build consensus for change.