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Sen. Casey to Introduce Direct Care Workforce Empowerment Act in Senate

Washington, DC – At a Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing [Monday](#), Senator Bob Casey (D-CA) [announced](#) the introduction of the [Direct Care Workforce Empowerment Act](#) in the Senate, a move that demonstrates his commitment to end unfair labor practices and strengthen the direct care workforce. The Senate bill mirrors H.R. 5902, which was introduced by direct care champion Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) last week.

The bills would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to include basic labor protections for home care workers, who report facing poor working conditions on the job every day. Currently, FLSA covers domestic service workers and most direct care workers in institutional settings such as nursing homes. However, the law continues to exclude home care workers from basic minimum wage and overtime protections.

In addition to extending wage and overtime protections for home care workers, the Direct Care Workforce Empowerment Act would:

- Establish data collection and reporting requirements to monitor important workforce indicators such as size, compensation levels, turnover rates and vacancies.
- Improve the recruitment and retention of direct care workers by providing grants to states to expand and support efforts aimed at recruiting, training and retaining an adequate supply of direct care workers.

“On behalf of direct care workers everywhere, ‘thank you’ to Senator Casey, Congresswoman Sanchez and all of the cosponsors who have voiced support for the Direct Care Workforce Empowerment Act in the House and Senate,” said Leonila Vega, Executive Director of the Direct Care Alliance. “Finally, the voices of these hardworking men and women have been heard. The time has come to treat direct care as the respected profession it is, and ensure quality jobs for workers and quality care for those who need it most.”

For more information on the Direct Care Workforce Empowerment Act, visit www.directcarealliance.org/empowerment.

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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 convene powerful allies nationwide to build consensus for change.