

Talking Points for Direct Care Workers Seeking House and Senate Cosponsors for the Direct Care Job Quality Improvement Act

These talking points are simply suggestions to help guide the conversation you have with your Senators/Representative or someone from their office. You should tailor these talking points to fit your needs, making sure the conversation is brief and reflects your personal experiences. As a concerned voter in your Senators state and Representative's district, it is important that they hear from you on this issue. For more information on the Direct Care Job Quality Improvement Act, please visit www.directcarealliance.org/empowerment. You may contact your Representative by phone at (202) 224-3121 (the Operator will connect you) or online by visiting <http://directcarealliance.org/index.cfm?pageId=573>.

- My name is [name] and I am a direct care worker providing indispensable care and supports to the elderly and individuals living with disabilities in [town/district].
- Talk about some of the challenges you face in your work. Here are a few examples of common challenges: [working long hours for little pay], [receiving very few benefits], [lack of training and career advancement opportunities]. I take care of people for a living, but often struggle to support my own family despite [working [number of hours] per week], [working more than one job].
- I'm very excited that Rep. Linda Sanchez (CA) and Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (PA) reintroduced this bill.
- The Direct Care Job Quality Improvement Act will:
 - Extend wage and overtime protections provided through the Fair Labor Standards Act to home care workers.
 - Improve monitoring of 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.
- As a direct care worker in your state/district (if speaking with a representative), I am asking for your commitment to cosponsor this bill. Home care workers have been repeatedly denied justice under the Fair Labor Standards Act, which is meant to protect *all* workers, not just the lucky ones!
- Congresswoman Sanchez and Senator Casey have listened to direct care workers, learned from our stories, and were inspired to take action. I ask that you consider doing the same. Thank you for your time.