



August 14, 2023

Majority Leader Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

The Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD) writes to urge you to pass [S.1332 - Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act](#) as passed [unanimously](#) out of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC). Founded in 2007, the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD) is a national advocacy coalition of organizations representing people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities and their families, disability service agencies, and other individuals with experience and expertise. The mission of CPSD is to push for major systemic reform of the nation's disability laws and programs to advance economic security, enhance integrated community participation, and increase opportunities for people with disabilities so that they can lead self-determined lives.

The Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act as passed out of HSGAC would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to consider the creation of a Standard Occupational Classification for direct support professionals (DSPs). DSPs provide essential caregiving services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). DSPs also help promote independence and community inclusion for people with I/DD through services that range from coaching and career development to assistance in pursuing personal goals and aiding activities of daily living, such as meal preparation, medication management, and supporting communication. The creation of an occupational classification for DSPs is a necessary first step in addressing a decades-long workforce crisis that threatens individuals with disabilities' access to critical supports and services through the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program. The HCBS program supports individuals with disabilities to live full and independent lives in the community.

Again, we urge you to pass the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act as passed out of HSGAC. Should you have any questions, please contact Cyrus Huncharek at cyrus@ndscenter.org.

Sincerely,

Allies for Independence
Applied Self Direction
Association of People Supporting Employment First
Autism Society
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Community Options
Marc Gold & Associates
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
(NASDDDS)
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Organization on Disability (Ridge Group)
Williams Syndrome Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Center for Public Representation
National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
Microsoft
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CC: Senator Hassan
 Senator Collins
 Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee