



Strengthening the Direct Support Workforce Through Federal Data Collection

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) support millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live full lives in their communities.

DSPs provide supports that are primarily funded by Medicaid and cover a wide range of habilitation services that help people with I/DD live life with dignity and self-determination. These services include support in activities of daily living like getting dressed and learning to prepare a meal, as well as support in finding a job and succeeding while there. Support provided by DSPs help people with I/DD avoid unnecessary and expensive institutionalization and hospitalization.

Currently, "Direct Support Professional" is not recognized at the federal level because it does not have a unique Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code for direct support professionals.

Why Support a SOC for DSPs?

- The classification system does not include a distinct code for DSPs.
- SOC codes are used to collect data and help all levels of government (local, state, federal) identify employment trends.
- DSPs are often inaccurately and inconsistently incorporated into a variety of SOC codes which do not capture their full spectrum of work activities.
- A SOC for DSPs will enable state and federal agencies to collect data on the high turnover rate of DSPs and inform policies to address the workforce shortage.
- This legislation has no cost. The Congressional Budget Office has given this bill a score of zero.

Support H.R. 6137/S. 3211



How Can Congress Help?

Support H.R. 6137/S. 3211

Support the bipartisan Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act (H.R. 6137/S. 3211), which urges the Office of Management and Budget to create a separate category within the Standard Occupational Classification system for DSPs. 

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