

# APSE ACTION ALERT

Please join us in educating Members of Congress about the Direct Creation, Advancement and Retention of Employment Opportunity Act (Direct CARE Opportunity Act, [H.R. 4397](#))

The Direct CARE Opportunity Act will fund the development and promotion of innovative strategies to recruit, retain and support direct care workers – ensuring that seniors and people with disabilities have access to the care they need to live in the community.

## What issues does this bill aim to address\*?

- This assistance of direct support professionals (DSP) allow older individuals and individuals with disabilities to maintain their independence and live in their own homes and communities.
- America is facing a direct support workforce crisis. There is an increasing demand for direct support professionals (DSP), while at the same time the workforce faces high turnover and vacancy rates.
- Difficulties recruiting and retaining quality DSPs are due to many things, including low wages, poor access to health care, high job stress, insufficient training and lack of professional recognition as contributing factors.



The average DSP wage in MO is \$10.16/hr.



The annual DSP turnover rate in MO is 56%.



The DSP pipeline is not keeping up with demand.

**Share your personal stories** about the important role that DSPs play in supporting community living outcomes, including employment.

## Ways to tell your stories:

- Call your Members of Congress (U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121 or Google the phone number for your local office)
  - ✓ Provide your name and city/state where you live.
  - ✓ Ask your Member to support the Direct CARE Opportunity Act. Make sure to provide the Bill number (H.R. 4397 for the House).
- Tweet or Facebook Message your Members

\*Sources: [Report to the President 2017: America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis](#); [National Core Indicators 2017 Staff Stability Survey Report](#)