June 24, 2011

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr. U.S. Senate 393 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Linda T. Sanchez U. S. House of Representatives 1222 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Casey and Congresswoman Sanchez:

Thank you for introducing the Direct Care Job Quality Improvement Act – which offers long-awaited solutions to many of the problems facing direct care workers. As organizations representing the various constituencies that either depend on or recognize the important role of direct care workers – home care aides, personal care attendants, personal assistants, nursing assistants, and direct support professionals – we appreciate your dedication to this workforce and the people they care for.

Direct care workers are fundamental to the health, autonomy and well-being of more than 13 million Americans today and more than 27 million who will depend on their care and services in the coming years. But too often we see poor working conditions lead to high turnover in this workforce, jeopardizing the quality of care provided to those who need it most. The Direct Care Job Quality Improvement Act seeks to remedy a major failing in current labor law that excludes nearly two million home care workers from federal minimum wage and overtime protections. In addition, we support the additional provisions that strengthen data collection and workforce monitoring and improves recruitment and retention by providing grants to states to implement initiatives to improve compensation, training and career ladder opportunities for direct care workers.

Thank you for your efforts to help create a more stable, valued direct care workforce and improve the quality of care for millions of Americans. We appreciate your commitment to improving the long-term care system in this country and look forward to continuing to work with your offices in support of the Direct Care Job Quality Improvement Act.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women A Better Balance: The Work & Family Legal Center AFL-CIO AFSCME Alliance for Retired Americans Alpha One Alzheimer's Foundation of America

American Geriatrics Society

Arizona Direct Care Worker Association

Brazilian Immigrant Center

Break the Chain Campaign at IPS

Campaign for Community Change

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Action Partnership

Cooperative Care

Council on Social Work Education

Direct Care Alliance

Families USA

Family Values @ Work

Florida Professional Association of Care Givers

Food Chain Workers Alliance

Great Livin' LLC

Health Care for America Now

Interfaith Worker Justice

Jobs with Justice

Maine Women's Lobby

MataHari: Eye of the Day

National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals

National Association of Direct Care Workers of Color

National Council of La Raza

National Council on Aging

National Day Laborer Organizing Network

National Domestic Workers Alliance/ La Alianza National de Trabajadores del

Hogar

National Employment Law Project

National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce Action Fund

National Partnership for Women & Families

NCB Capital Impact

New Mexico Direct Caregivers Coalition

Pathways PA

Pennsylvania Direct Care Workers Association

PHI

Philipino Workers Center

Restaurant Opportunities Centers United

**SEIU** 

Taxi Workers Alliance of Pennsylvania

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

**USAction** 

Washington Community Action Network Washtenaw County Workers' Center Wider Oppurtunities for Women Wisconsin Direct Caregiver Alliance