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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FITZPATRICK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recognizing the Role
5 of Direct Support Professionals Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Direct support professionals play a critical
2 role in the care provided to individuals with intellec-
3 tual and developmental disabilities by providing a
4 wide range of supportive services on a day-to-day
5 basis to promote independence, including—

6 (A) enhancing independence and commu-
7 nity inclusion of these individuals, including
8 through travel and recreation, visiting friends
9 and family, shopping, or socializing;

10 (B) coaching and supporting individuals in
11 communicating needs, achieving self-expression,
12 pursuing personal goals, living independently,
13 and participating actively in employment or vol-
14 untary roles in the community;

15 (C) providing assistance with activities of
16 independent daily living (such as feeding, bath-
17 ing, toileting, and ambulation) and with tasks
18 such as meal preparation, shopping, light
19 housekeeping, laundry, and home management;
20 or

21 (D) supporting individuals at home, work,
22 school, or any other community setting.

23 (2) Through the support of direct support pro-
24 fessionals, individuals are able to lead self-directed
25 lives within their own communities.

1 (3) Providers of home- and community-based
2 services are experiencing difficulty hiring and retain-
3 ing direct support professionals, with a national
4 turnover rate of 39 percent, as identified in a 2023
5 study by the National Core Indicators.

6 (4) High turnover rates can lead to instability
7 for individuals receiving services, and this may result
8 in individuals not receiving enough personalized care
9 to help them reach their goals for independent liv-
10 ing.

11 (5) A discrete occupational category for direct
12 support professionals will help States and the Fed-
13 eral Government—

14 (A) better interpret the shortage in the
15 labor market of direct support professionals;
16 and

17 (B) collect data on the high turnover rate
18 of direct support professionals.

19 (6) The Standard Occupational Classification
20 system is designed and maintained solely for statis-
21 tical purposes, and is used by Federal statistical
22 agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupa-
23 tional categories for the purpose of collecting, calcu-
24 lating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

1 (7) Occupations in the Standard Occupational
2 Classification system are classified based on work
3 performed and, in some cases, on the skills, edu-
4 cation, or training needed to perform the work.

5 (8) Establishing a discrete occupational cat-
6 egory for direct support professionals will—

7 (A) correct an inaccurate representation in
8 the Standard Occupational Classification sys-
9 tem;

10 (B) recognize these professionals for the
11 critical and often overlooked work that they
12 perform for the disabled community, which
13 work is different than the work of a home
14 health aide or a personal care aide; and

15 (C) better align the Standard Occupational
16 Classification system with related classification
17 systems.

18 **SEC. 3. REVISION OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSI-**
19 **FICATION SYSTEM.**

20 The Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
21 et shall, as part of the first revision of the Standard Occu-
22 pational Classification system occurring after the date of
23 enactment of this Act, consider revising the Standard Oc-
24 cupational Classification system to establish a separate

1 code for direct support professionals as a healthcare sup-
2 port occupation.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 If, after carrying out section 3, the Director of the
5 Office of Management and Budget decides not to establish
6 a separate code for direct support professionals in the
7 Standard Occupational Classification system, the Director
8 shall, by not later than 30 days after the first revision
9 of the Standard Occupational Classification system occur-
10 ring after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a re-
11 port to the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
12 mental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Edu-
13 cation and Workforce of the House of Representatives ex-
14 plaining the Office of Management and Budget's decision.

15 **SEC. 5. NO NEW FUNDS.**

16 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
17 priated to carry out this Act.