

## **New Workforce Legislation Introduced in Congress**

**Source: The Alliance, October 10, 2024**

In a step towards addressing the growing workforce shortage in home care, new legislation has been introduced in Congress aimed at alleviating shortages that have left many vulnerable populations without care. This issue has become increasingly critical as the demand for home care services grows with an aging population and the desire for seniors to age in place.

The proposed legislation focuses on several key areas, including increasing funding for home care services, enhancing training programs for caregivers, and providing incentives for professionals to enter and remain in the field. These measures are designed to not only improve the working conditions and compensation for home care workers but also to ensure a stable and skilled workforce that can meet the needs of patients.

Three of the new bills are being led by Senators Angus King (I-ME) and Bob Casey (D-PA), brief summaries of each follow:

The *Direct Support Worker Training Reimbursement Act* would:

- Provide enhanced federal matching payments for direct support worker training programs at a 75 percent rate.

The *Mollie Baldwin Upskilling of Personal and Home Care Aides Act* would

- Create funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for demonstration projects to provide individuals already working in the home care workforce with opportunities for education, training and career advancement.

The *Career Advancement for Direct Support Aid Workers (CADSAW) Act* would:

- Create funding through HRSA to help individuals already working within the home health care field with opportunities to pursue increased education and training to facilitate career advancement.

The fourth new bill, the *Health Care Workforce Investment Act* led by Representatives James Comer (R-KY) and Morgan McGarvey (D-KY) would:

- provide grants to states that create public-private partnerships to increase participation in educational, credentialing, or licensing programs.

These new bills have been introduced but have not received any further consideration from their respective chambers. The National Alliance for Care at Home will continue to track

developments when the Congress returns to session following the elections in November 2024.