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U.S. SENATE DECLARES NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

Resolution highlights service of direct support workforce the week of September 14

Alexandria, VA – In a show of bipartisan support, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved [Senate Resolution 228](#) designating the week beginning September 14 as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.” Sponsored by Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE), the resolution recognizes the invaluable supports Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide and the difference this workforce makes in the lives of Americans with disabilities.

“This resolution will draw positive attention to the millions of professionals across the country who help support individuals living with disabilities,” said Senator Nelson. “They often work long hours with little pay, but their contributions are critical. Today we recognize their dedication and vital role in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages.”

“We are proud that the U.S. Senate has bestowed this recognition in honor of the direct support workforce and the tremendous impact they have in communities across the country,” said Renee Pietrangelo, ANCOR CEO.

The resolution received considerable attention in the Senate and gained nine co-sponsors including, Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS), Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY), Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE), Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME).

This recognition by the Senate is important as ANCOR’s National Advocacy Campaign (NAC) works to increase funding for DSPs and improve supports and services for people with disabilities. The low wages and difficult work often lead to high turnover of DSPs. The recognition of DSP week is another victory in the fight to improve wages, education and training, and enhance the quality of services individuals with disabilities and their families receive.

About ANCOR

The [American Network of Community Options and Resources](#) is the premier national association representing more than 850 private providers of community living and employment supports and services to more than 385,000 individuals with disabilities. As a nonprofit organization, ANCOR successfully addresses the needs and interests of private providers before Congress and federal agencies, continually advocating for the crucial role private providers play in enhancing and supporting the lives of people with disabilities and their families. The ANCOR National Advocacy Campaign was created to provide a focus on this critical workforce issue. For more information, visit www.youneedtoknowme.org.

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