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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Direct Care Worker Bill Moves Forward in the Iowa House**

(Des Moines, IA) The House Human Resource Committee chaired by Representative Ann Meyer (District 9), passed House File (HF) 402 with unanimous bipartisan support. The bill, sponsored and introduced by Representative Michael Bergan (District 55) is a huge step forward in creating workforce infrastructure that would reduce burden for those who work in direct care and provide more workforce supports for people with disabilities, older Iowans, and family caregivers. The bill would also help to provide a broader pool of qualified direct care workers to help fill workforce shortage gaps for employers.

“The legislation provides a process to build and strengthen the direct care workforce which we rely on, not only in nursing homes, but also in assisted living, in home care, nonmedical senior services, and hospices.”, said Representative Bergan.

Representative Beth Wessel-Kroeschell (District 45), Ranking Member of the Human Resource Committee, had this to say, “Thousands of Iowans depend upon direct care workers for basic human needs. This bill will help both the direct care workers and those vulnerable Iowans who need them to get out of bed, eat or get to work. This bill is a beginning.”

Iowa CareGivers Director, Di Findley, said “the direct care workforce has been in crisis for decades and the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed it to beyond the tipping point. We are pleased to see bipartisan support for a bill that is an important step forward to ensure that the needs of the direct care workforce and the people and industries that rely on it are addressed.”

For more information about the legislation and how you can help, call 515-249-0138 or visit:

[https://www.iowacaregivers.org/advocacy/direct\\_care\\_workforce\\_issues.php#.YDWBbdhKiM8](https://www.iowacaregivers.org/advocacy/direct_care_workforce_issues.php#.YDWBbdhKiM8)

Iowa CareGivers is a 501c3, independent nonprofit and advocacy organization for those in direct care and the Iowans they assist.

