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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Direct Care Workforce Bill (HF692) Stalled in the House** For Immediate Release

A direct care workforce bill (HF692) has three main components: 1) it would phase in an expansion of the direct care worker (DCW) registry to include not only Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) in nursing homes but also home care and hospice aides, patient care technicians and other direct care workers which it currently does not do. It would provide a repository where DCWs' training or certifications, whatever those may be, can be stored. Doing so will make their training more portable and follow them from one place to another without having to take the same training repeatedly <http://bit.ly/dcwregistry> 2) create a public portal of caregivers for those workers who want to opt in which could expand the pool of caregivers for older Iowans, people with disabilities, family caregivers, and employers experiencing shortages; and 3) require the Departments of Education, Public Health, and Inspections to collaborate on streamlining health workforce data and bring to scale the health workforce dashboard that will include data from the expanded DCW Registry.

The Republican sponsored bill passed unanimously out of the house subcommittee and Human Resource Committee. The bill is supported by organizations that range from the Iowa Rural Health Association, Iowa Public Health Association, AARP Iowa, and Office of the Long-term Care Ombudsman to Lutheran Services, EveryStep, Mental Health Planning Council, OIL, and the Iowa Brain Injury Association.

“With the final funnel deadline for getting bills placed on the debate calendar and out of the house, we are hopeful that legislators will pass HF692. Many Iowans face serious challenges in finding caregivers to assist them in their homes or communities and employers are experiencing serious workforce shortages. This bill will provide infrastructure needed to support so many Iowans as well as employers and the economy overall,” said Pat Steele, Iowa CareGivers Board of Directors and Advocacy Committee.

For more information about Iowa CareGivers  
[www.iowacaregivers.org](http://www.iowacaregivers.org)

