

# Senator Harkin Hears About Need For Retirement Benefits

*"I am a Certified Nursing Assistant...I'm the main bread-winner for my family after my husband was laid off...I don't have health insurance and... I have no retirement benefits other than social security."*

**Tracy Hoveland**, Certified Nursing Assistant, Mason City, IA during round table discussion with US Senator Tom Harkin

Tracy Hoveland, a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) who works at a nursing facility in Mason City, Iowa, recently was part of a "roundtable discussion" with United States Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa. The meeting was held in Mason City to discuss Senator Harkin's concerns about those in direct care who do not have access to any retirement or pension benefit other than Social Security. Senator Harkin is proposing to create new retirement options called "USA Accounts" that would help those who currently do not have a private pension offered through their employer or any kind of a 401k plan.

The conversation included a panel of four presenters; a small business owner, a retired worker, a representative of AARP Iowa, and Tracy. Tracy spoke on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of others who work in direct care across the nation and have nothing other than Social Security to rely on in their retirement years.

In her comments, Tracy told Senator Harkin that she appreciated his concerns about the retirement benefits of workers like her, and said that his proposals were a good starting point to deal with the issues.

Senator Harkin thanked Tracy for her comments and spoke with her afterwards to talk in more detail about those who work in direct care, their pay and their benefits. Approximately 30 members of the public attended the event.



US Senator Tom Harkin and Tracy Hoveland, Certified Nursing Assistant