

OASIS · AT A GLANCE

9.7 Million Direct Care Openings by 2034, and No Code for the Job

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has no occupational classification for direct support professionals. A job with no code produces no federal data, and a workforce with no data cannot generate the evidence that moves an appropriation.

PILLAR: WHY, WHO | COMPANION TO BLOG POST B173 | 2-PAGE BRIEF

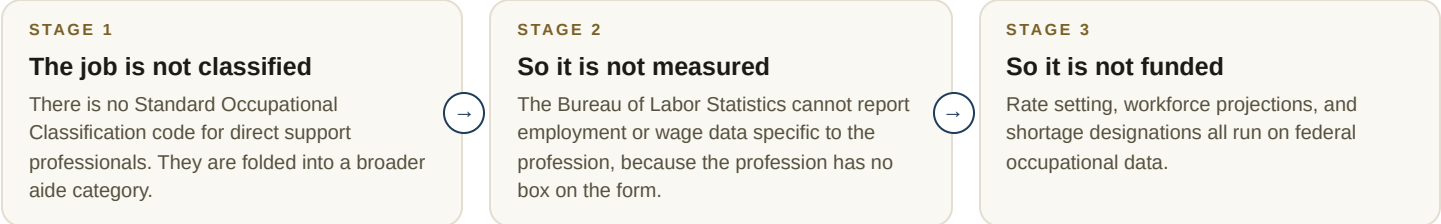
9.7M

OPENINGS BY 2034

Projected direct care job openings, 2024 to 2034, in a workforce nobody counts precisely.

How a missing code becomes a missing line item

CLASSIFY, MEASURE, FUND



What a code would produce

AGAINST WHAT EXISTS TODAY

With an occupational code, and without one

Federal occupational data is produced automatically. Everything else has to be paid for and defended.

DATA POINT	WITH A CODE	TODAY
Employment level	Published annually by BLS	Estimated from provider surveys
Median wage	Federal series, all states	27 states plus DC, voluntary
Projected growth	Ten-year federal projection	Folded into a broader category
Regional shortage	Reportable by area	Not separately identifiable
Rate-setting evidence	Neutral federal source	The industry asking for the money
Cost to produce	Routine collection	Under \$500,000 to require review

0

Codes for the job

Standard Occupational Classification codes that exist for direct support professionals.

2028

The next revision

When the Office of Management and Budget is scheduled to review the classification system.

5.4 million

Workers uncoun ted

The direct care workforce, projected to add over 772,000 new jobs by 2034.

WHAT INVISIBLE LOOKS LIKE IN A HEARING

“

A staffer asked me for the number of unfilled direct support positions in our county. I did not have it. Nobody has it. He was polite about it, and he moved on, because he had a hearing to prepare and I had brought him an anecdote.

NO CODE, NO COUNT. NO COUNT, NO LINE ITEM.

Pushing the cheapest bill on the board

BIPARTISAN, AND NEARLY FREE

CHECK

Where your delegation stands

☐ Look up S. 3211 in the Senate

☐ Look up H.R. 6137 in the House

☐ See whether your senators are co-sponsors

☐ See whether your representative is a co-sponsor

☐ Congress.gov updates within about a day of action

WRITE

What the letter says

☐ Name the bill by number, not by description

☐ Note it is sponsored by Hassan and Collins

☐ Note it was ordered reported August 6, 2026

☐ Note the CBO estimate is under \$500,000

☐ Ask for a written position by a date you name

READ

What it actually does

☐ Directs OMB to consider a separate code

☐ Requires a report to Congress if OMB declines

☐ Targets the 2028 classification review

☐ Does not create a program or mandate a wage

☐ Consider, not create. Say so honestly

LEARN

Use a refusal as information

☐ Ask which part they object to

☐ Note there is no state mandate in it

☐ Note there is no meaningful cost in it

☐ A no here predicts the answer on rates

☐ Better to learn that before you spend a year

BRING ONE PAGE, NOT A BINDER

The classification sheet

01

Bill

S. 3211 and H.R. 6137, 119th Congress.

02

Status

Ordered reported August 6, 2026.

03

Cost

Under \$500,000 across 2026 to 2031.

04

Window

The OMB review scheduled for 2028.

YOUR MOVE

When you are told data is not the problem

1

Concede the point

A code does not staff a shift or raise a wage.

2

Then sequence it

Rate arguments get scored against federal data.

3

Name the scale

9.7 million openings, 5.4 million workers.

4

Name the cost

Under \$500,000, and it is bipartisan.

5

Calendar 2028

Comment when the OMB docket opens.

Congress can make this workforce countable this year for less than the price of a single group home.

SOURCES

S. 3211, Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act, 119th Congress. Sponsored by Senators Maggie Hassan and Susan Collins; ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on August 6, 2026. House companion H.R. 6137.

Congressional Budget Office. Cost estimate for S. 3211, publication 62725. Estimated at less than \$500,000 over the 2026-2031 period; notes OMB is scheduled to review the Standard Occupational Classification system in 2028 and that more than 1,500 public submissions have addressed direct support professionals.

PHI. Direct Care Workers in the United States: Key Facts 2025. Source of the 9.7 million projected openings from 2024 to 2034, the 5.4 million workforce size, and over 772,000 new jobs.

National Core Indicators IDD. 2024 State of the Workforce Survey Report, covering 27 states and the District of Columbia, illustrating the voluntary-survey basis of current DSP wage data.

ANCOR. Analysis of the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act and the effect of the missing Standard Occupational Classification on Bureau of Labor Statistics data collection.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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