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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senate Approves Direct Support Professional Recognition Week Resolution
Honors Frontline Workers Who Support People With Disabilities

Alexandria, VA – ANCOR is pleased to announce that the U.S. Senate, led by U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Susan Collins (R-ME), unanimously approved a resolution designating the week beginning September 7th as “National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week.” This year’s resolution marks the seventh consecutive year of recognition by the U.S. Senate for this essential workforce. Disability services providers across the country will mark the week by hosting celebrations to honor their Direct Support Professionals. Senate Resolution 532 recognizes Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) for their commitment to supporting individuals and promoting community-inclusion for individuals of all ages with disabilities. The resolution was also co-sponsored by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bob Casey (D-PA), Al Franken (D-MN), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Angus King (I-ME), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Edward Markey (D-MA), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Rob Portman (R-OH), Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

“One week is not enough to properly thank our Direct Support Professionals for the skillful and selfless work they do 365 days a year. We count on Direct Support Professionals to care for millions of seniors, people living with disabilities and the chronically ill,” said Senator Cardin. “I thank Maryland’s Direct Support Professionals and the many more across America for all they do to ensure our families, friends and neighbors can live with dignity and comfort.”

“Each Direct Support Professional brings us closer as a nation to achieving the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of full community participation for individuals with disabilities. These dedicated professionals work tirelessly every day of the year providing skilled and compassionate supports to individuals with disabilities,” Senator Collins said.

This acknowledgment by the Senate is significant to ANCOR’s National Advocacy Campaign, whose mission it is to enhance the lives of all people with disabilities who rely on long-term supports and services by obtaining the resources to recruit, train and retain a highly qualified and sustainable workforce.

Spearheaded by ANCOR members, with partners including the National Association of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is

celebrated annually across the country with special events and ceremonies to honor the tens of thousands of workers who enable people with intellectual, developmental and other significant disabilities and their families to live healthy community-oriented lives. Read more about 2014 DSP Recognition Week [here](#).

For more information, contact Barbara Merrill, Vice President of Public Policy at (703) 535-7850 ext. 103 or bmerrill@ancor.org.

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About ANCOR. The American Network of Community Options and Resources is a national trade association representing more than 800 private providers of community living and employment supports and services to more than 400,000 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. Through its National Advocacy Campaign, ANCOR seeks to obtain the resources to recruit, train and retain a sustainable direct support workforce. ANCOR provides organization, professional, leadership development and networking opportunities and services, and is continually working toward partnerships and collaborations that advance our vision, mission and goals. Our prime goal is to be the indispensable leader, resource and advocate for a diverse private disability services network that ensures full citizenship and engaged community participation for people with disabilities of all ages. www.ancor.org.