



Lee Saunders  
President

Elissa McBride  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Vice Presidents**

Jody Barr  
New Britain, CT

Se'Adoreia K. Brown  
Miami Springs, FL

Richard L. Caponi  
Pittsburgh, PA

Stacy Chamberlain  
Portland, OR

Connie Derr  
Albuquerque, NM

Greg Devereux  
Olympia, WA

Daniel DiClemente  
North Chili, NY

Danny Donohue  
Albany, NY

Denise Duncan  
San Dimas, CA

David R. Fillman  
Harrisburg, PA

Henry A. Garrido  
New York, NY

Johanna Puno Hester  
San Diego, CA

Danny J. Homan  
Des Moines, IA

Nicholas J. LaMorte  
Cammack, NY

John A. Lyall  
Worthington, OH

Kathryn Lybarger  
Oakland, CA

Roberta Lynch  
Chicago, IL

Christopher Mabe  
Westerville, OH

Glenard S. Middleton Sr.  
Baltimore, MD

Douglas Moore Jr.  
San Diego, CA

Frank Moroney  
Boston, MA

Michael Newman  
Chicago, IL

Henry Nicholas  
Philadelphia, PA

Debbie Parks  
Hamilton, NJ

Randy Perreira  
Honolulu, HI

Steven Quick Sr.  
Indianapolis, IN

Lawrence A. Roehrig  
Lansing, MI

Joseph P. Rugola  
Columbus, OH

Alan F. Shanahan  
Los Angeles, CA

Paul Spink  
Milwaukee, WI

Mary E. Sullivan  
Albany, NY

Braulio Torres  
San Juan, PR

Anthony Wells  
New York, NY

John P. Westmoreland  
South St. Paul, MN

September 23, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to co-sponsor the Direct CARE Opportunity Act (H.R. 4397) introduced by Chairman Bobby Scott and Representative Susie Lee.

Direct care workers are a lifeline to independence and dignity for the aging Americans and individuals with disabilities to whom they provide support services. The work is physically demanding, intensely personal in nature and requires an exceptional emotional connection. These workers deserve respect, in the form of better wages, training and career advancement. The Direct CARE Opportunity Act shows respect to these workers by:

- Creating grants for 15 eligible entities, including states and localities, to invest in retaining and recruitment of direct care workers and providing them with advancement opportunities;
- Implementing strategies to improve the working conditions of direct care workers through training and career pathways; and
- Encouraging retention and career advancement in the direct care field.

It is estimated that we will need an additional 5.2 million direct care workers by 2024 to support an aging population. H.R. 4397 responds to this growing demand for services to help individuals remain independent and live with dignity by showing respect and investing in this needed workforce.

Again, I urge you to co-sponsor the Direct CARE Opportunity Act (H.R. 4397).

Sincerely,

Scott Frey  
Director of Federal Government Affairs

SF/LB:cg

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

TEL (202) 429-1000 FAX (202) 429-1293 TDD (202) 659-0446 WEB www.afscme.org 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687



#370-18