

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 24

By: Kerr

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution requesting the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to pursue a modification of the Companionship Exemption to the Fair Labor Standards Act to enable community-based providers of services to developmentally disabled Oklahomans to utilize this exemption; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, developmentally disabled Oklahomans are valuable citizens of this state. Community based providers of services to the developmentally disabled are a vital and integral part of serving this valuable segment of our population; and

WHEREAS, Habilitation Training Specialists (HTSs) are the employees who assist in implementing the plans of care for the developmentally disabled. Habilitation Training Specialists greatly contribute to the quality of life of developmentally disabled Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, community-based providers of services to developmentally disabled Oklahomans are unable to utilize the Companionship Exemption to the Fair Labor Standards Act due to current judicial interpretation. The ability to utilize the Companionship Exemption to the Fair Labor Standards Act would enable providers of community-based services to developmentally disabled Oklahomans to increase the wages and benefits of Habilitation Training Specialists. This increase in wages and benefits would lead to a lower turnover state of Habilitation Training Specialists, the ability to hire additional qualified staff, and a continuity of care that developmentally disabled Oklahomans deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature requests the Oklahoma
Congressional Delegation to pursue a modification of the
Companionship Exemption to the Fair Labor Standards Act by rule or
by statute which would enable community-based providers of services
to developmentally disabled Oklahomans to utilize this exemption and
thereby improve the quality of life and care of this valuable
segment of our citizenry and their families.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to each member of
the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

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