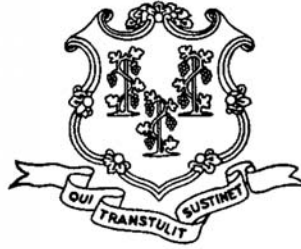


State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

WHEREAS, direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term supports and services for millions of individuals; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities, and a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs, on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a broad range of support—including the preparing of meals; helping with medications; bathing; dressing; mobility; getting to school, work, religious and recreational activities; and general daily affairs; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional provides essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to the family and community of the individual; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives and are the key to allowing an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community, and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, the majority of direct support professionals are female, and many are the sole breadwinners for their families; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals work and pay taxes, but many remain impoverished and are eligible for the same federal and state public assistance programs on which the individuals with disabilities served by the direct support professionals must depend; and

WHEREAS, federal and state policies, as well as decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), support the right of an individual to live in the home and community of the individual; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is projected to increase over the decade; and

WHEREAS, there are concerns of a possible critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in communities throughout the United States; and

WHEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the week beginning September 12, 2010, as

NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK
in the State of Connecticut



M. Jodi Rell
Governor