



Proclamation

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 support and services for millions of individuals; and,

WHEREAS, direct support professionals assist individuals with disabilities with their most intimate needs on a daily basis, and must build a close, trusting relationship with those they serve; and,

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

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to family and community, enabling individuals with disabilities to lead meaningful, productive lives; and,

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are the key to allowing individuals with disabilities to live successfully in the community, thereby avoiding more costly institutional care; and,

WHEREAS, the majority of direct support professionals are female, and many are the sole income earners in 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 for which the individuals with disabilities they serve also depend; and,

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

WHEREAS, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in many communities throughout the United States; and,

WHEREAS, many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages and benefits, creating high turnover and vacancy rates that research demonstrates adversely affects the quality of support for individuals with disabilities;

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2010 as **DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK** in Illinois, in recognition of the dedication of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Osse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-FOUR day of JUNE, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TEN, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR