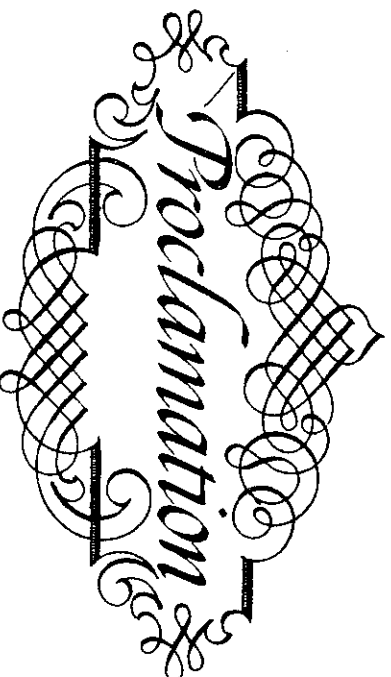


State of Maine



WHEREAS, direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers' and paraprofessionals (referred to in this preamble as "direct support professionals") are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term support and services for millions of individuals; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities and assist 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; preparation 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, enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives, 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 females, and many are the sole breadwinners of 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 the Supreme Court, in *Olnstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) assert 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

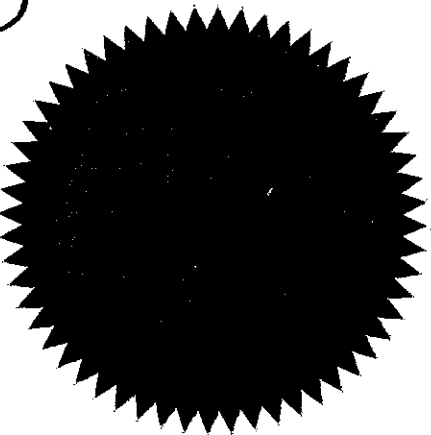
WHEREAS, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States; and

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 to individuals with disabilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCII, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the week of September 12, 2010


**DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

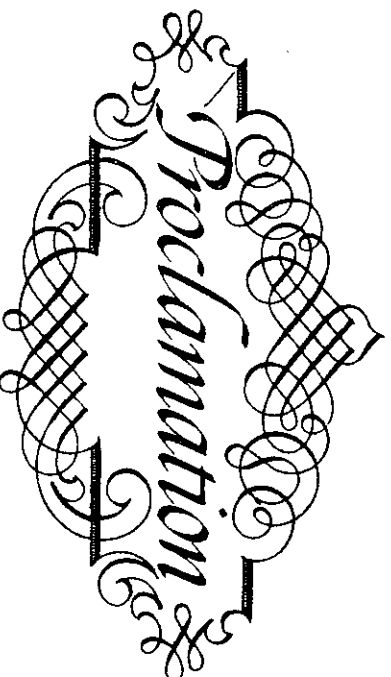


In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this fourth day of August Two Thousand and Ten.

  
John E. Baldacci  
Governor

  
Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State  
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

State of Maine



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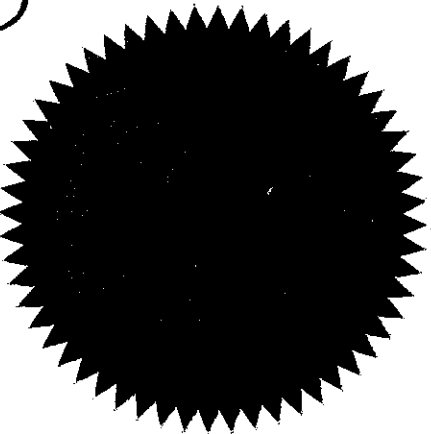
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