



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (direct support professionals) 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

WHEREAS, 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 preparation of meals, helping with medications, bathing, dressing, mobility, getting to school, work, religious and recreational activities, and 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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Federal and State policies, as well as the Supreme Court, in Olmstead 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

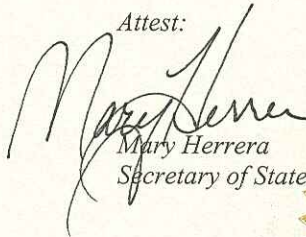
WHEREAS, many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages and benefits, creating high turnover and vacancy rates that research demonstrates adversely affects the quality of supports to individuals with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2010 as:

"Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest:


Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
12th day of August, 2010.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico


Bill Richardson
Governor

