



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State recognizes direct support workers, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals who are the primary providers of publicly funded long term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, through the course of a special relationship built on trust and respect, direct support professionals assist individuals with disabilities with their personal needs, on a daily basis; and

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

Whereas, recognizing the importance of social interaction and community involvement, a direct support professional provides support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to their family and community; and

Whereas, key to allowing an individual with disabilities to live successfully as a part of their community, the work of direct support professionals also enables that individual and their family to avoid costly institutional care; and

Whereas, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings, however, this trend is projected to increase over the next decade and, currently, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States; and

Whereas, during this weeklong observance, all New Yorkers join to recognize the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages, and extend appreciation for their contributions that help many overcome challenges and reach their full potential;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2010 as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capital in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth
day of August in the year two thousand ten.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Laurence Schwartz

Secretary to the Governor