

STATE OF NEBRASKA



# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Direct support workers, direct care workers, 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*

*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 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*

*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, 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 2009, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community based settings and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade; and*

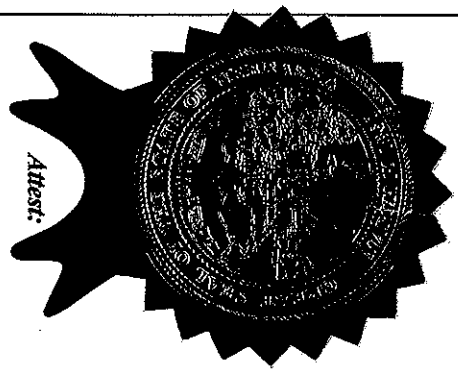
*WHEREAS, There is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 14th day of September, 2009, as*

## NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

*in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have herunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this twenty-second day of July, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nine.*



Attest:

*Ann D. Hale*

Secretary of State

*Dave Heineman*

Governor