

## RESOLUTION

### *Designating the week beginning September 14, 2009, as 'National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week'*

**Whereas** direct support workers, 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;

**Whereas** a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities;

**Whereas** a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs, on a daily basis;

**Whereas** direct support professionals provide a broad range of support, including--

- (1) preparation of meals;
- (2) helping with medications;
- (3) bathing;
- (4) dressing;
- (5) mobility;
- (6) getting to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and
- (7) general daily affairs;

**Whereas** a direct support professional provides essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to the family and community of the individual;

**Whereas** direct support professionals enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives;

**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;

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

**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;

**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;

**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;

**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, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the American Network of Community Options and Resources,

(1) designates the week beginning September 14, 2009, as 'National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week';

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting the needs that reach beyond the capacities of millions of families in the United States;

(4) commends direct support professionals as integral in supporting the long-term support and services system of the United States; and

(5) finds that the successful implementation of the public policies of the United States depends on the dedication of direct support professionals.

*Adopted unanimously the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.*