



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK

September 12-18, 2021

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are integral to the physical and mental health and well-being of veterans, senior citizens, and individuals of all ages with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities who receive services for severe chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their family, friends, and community and enable them to live meaningful lives in a community of their choice; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, respectful, and 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 provides a broad range of support, from preparing meals and medications to personal care to transporting clients to school, work, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the participation of direct support professionals in medical care planning is critical to the successful transition from medical events to post-acute care and long term support and services; and

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

WHEREAS, direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are the primary providers of long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals have worked tirelessly and heroically during the COVID-19 pandemic to support individuals with disabilities and keep them safe. Direct support professionals have put the needs of individuals with disabilities ahead of their own safety, bravely working with individuals who have chronic health conditions and under circumstances which did not allow social distancing.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2021, to be DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize and appreciate the dedication and contributions of these providers to enhancing the lives of their clients.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this thirty-first day of August two thousand twenty-one, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-sixth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor