



Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, direct support workers, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers and paraprofessionals are the primary providers of publicly funded, long-term supports and services for millions of individuals with mental health issues and disabilities across America and thousands here in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, trusting relationship with individuals and assist with their most intimate needs on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, these professionals provide a broad range of services, including preparation of meals, help with medications, personal hygiene, mobility, transportation and general daily assistance; and

WHEREAS, among other duties, recognizing the importance of social interaction and community involvement, a direct support professional helps keep individuals with disabilities connected to family and community; and

WHEREAS, the work of these professionals is essential to allowing individuals with mental health issues and disabilities to live successfully as a part of their communities, and also enables these individuals and their families to avoid extended, costly institutional care; and

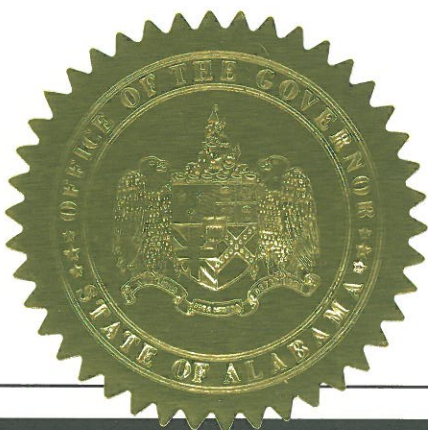
WHEREAS, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home- and community-based settings and this trend is only projected to increase over the next decade, however, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health, along with mental health and disability providers and advocacy organizations across the state, urge all Alabamians to recognize the vital role that dedicated direct support professionals play in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities, and extend appreciation for their contributions that help thousands of Alabamians overcome challenges and reach their full potential:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Bentley, Governor of the State of Alabama do hereby proclaim the week of September 7 through 13, 2014, as

Direct Support Professionals Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 27th day of August 2014.

Robert Bentley

Robert Bentley, Governor