



Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build close, respectful and trusted relationships with an individual with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional empowers people with disabilities to fully participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists people with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is projected to increase over the decade; and

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

WHEREAS, many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages, benefits and limited opportunities for advancement creating demonstrated high turnover and vacancy rates adversely affects the quality of supports, safety and health of individuals with disabilities;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, September 7-14, 2014,

COLORADO DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this seventh day of September, 2014

John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor