

STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

Whereas, direct support professionals, such as 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 thousands of individuals with disabilities throughout the state of Delaware and millions more across the United States;

Whereas, direct support professionals must build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with people that have disabilities; and

Whereas, direct support professionals assist people with intimate personal care and provide a broad range of individualized support on a daily basis; and

Whereas, direct support professionals are key to enabling individuals with disabilities to successfully live in a community and avoid more costly institutionalized care; and

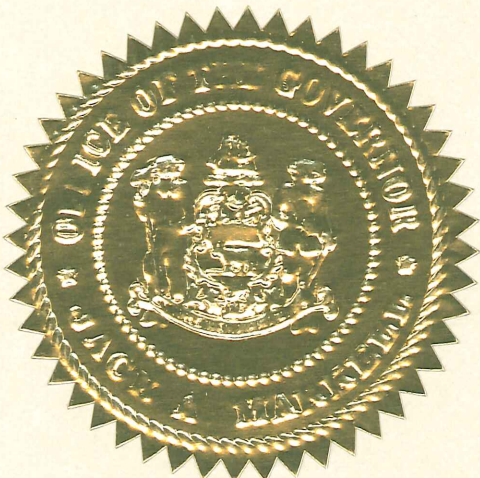
Whereas, in addition to direct support professionals contributing to the community by working and paying taxes, it is also important that they earn a living wage in order to prevent high turnover and vacancy rates that could adversely impact the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities.

Whereas, the service of direct support professionals enables the spirit of the federal and state policies, and United States Supreme Court case, *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) which asserts the right of a person with a disability to live in a home community residential setting or institutional setting of their choice.

*Now, Therefore, We, Jack A. Markell, Governor
and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare September 7th – 13th, 2014*

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

in the state of Delaware and call on our fellow citizens to recognize the high level of dedication and truly vital role that direct support professionals have in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages.



Jack Markell

*Jack A. Markell,
Governor*

Matthew Denn

*Matthew Denn,
Lieutenant Governor*