

State of Maine



WHEREAS, direct support professionals are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term supports and services for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build close, respectful and trusted relationships with an individual with disabilities that empowers people with disabilities to fully participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized supports, including—

- (1) Assisting people with disabilities to prepare for the workforce through job training and job coaching;
- (2) Assisting people with disabilities to live life in the mainstream of their communities alongside of their non-disabled peers;
- (3) Teaching people with disabilities to navigate daily home life through meal preparation, administering medication, bathing; dressing and other aspects of daily living;
- (4) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and
- (5) helping with general daily affairs; such as assisting in financial matters, medical appointments and personal interests.

WHEREAS, direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities in making choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives and provide the key lynchpin to supporting an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community, and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, the majority of direct support professionals are the primary breadwinners of their families and must often work multiple jobs to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals work and pay taxes, but many earn poverty-level wages and are eligible for the same Federal and State public assistance programs on which those with disabilities served by the direct support professionals must also depend; and

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 with a disability to live in the home community residential setting, or institutional settings of their choice; 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 resulting in a shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States to meet the need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby recognize the week of September 7, 2014 as

MAINE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this Seventh day of August Two-Thousand Fourteen

Paul R. LePage
Paul R. LePage
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY