

**DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS
APPRECIATION WEEK
SEPTEMBER 7-15, 2014**

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

WHEREAS, New Hampshire citizens with disabilities are able to live independent lives through the help of dedicated support staff; and

WHEREAS, The lives of families who have children with developmental disabilities are enriched by direct support staff who provide respite care; and

WHEREAS, When individuals with disabilities are supported as fully participating members of society, our communities are strengthened; and

WHEREAS, Our system of education is enhanced when students with disabilities, supported by dedicated classroom aides, are included in the educational process, which fosters acceptance of different abilities and gifts; and

WHEREAS, Direct support professionals must develop a close, trusted relationship with individuals and their families, as they provide a broad range of support, including preparation of meals, administration of medications, bathing, dressing, mobility, and other general daily affairs; and

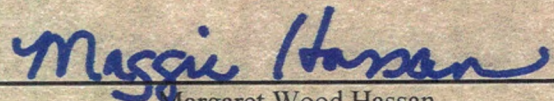
WHEREAS, Direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to their family, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS, Direct support professionals are a critical element in supporting persons who are receiving healthcare services for severe, chronic health conditions or functional limitations; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities, often supported by direct support staff, enrich New Hampshire's economy and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **SEPTEMBER 7-15, 2014**, as **DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION WEEK** in New Hampshire and urge all residents to recognize the work these professionals do to support citizens with disabilities in all New Hampshire communities.

Given this 25th of August, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and fourteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-nine.



Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor

