



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State recognizes the valuable work carried out daily by direct support professionals who are the backbone of New York's community-based system of supports and services for more than 130,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

Whereas, the dedication, compassion, and skill of direct support professionals empower individuals with disabilities to live on their own terms – as independently and actively as they want to, and with the choice to pursue their own goals and dreams; and

Whereas, direct support professionals build and cultivate beneficial personal relationships with the individuals with whom they work, predicated on mutual respect and trust; and

Whereas, direct support professionals provide people with developmental disabilities a broad range of supports and help them acquire crucial life skills; and

Whereas, this support and skill building includes achieving greater levels of self-sufficiency through important activities and decisions such as: meal preparation; medication management; personal hygiene, dressing and other aspects of daily living; participation in community-based activities and social interaction; transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and organization of daily affairs, such as financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests; and

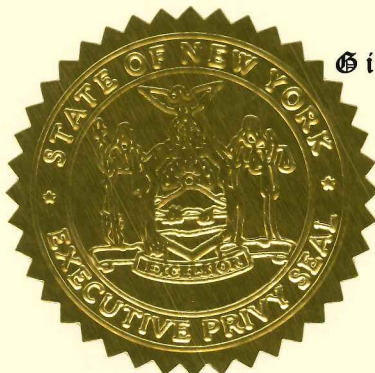
Whereas, direct support professionals respect the strengths, uniqueness, and dignity of the people they support – advocating for them to ensure that their well-being, as well as their human and civil rights, are protected and upheld; and

Whereas, during this weeklong observance, New Yorkers join to recognize the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities, who are of all ages and walks of life; we take this opportunity to extend appreciation for their contributions that help many overcome challenges and reach their full potential, recognizing that direct support professionals provide the compassion that is the essence of human services;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 10-17, 2017 as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighth day of
September in the year two thousand seventeen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa