

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Direct support workers, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (“direct support professionals”) are the primary providers of publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals who have special needs; and

WHEREAS: A direct support professional must build a close, trusting relationship with an individual with disabilities and assist with his or her most intimate needs on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS: These professionals provide a broad range of services, including preparation of meals, help with medications, personal hygiene, mobility, transportation, and general daily affairs; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing the importance of social interaction and community involvement, a direct support professional helps keep individuals with disabilities connected to family, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS: The work of these professionals is essential to allowing the disabled to live successfully as a part of their communities, and also enables those individuals and their families to avoid costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS: The majority of direct support professionals are employed in home- and community-based settings; however, this trend is projected to increase over the next decade and, currently, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 7 through 13, 2014, as:

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the vital role that dedicated direct support professionals play in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities, and let us extend our appreciation for their contributions, which help many to overcome challenges and to reach their full potential.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 30th day of July, in the year of our Lord 2014.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe".

MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR