

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (referred to in this proclamation as “direct support professionals”) are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term supports and services for millions of individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, direct support professionals are the key to allowing an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community of the individual, and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

**WHEREAS**, direct support professionals work and pay taxes, but many remain impoverished and are eligible for the same federal and state public assistance programs on which the individuals with disabilities served by the direct support professionals must 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 to live in the home and community of the individual; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages and benefits, creating high turnover and vacancy rates that research demonstrates adversely affects the quality of supports to individuals with disabilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 7-14, 2014 to be

### ***National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week***

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee