



ANCOR RESOLUTION

Designating the Week beginning September 7, 2014, as
“National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”

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

Whereas a direct support professional must build close, respectful and trusted relationships with an individual with disabilities;

Whereas a direct support professional assists people with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis;

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

- (1) preparation of meals;
- (2) helping with medications;
- (3) assisting with bathing; dressing and other aspects of daily living;
- (4) assisting people with physical disabilities with access to their environment;
- (5) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and
- (6) helping with general daily affairs; such as assisting in financial matters, medical appointments and personal interests.

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

Whereas direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities in making choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals are the key lynchpin to supporting an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community, and to avoid more costly institutional care;

Whereas the participation of direct support professionals in medical care planning is critical to the successful transition from medical events to post-acute care and long term supports and services;

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

Whereas direct support professionals are a critical element in supporting persons who are receiving health care services for severe chronic health conditions or with functional limitations.

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

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;

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;

Whereas there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States to meet the need; and

Whereas many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages, benefits and limited opportunities for advancement creating demonstrated high turnover and vacancy rates adversely affects the quality of supports, safety and health of individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Network of Community Options and Resources—

- (1) designates the week beginning September 7, 2014, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;
- (2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;
- (3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States;
- (4) commends direct support professionals as integral to long-term supports and services for people with disabilities;
- (5) finds that the successful implementation of the public policies affecting people with disabilities of the United States depends on the dedication of direct support professionals.