

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term support and services for millions of individuals; and,*

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals assist individuals with disabilities with their most intimate needs on a daily basis, and must build a close, trusting relationship with those they serve; and,*

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to family and community, enabling them to lead meaningful, productive lives; and,*

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals are the key to allowing individuals with disabilities to live successfully in the community; and,*

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a broad range of support, including preparation of meals, helping with medications, bathing, dressing, mobility, getting to school, work, religious and recreational activities, and other general daily affairs; and,*

*WHEREAS, the majority of direct support professionals are female, and many are the sole income earners in their families; and,*

*WHEREAS, currently, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings with this trend projected to increase in the coming years; and,*

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

*WHEREAS, as Illinois furthers efforts to create comprehensive, integrated delivery systems, direct support professionals will continue to play a critical role in supporting persons with disabilities; and,*

*WHEREAS, to meet the growing need for community-based services and supports, efforts must be made to grow the direct support professionals workforce, increase retention, and reduce turnover; and,*

*WHEREAS, consistent with my Administration's commitment to community living, I included a \$1.00 per hour wage increase for direct support professionals in my proposed fiscal year 2015 budget; and,*

**THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 7 – 13, 2014 as **DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK** in Illinois, in recognition of the dedication of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages.**

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*

FIRST

AUGUST

*this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in*

*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*

FOURTEEN

*\_\_\_\_\_, and of the State of Illinois,*

NINETY-SIXTH

*one hundred and \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Doree Witt*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR