



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 services for millions of individuals; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs, on a daily basis, providing a broad range of support; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional provides essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to the family and community of the individual, enabling the individual to live a meaningful, productive life; 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, in 2012, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is projected to increase over the decade; and

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

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim September 8-14, 2013,

NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this eighth day of September, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Hickenlooper".

*John W. Hickenlooper
Governor*

