

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

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

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

Whereas A direct support professional assists individuals with disabilities with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis; and

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 individuals 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 with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests; and

Whereas Direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their families, friends, and communities; and

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

Whereas Direct support professionals are integral to helping individuals with disabilities live successfully in their communities, avoiding more costly institutional care,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the week of September 13th to the 19th, 2015, to be,

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this Thirteenth Day of September, in the year two thousand and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in black ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in black ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in black ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts