

STATE OF NEBRASKA



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 with disabilities; and

WHEREAS,

A direct support professional must build close, respectful and trusted relationships with an individual with disabilities and empowers people with disabilities to fully participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS,

A direct support professional assists people with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis and provide a broad range of individualized supports, including:

- 1. Assisting people with disabilities to prepare for the workforce through job training and job coaching;*
- 2. Assisting people with disabilities to live life in the mainstream of their communities alongside of their non-disabled peers;*
- 3. Teaching people with disabilities to navigate daily home life through meal preparation, administering medication, 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; and*

WHEREAS,

Direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to their family, friends and community and support individuals with disabilities in making choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives; and

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; and

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; 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 with a disability to live in the home community residential setting or institutional settings of their choice; and*

WHEREAS,

In 2015, 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

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the week of September 13 – 19, 2015 as

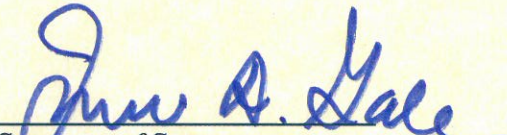
NEBRASKA DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

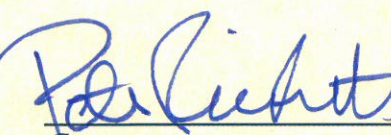
in Nebraska, and I do hereby recognize and commend the dedication, contribution and vital role direct support professionals have in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen.



Attest:


Secretary of State


Governor