



*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 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, 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, the majority of direct support professionals are female, and many are the sole income earners in their families; 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 for which the individuals with disabilities they serve also depend on; and,*

*WHEREAS, currently, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is 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, in order to grow the workforce, increase retention, and reduce turnover so that Illinois has sufficient direct support professionals to meet the growing need for community-based services and supports, efforts must be made to increase the average hourly wage paid to direct support professionals; and,*

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 8 – 14, 2013 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,*  
*this THIRTEENTH day of AUGUST, in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
*THIRTEEN, and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and NINETY-FIFTH*

*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR