



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

**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 SUPPORTS AND 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; AND

**WHEREAS**, DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE A BROAD RANGE OF SUPPORT, INCLUDING: PREPARING MEALS, MANAGING MEDICATIONS, BATHING, DRESSING, HELPING WITH MOBILITY, PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL, WORK, RELIGIOUS, AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND HELPING WITH GENERAL DAILY AFFAIRS; 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; AND

**WHEREAS**, DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ENABLE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE MEANINGFUL, PRODUCTIVE LIVES; AND

**WHEREAS**, A DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL IS THE KEY TO ALLOWING AN INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE SUCCESSFULLY IN THE COMMUNITY AND AVOID MORE COSTLY INSTITUTIONAL CARE; 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 TO LIVE IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL; AND

**WHEREAS**, IN 2013, THE MAJORITY OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ARE EMPLOYED IN HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS, AND THIS TREND IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE DURING THIS DECADE; AND

**WHEREAS**, THERE IS A DOCUMENTED CRITICAL AND GROWING SHORTAGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS IN EVERY COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES; AND

**NOW, THEREFORE I**, SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE 8<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH THE 14<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER, 2013 AS

## "DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION WEEK IN NEW MEXICO"

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2013.

ATTEST:

DIANNA J. DURAN  
SECRETARY OF STATE

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
GOVERNOR

