

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

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 thousands of Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs, on a daily basis, and must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities; 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, direct support professionals provide a broad range of support, including the preparation of meals, helping with medications, bathing, dressing, mobility, getting to school, general daily affairs, work activities and religious practices; 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 are the key to allowing an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community of the individual, and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals work and pay taxes, but many remain impoverished and are eligible for the same 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 2013, 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; and

WHEREAS, many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages and benefits, creating high turnover and vacancy rates that research demonstrates adversely affects the quality of supports to individuals with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby designate September 8th – 14th, 2013 as

**OHIO DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS
RECOGNITION WEEK**

On this 8th day of September, 2013;


John R. Kasich
Governor

