



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians are important to the well being of our Commonwealth's citizens, families and communities; and

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 support 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, 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, direct support professionals 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize September 8-15, 2013 as **DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth