



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**PROCLAMATION**

***DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK  
September 11-17, 2022***

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals are integral to the physical and mental health and well-being of veterans, senior citizens, and individuals of all ages with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities who receive services for severe chronic health conditions; and*

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their family, friends, and community and enable them to live meaningful lives in a community of their choice; and*

*WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, respectful, and trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities daily with the most intimate needs and provides a broad range of support, from preparing meals and medications to personal care to transporting clients to school, work, and other activities; and*

*WHEREAS, the participation of direct support professionals in medical care planning is critical to the successful transition from medical events to post-acute care and long-term support and services; and*

*WHEREAS, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are the primary providers of long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, direct support professionals have worked tirelessly and heroically during the COVID-19 pandemic to support individuals with disabilities and keep them safe. Direct support professionals have put the needs of individuals with disabilities ahead of their own safety, bravely working with individuals who have chronic health conditions and under circumstances which did not allow social distancing.*

*THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 11-17, 2022, to be DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize and appreciate the dedication and contributions of these providers to enhancing the lives of their clients.*



*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this second day of August two thousand twenty-two, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-seventh.*

  
TOM WOLF  
Governor