



Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, mental health 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 supports and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional builds a close, respectful and trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities and empowers them to fully participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists people with personal care assistance daily; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized supports, including:

- *Assisting people with disabilities to prepare for the workforce through job training and job-coaching; and*
- *Assisting people with disabilities to live life in the mainstream of their communities alongside their non-disabled peers; and*
- *Teaching people with disabilities to navigate daily home life through meal preparation, administering medication, bathing, dressing and other aspects of daily living; and*
- *Assisting people with physical disabilities with access to their environment; and*
- *Providing transportation to school, work, religious and recreational activities; and*
- *Helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting in financial matters, medical appointments and personal interests; and*

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their family, friends and community and support them in making choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are the key linkpin in supporting individuals with disabilities to live successfully in the community, and to avoid costlier institutional care; and

WHEREAS, mental health direct support professionals are a critical part of Alabama's healthcare workforce and overall economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 9-14, 2018,

as

Alabama Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

in the State of Alabama.



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of
Montgomery on the 29th day of August 2018.*

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor