



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, an ethical, well-trained and dedicated direct support professional workforce is often the bridge to inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, empathy and genuine understanding of persons with disabilities are fostered in communities through the work of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, communities are strengthened and enriched by the inclusion of all members of society, including people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, people with disabilities may be better able to secure and maintain gainful employment with the support of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, many families of people with disabilities are supported through the efforts and assistance of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, the lives of children and adults with disabilities are enriched through the work of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, people without families often find friendship and love from direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee citizens with disabilities are more able to live self-directed lives, because of the support of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of Direct Support Professionals live and work in Tennessee and deserve recognition as valued members of our society for the essential supports they provide to people with disabilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 9-15, 2018, as

## *Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this fourteenth day of August, 2018.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Lee Dargatzis in blue ink.

Secretary of State

