



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

WHEREAS, Direct Support Professionals, including direct care professionals, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing long-term support and services for Rhode Islanders with disabilities;

WHEREAS, Direct Support Professionals have been the exceptional and essential workers of the Coronavirus pandemic as they continue to arrive for work every day, ready to do everything they can to ensure the health and safety of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism; and

WHEREAS, Direct Support Professionals ensure that individuals with disabilities thrive through connections to their families, friends and communities; and

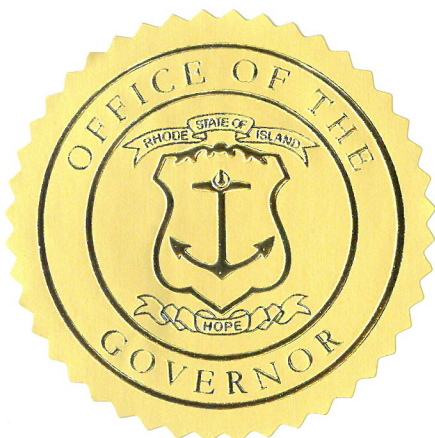
WHEREAS, Direct Support Professionals build close, respectful and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities and provide a broad range of individualized support, including—

- (1) helping people to make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful and productive lives;
- (2) assisting with personal care, meal preparation, medication management, and other aspects of daily living;
- (3) assisting with accessing the community through civic engagement and securing gainful employment;
- (4) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities;
- (5) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests;
- (6) transitioning from segregated settings or services to living robust lives in the communities of their choice; and
- (7) providing the first line of defense in keeping people with disabilities safe and healthy during the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, there is a documented critical and increasing shortage of Direct Support Professionals throughout the United States, the majority are employed in home and community- based settings and that trend will increase over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, many Direct Support Professionals are the primary financial providers for their families and are hardworking Rhode Islanders who provide a critical service for nearly 4,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Rhode Island;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim the week beginning September 13th to be “**National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.**”



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island, this 13th day of September 2020

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State