



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

- WHEREAS: 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 support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS: A direct support professional must build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with those who have disabilities. Direct support professionals empower these individuals to fully participate in their communities; and
- WHEREAS: Direct support professionals aid their clients with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis, providing a broad range of individualized supports. These services include job training and coaching; assisting those with disabilities to live alongside their non-disabled peers successfully; teaching them to navigate home life through meal preparation, administering medication, bathing, dressing, and other aspects of daily life; providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; assisting in financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests; and helping with other general affairs; and
- WHEREAS: Direct support professionals provide essential services to those with disabilities, helping them to remain connected to their family members, friends, and community, and thereby allowing them to avoid more costly institutional care; and
- WHEREAS: Most direct support professionals are the primary breadwinners of their families and must often work multiple jobs to make ends meet. In 2015, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings, and this trend is projected to increase over the decade. There is a critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States, and it is imperative that we increase awareness and recognition of these important health care workers; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 13-19, 2015, as DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK in Georgia and encourage all citizens to appreciate the important role these diligent individuals play in our society.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.

*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF

