

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are integral to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities or autism regardless of their age; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists daily an individual 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 assistance that direct support professionals provide allows individuals with disabilities to help maintain connections with their friends, family, and community while enabling them to lead fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with the individuals they serve; and

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

WHEREAS, the direct support professionals community encapsulates a multitude of professions including, but not limited to, direct care workers, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, all of which share an equal role in providing long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals have worked tirelessly to support individuals with disabilities and their dedication will continue to make the Commonwealth an inclusive and safe place for all.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 13-19, 2026, as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

to encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize and appreciate the dedication and contributions that these providers make to enhance the lives of their clients.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this thirty-first day of August two thousand twenty-six, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fifty-first.

Governor Josh Shapiro