

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers and paraprofessionals – referred to as direct support professionals –(DSPs) are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, DSPs empower people with disabilities to fully participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, DSPs provide a broad range of individualized support services, including:

- Assisting people with disabilities to prepare for the workforce through job training and job coaching;
- Assisting people with disabilities to live life in the mainstream of their communities alongside of their non-disabled peers;
- Assisting people with disabilities to navigate daily home life through meal preparation and personal care including administering medication, bathing, dressing and other aspects of daily living;
- Assisting people with physical disabilities with access to their environment;
- 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, DSPs provide essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to their family, friends and community; and

WHEREAS, DSPs support individuals with disabilities in making choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, DSPs are the key lynchpin to supporting an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, DSPs are often the ones critical to the successful transition from medical events to post-acute care and long term supports and services; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the majority of DSPs are employed in home and community-based settings, and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade:

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby designate the week of September 13 - 19, 2015, as

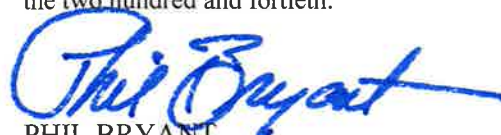
Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

in the State of Mississippi and recognize the dedication and vital role of DSPs in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages and commend DSPs as integral to long-term supports and services for people with disabilities:



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 7th day of August in the year of our Lord, two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fortieth.


PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR