



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Rhode Island Direct Support Professionals  
Recognition Week**

**WHEREAS**, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (referred to in this preamble as “direct support professionals”) are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term supports and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, DSPs empower people with disabilities to lead self-determined and self-directed lives; and

**WHEREAS**, DSPs provide person-centered supports, promoting and facilitating---

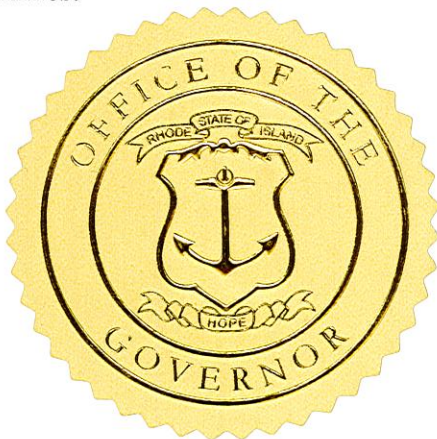
- Access to, and full participation in, the workforce;
- Integrated and inclusive community-based living;
- Physical and emotional well-being;
- Informed decision making;
- Relationship building;
- Self-advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, DSPs act with the utmost integrity, responsibility, and confidentiality in the interest of and respect for the individuals they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, DSPs have and continue to form a more inclusive society through upholding justice, fairness, and equity; and

**WHEREAS**, DSPs garner the admiration of the individuals they serve, their families, social networks, and broader community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim September 13 – September 19, 2015 as: ***Rhode Island Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*** in the state and encourage all residents to recognize the contributions of DSPs in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015

**Gina M. Raimondo**  
Governor

**Nellie M. Gorbea**  
Secretary of State