



Proclamation

WHEREAS, direct support professionals, direct care workers, and in-home support workers are primary providers of publicly-funded, long-term support and services for individuals with disabilities and older adults; and

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

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide independence to those they assist; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals help those with disabilities and older adults participate fully in their communities and remain connected to family and friends; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support enabling individuals to live meaningful and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are important in supporting an individual with disabilities and older adults to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, the past 18 months have been particularly challenging for direct care workers who have continued to serve their clients during a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Colorado will need more than 100,000 additional direct support professionals by 2028 as the state's aging and disability populations continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals serve a critical role, in a rewarding field, with direct impact on those they serve; and

WHEREAS, the state of Colorado recognizes the contribution of direct support professionals that help strengthen our communities by fostering greater inclusion for persons with disabilities;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the state of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the time period between September 12, 2021 and September 18, 2021, as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

in the state of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twelfth day of September, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

*Jared Polis
Governor*