PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their families, friends, and communities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities in making person-centered choice that lead to meaningful, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, respectful, and trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are integral to helping individuals with disabilities live successfully in their communities, avoiding more costly institutional care; and

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

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are a critical element in supporting individuals who are receiving health care services for severe chronic health conditions and individuals with functional limitations; and

WHEREAS, there is a documented critical, and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States, the majority employed in home and community-based settings and that trend is projected to increase over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals have been essential workers during the Coronavirus Pandemic and continue to work each day to ensure the health and safety of people with disabilities is maintained and provide essential supports to ensure that individuals have community access, employment opportunities, and dignity:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2021, as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREBY SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.

KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

PAUL PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE