WHEREAS, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are vital to the life experiences of many people with disabilities in Maryland. From employment support to community living assistance, DSPs are often the difference between community participation and isolation; and

WHEREAS, DSPs have been on the front lines of the pandemic as they continue to arrive for work every day, ready to do everything they can to ensure the health and safety of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, We believe in a Maryland which recognizes the unlimited potential for all our citizens, including those with disabilities, to live, work, and thrive in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Direct Support Professional Week is an opportunity to recognize the important work of those, who ensure inclusive environments with equal access to all which contributes to community life for those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, We are changing Maryland for the better by promoting equality of opportunity, access, and choice for Marylanders with disabilities. We are committed to the promise of a Maryland in which all people with disabilities have the knowledge and influence to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim September 12 - 18, 2021 as DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WEEK in Maryland, and encourage all citizens to participate and promote events throughout the year which celebrate the rights and abilities of those with disabilities.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, this 12th day of September, two thousand twenty-one.

[Signature]

Governor

[Signature]

Lt Governor

[Signature]

Secretary of State