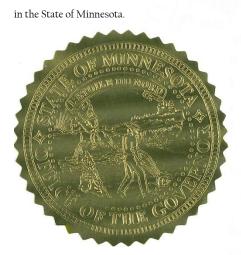


STATE of MINNESOTA

| WHEREAS: | Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the primary providers of community-based long-term support services for tens of thousands of individuals with disabilities in Minnesota; and |
|----------|--|
| WHEREAS: | DSPs are valued for their work in building respectful and trusted relationships with individuals to assist them with their most intimate needs; and |
| WHEREAS: | DSPs provide essential support to individuals with disabilities to stay connected to family, friends, coworkers, and community, helping them to define and live a quality life; and |
| WHEREAS: | DSPs provide a broad range of individualized supports, including meal preparation, medication assistance, personal care and life skills training, mobility, work and life enrichment opportunities, and other daily tasks; and |
| WHEREAS: | DSPs support informed choices and person-centered practices that honor and respect the individuals with disabilities they serve; and |
| WHEREAS: | During the COVID-19 pandemic, DSPs have played an instrumental role in ensuring safety and maintaining dedicated support and care for those they serve; and |
| WHEREAS: | An adequate workforce of high-quality DSPs is necessary for the people of Minnesota to respond to the needs of people with disabilities, and minimize more costly settings such as hospitals or institutions; and |
| WHEREAS: | DSPs are one of the fastest-growing positions in Minnesota, and demand for their skills is great; and |
| WHEREAS: | Public officials are key advocates in building awareness and addressing the issues facing this publicly-funded workforce. |

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of September 12-18, 2021, as:

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION WEEK



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SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 10^{th} day of September.

GOVERNOR

Filed on September 3, 2021 Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon