

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** An estimated 28,769 Oregonians experience an intellectual or developmental disability and benefit from assistance from others to live rich, fulfilling, and inclusive lives; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 15,000 Oregonians are employed as Direct Support Professionals (DSP), an essential job that requires a high level of skill, training, and dedication to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live, work, and play in their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** DSPs working throughout Oregon promote opportunities for people with disabilities to fully participate as valued members of their communities; enhancing their well-being by supporting people in all aspects of their daily lives; and
- WHEREAS:** DSPs must build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with those for whom they work, requiring compassion, empathy, and the highest ethical standards; and
- WHEREAS:** DSPs assist people to manage complex medical and behavioral health needs, help people with communication, and provide intimate personal supports on a daily basis; and
- WHEREAS:** DSPs have worked through some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable during the last year; working on the frontlines throughout the pandemic, ensuring people's safety during extreme wildfires, and helping people cope with prolonged power outages during historic ice storms; and
- WHEREAS:** There is a critical shortage of DSPs throughout Oregon, and together we are committed to improve wages, benefits, and opportunities for advancement to improve the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities.

NOW,

THEREFORE: I, Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **September 12-18, 2021** to be

OREGON DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, August 23, 2021.



Kate Brown

Kate Brown, Governor

Shemia Fagan

Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State