

# Proclamation

Presented by

**Senate President John J. Cullerton**

in recognition

**Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week**

Presented this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017

**WHEREAS:** September 11-15, 2017 is proclaimed Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week in Illinois; and,

**WHEREAS:** direct support professionals are the primary providers of publicly-funded, long-term support and services for thousands of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Illinois; and,

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

**WHEREAS:** direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support and assistance with tasks such as eating, bathing, administering medication, job and life skills training, money management, meal preparation and reading; and,

**WHEREAS:** over the past several decades, thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities have moved from their family homes, foster homes or state institutions into group homes, where they have been able to achieve more productive and fulfilling lives; and,

**WHEREAS:** there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in Illinois that is directly correlated to low wages that are often below the federal poverty level; and,

**WHEREAS:** this staffing crisis gravely impacts the quality of life and personal safety of persons with disabilities in Illinois; and,

**WHEREAS:** in order to continue to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities and their families who rely on long term supports and services, community providers who employ direct support professionals must obtain the resources to recruit, train and retain a highly qualified and sustainable workforce; and,

**WHEREAS:** the "They Deserve More" coalition is engaged in a statewide effort to address the staffing crisis affecting services to people with disabilities and their families in Illinois; and,

**WHEREAS:** the only solution to this ever-worsening crisis is to increase state funding to provide a living and competitive wage for direct support professionals; and,

**WHEREAS:** Illinoisans recognize and celebrate the contributions of direct support professionals that help strengthen our communities by fostering greater inclusion for persons with disabilities; therefore, be it

**PROCLAIMED:** **RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,** in conjunction with Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, that we honor the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of children and adults with disabilities and their families.

**PROCLAIMED:** That a suitable copy of this proclamation be presented as an expression of our esteem and respect.



*John J. Cullerton*  
Senator John J. Cullerton  
President of the Illinois Senate  
6<sup>th</sup> Senate District

1818 2017