



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WEEK

- WHEREAS:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, developmental disabilities occur among all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Recent estimates in the United States show that about one in six children are diagnosed to have one or more developmental disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 20,000 Georgians are employed as Direct Support Professionals, an essential job that requires a high level of skill, training, kindness, and dedication to promote opportunities for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities to fully participate as valued members of their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Direct Support Professionals must build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with those for whom they work, requiring compassion, empathy, and the highest ethical standards; and
- WHEREAS:** Direct Support Professionals must assist people to manage complex medical and behavioral health needs, help people with communication, and provide intimate personal support on a daily basis; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia's Direct Support Professionals provided for the health and safety of our citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
- WHEREAS:** We hope that by recognizing and honoring this vital workforce, we can help remedy the critical shortage of Direct Support Professionals facing Georgia, which impacts those with developmental and intellectual disabilities; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 12th-18th as DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9th day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Martin Kilpatrick

CHIEF OF STAFF