



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WEEK

- WHEREAS:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, intellectual and or 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 intellectual or 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 intellectual or developmental 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 daily; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia's Direct Support Professionals have historically provided for the health and safety of our citizens with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia recognizes and honors this vital workforce with the hope of bringing awareness to the critical shortage of Direct Support Professionals and encourage interest in this rewarding profession which impacts the quality of life for those with intellectual and or developmental disabilities; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 8-14, 2024, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



*B. P. Kemp*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Laura M. Curry*  
CHIEF OF STAFF