



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

- WHEREAS:** Direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals are the primary providers of publicly funded long-term support for individuals living with disabilities across our state and nation; and
- WHEREAS:** Direct support professionals must establish close relationships based upon trust and respect in order to properly support their patients. Through their efforts, direct support professionals empower individuals with disabilities, allowing them to live more independent lives; and
- WHEREAS:** Direct support professionals aid their clients with personal care assistance daily, providing an extensive range of individualized support. Their services include job training and/or coaching, teaching individuals how to navigate home life, and assistance with general affairs such as financial matters; and
- WHEREAS:** Direct support professionals also provide transportation to school, work, religious services, medical appointments, and recreational activities to individuals with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** The essential services of direct support professionals help individuals with disabilities to remain connected with their loved ones and members of the community without subjecting them to more costly institutional care; and
- WHEREAS:** Most direct support professionals provide the primary income for their family, often working multiple jobs to make ends meet; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2019, most direct support professionals were employed in home and community-based settings. This trend is expected to increase over the next decade with the critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 8-14, 2019 as DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Timothy K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF