BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION 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 and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS: A direct support professional must build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with patients. Direct support professionals empower individuals with disabilities to live more independent lives and more actively participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS: Direct support professionals aid their clients with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis, providing a broad range of individualized supports. These services include job training and coaching; assisting those with disabilities to successfully live alongside their non-disabled peers; teaching them to navigate home life through meal preparation, administering medication, bathing, dressing, and other aspects of daily life; providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; assisting in financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests; and helping with other general affairs; and

WHEREAS: Direct support professionals provide essential services to those with disabilities, helping them to remain connected to family members, friends, and community, and thereby allowing them to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS: Most direct support professionals are the primary breadwinners of their families and often work multiple jobs to make ends meet. In 2016, the majority of direct support professionals were employed in home and community-based settings, and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade. There is a critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States, and it is imperative that we increase awareness and recognition of these important health care workers; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 10-16, 2017, as DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF