



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

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 supports and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the week beginning September 13, 2020, as "Alabama Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week," recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals have been the #ForgottenFaces of the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic as they continue to arrive for work every day, ready to do everything they can to ensure the health and safety of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and autism, they provide essential support that ensures all individuals are:

- (1) Included as a valued part of their community*
- (2) Supported at home, at work, and in the communities of the United States and*
- (3) Empowered to live with the dignity that all people of the United States deserve; and*

WHEREAS, direct support professionals build close, respectful, and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities and provide a broad range of individualized support, including—

- (1) helping people to make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful and productive lives, such as employment*
- (2) assisting with personal care, meal preparation, medication management, and other aspects of daily living*
- (3) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities*
- (4) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, appointments, and personal interests*
- (5) transitioning from segregated settings or services to living robust lives in the communities of their choice*
- (6) providing the first line of defense in keeping people with disabilities safe and healthy during the Coronavirus pandemic and*
- (7) volunteering to quarantine with individuals served to reduce transmission of the virus; and*

WHEREAS, there is a documented critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States, the majority are employed in home and community-based settings and that trend will increase over the next decade;

WHEREAS, many direct support professionals are the primary financial providers for their families and are hardworking, taxpaying citizens who provide a critical service in the United States. Many continue to earn low wages, receive inadequate benefits, and have limited opportunities for advancement, resulting in high turnover and vacancy rates that adversely affect the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim the week of September 13-20, 2020, as

Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 2nd day of September 2020.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor