



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an

Official Statement

WHEREAS, Connecticut has an exceptional community of providers including direct support professionals, job coaches, direct care workers, personal assistants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, all of whom are dedicated to providing essential care and support to individuals with a wide range of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential services that ensure that all individuals with disabilities are included as a valued part of the communities in which those individuals live, supported at home, at work, and in the communities of Connecticut, and empowered to live with the dignity that all people of the Connecticut deserve; and,

WHEREAS, there is a documented, critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States, including in Connecticut, bringing uncertainty and risk to individuals with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) recognized the importance of the deinstitutionalization of, and community-based services for, individuals with disabilities; and held that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S. 12101 et seq.), a State must provide person-centered, community-based service options to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut recognizes the enormous contributions that direct service professionals make in assisting and empowering individuals with disabilities to become independent contributors to their communities; and,

WHEREAS, Connecticut citizens are encouraged to recognize the dedication of direct support professionals and the important role they play in supporting the state's long-term care system and in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals help strengthen Connecticut communities by facilitating inclusion for people with disabilities; now

THEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim September 8-14, 2024, as

2024 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS' RECOGNITION WEEK

in the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR