



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, an ethical, well-trained and dedicated direct support professional workforce is often the bridge to inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, empathy and genuine understanding of persons with disabilities are fostered in communities through the work of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, communities are strengthened and enriched by the inclusion of all members of society, including people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, people with disabilities may be better able to secure and maintain gainful employment with the support of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, many families of people with disabilities are supported through the efforts and assistance of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, the lives of children and adults with disabilities are enriched through the work of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, people without families often find friendship and love from direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee citizens with disabilities are more able to live self-directed lives, because of the support of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of Direct Support Professionals live and work in Tennessee and deserve recognition as valued members of our society for the essential supports they provide to people with disabilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 10-16, 2017 as

*Direct Support Professionals  
Recognition Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-third day of August, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Julie Hight*

Secretary of State