



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 Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 12 – September 18, 2021, as

*Direct Support Professional Service 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-fifth day of August, 2021.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*John R. Parrott*

Secretary of State