



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 individuals with disabilities is 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 effort 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 able to live a more self-directed life, 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 support they provide to people with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 10-16, 2023, as

Direct Support Professional 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 tenth day of August 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

Julie Kuntz

Secretary of State