More than 85 million Americans report living with a disability, and more than 10 percent of those over 18 require assistance to live independently. Many are assisted by direct support professionals who provide in-home support and personal assistance, helping them to live as independently as possible and enjoy full participation in their communities.

Often under-recognized for their work, direct support professionals are responsible for the health, safety, and emotional well-being of the people they assist, whether in health care facilities or through home- and community-based services. As our population continues to grow, the need for direct support professionals will only continue to expand.

Each year, a week in September is designated to recognize the positive impact of these dedicated and trusted caregivers and the significant roles they play in our communities. At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn about the important work that direct support professionals do in caring for those with disabilities in the Lone Star State.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim September 9-15, 2019, to be

**Direct Support Professional Recognition Week**

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 1st day of August, 2019.

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas