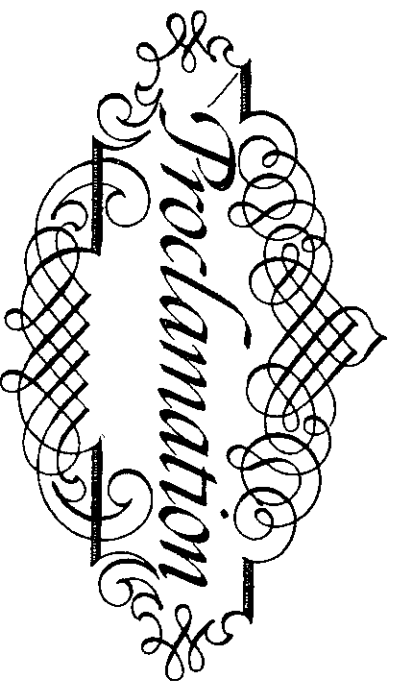


State of Maine



WHEREAS, direct support workers, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals are the primary providers of publicly funded long term support and services for millions of individuals; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities, assisting with the most intimate needs on a daily basis, including preparation of meals, helping with medications, bathing, dressing, mobility, transportation and general daily affairs; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional provides essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to the family and community of the individual; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives in the individual's home community, and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is projected to grow over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages and benefits, creating high turnover and vacancy rates that research demonstrates adversely affects the quality of support to individuals with disabilities,

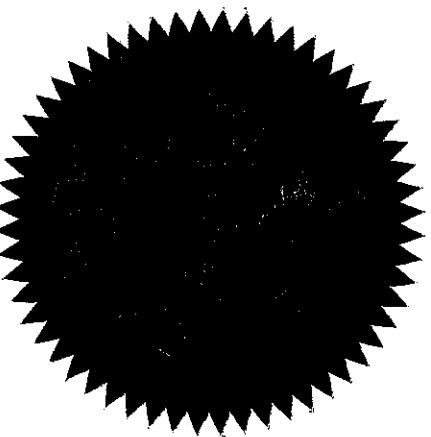
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim September 14 - 20, 2009 as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

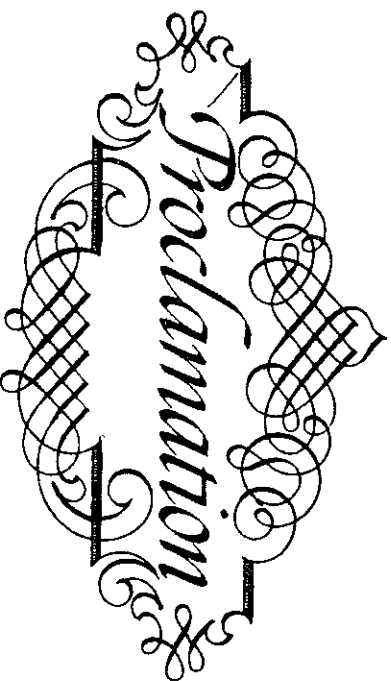
In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand
at Augusta this fifteenth day of July
Two Thousand and Nine.

John E. Baldacci
Governor



Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

State of Maine



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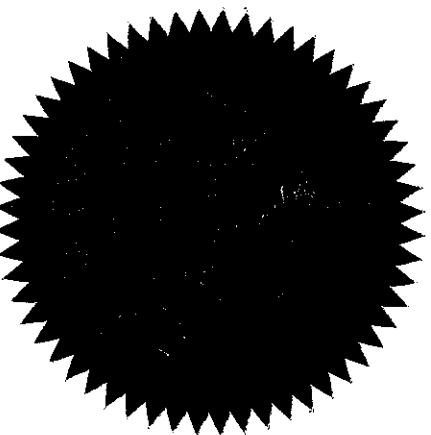
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