

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 140

Senator MacGregor offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate September 13-19, 2020, as Direct
2 Support Professionals Week.

3 Whereas, Direct support professionals, including direct care
4 workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support
5 workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly-
6 funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals
7 with disabilities; and

8 Whereas, These professionals provide essential support that
9 ensure individuals with disabilities are included as a valued part
10 of their community, supported at home, at work, and in the
11 communities of our state, while also empowering them to live with
12 the dignity all people of our state and nation deserve; and

1 Whereas, All communities have a stake in ensuring that
2 individuals with disabilities thrive through the connections of
3 their families, friends, and communities, fostered by direct
4 support professionals to avoid more costly institutional care; and

5 Whereas, Direct support professionals assist individuals with
6 disabilities by helping them make person-centered choices that lead
7 to meaningful, productive lives; and

8 Whereas, These professionals must build close, respectful, and
9 trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities; and

10 Whereas, Direct support professionals provide a broad range of
11 individualized support to individuals with disabilities, including
12 assistance with the preparation of meals, helping with medication,
13 assistance with daily living, assistance with access to the
14 environment around them, providing transportation to school, work,
15 religious, and recreational activities, as well as helping with
16 general daily affairs, such as financial matters and medical
17 appointments; and

18 Whereas, There is a documented, critical and increasing
19 shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United
20 States; and

21 Whereas, Direct support professionals are a critical element
22 in supporting individuals who are receiving health care services
23 for severe chronic health conditions and individuals with
24 functional limitations, and helping them to transition successfully
25 from medical events to post-acute care and long-term support and
26 services; and

27 Whereas, During this commemorative week, we should recognize
28 and honor direct support professionals for their commitment to
29 providing important services to people with disabilities in our

1 state and advocate for their living wages, benefits, and
2 opportunities for advancement, so they can continue to provide the
3 highest quality of support for their patients; now, therefore, be
4 it

5 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
6 body commemorate September 13-19, 2020, as Direct Support
7 Professionals Week.