STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the primary providers of community-based long-term support services for tens of thousands of individuals with disabilities in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: DSPs are valued for their work in building respectful and trusted relationships with individuals to assist them with their most intimate needs; and

WHEREAS: DSPs provide essential support to individuals with disabilities to stay connected to family, friends, coworkers, and community, helping them to define and live a quality life; and

WHEREAS: DSPs provide a broad range of individualized supports, including meal preparation, medication assistance, personal care and life skills training, mobility, work and life enrichment opportunities, and other daily tasks; and

WHEREAS: DSPs support informed choices and person-centered practices that honor and respect the individuals with disabilities they serve; and

WHEREAS: An adequate workforce of high-quality DSPs is necessary for the people of Minnesota to respond to the needs of people with disabilities, and minimize more costly settings such as hospitals or institutions; and

WHEREAS: DSPs are one of the fastest-growing positions in Minnesota, and demand for their skills is great; and

WHEREAS: Public officials are key advocates in building awareness and addressing the issues facing this publicly-funded workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of September 10-16, 2023, as:

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 30th day of August.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE