



Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc.

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Making a House a Home!

September 14, 2009

To Direct Care Staff:

The United States Senate has designated the week beginning September 14, 2009 as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition week. Designating this week is to show support and understanding the importance of direct care staff like you. See the attached Resolution for more details.

Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. wants to take this time to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work. We know that the most crucial element of our success is the work you do. We hope that you know the impact that you have on people and how important you are in their lives.

Thank you for being the BEST Direct Support Professionals in the field!

Sincerely,

Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. Management Team:

Greg Bair, Linda Brownell, Mark Carpenter,
Sheri Damron, Melanie Grosjean, Diane Harvey,
Debbie Leibig, Tonia Peters, Kelley Pickard

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES.

Designating the week beginning September 14, 2009, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning September 14, 2009, as
“National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”.

Whereas direct support workers, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (referred to in this preamble as “direct support professionals”) are the primary providers of publicly funded long term support and services for millions of individuals;

Whereas a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities;

Whereas a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs, on a daily basis;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a broad range of support, including—

- (1) preparation of meals;
- (2) helping with medications;
- (3) bathing;
- (4) dressing;
- (5) mobility;
- (6) getting to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and
- (7) general daily affairs;

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

Whereas direct support professionals enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals are the key to allowing an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community of the individual, and to avoid more costly institutional care;

Whereas the majority of direct support professionals are female, and many are the sole breadwinners of their families;

Whereas direct support professionals work and pay taxes, but many remain impoverished and are eligible for the same Federal and State public assistance programs on which the individuals with disabilities served by the direct support professionals must depend;

Whereas Federal and State policies, as well as the Supreme Court, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), assert the right of an individual to live in the home and community of the individual;

Whereas, in 2008, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade;

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, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the week beginning September
3 14, 2009, as “National Direct Support Professionals
4 Recognition Week”;

5 (2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of
6 direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of
7 individuals with disabilities of all ages;

8 (3) appreciates the contribution of direct sup-
9 port professionals in supporting the needs that reach
10 beyond the capacities of millions of families in the
11 United States;

12 (4) commends direct support professionals as
13 integral in supporting the long-term support and
14 services system of the United States; and

1 (5) finds that the successful implementation of
2 the public policies of the United States depends on
3 the dedication of direct support professionals.