



SR0904

LRB100 14523 MST 29311 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Direct support professionals are the primary
3 providers of publicly-funded, long-term support and services
4 for thousands of children and adults with intellectual and
5 developmental disabilities in Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Direct support professionals build close,
7 respectful, and trusted relationships with the persons they
8 help support; and

9 WHEREAS, Direct support professionals provide a broad
10 range of individualized support and assistance with tasks such
11 as eating, bathing, administering medication, job and life
12 skills training, money management, meal preparation, and
13 reading; and

14 WHEREAS, There is a documented critical and growing
15 shortage of direct support professionals in Illinois that is
16 directly correlated to low wages that are often below the
17 federal poverty level; and

18 WHEREAS, This staffing crisis gravely impacts the quality
19 of life and personal safety of persons with disabilities in
20 Illinois; and

1 WHEREAS, In order to continue to enhance the lives of
2 persons with disabilities and their families who rely on
3 long-term supports and services, community providers who
4 employ direct support professionals must obtain the resources
5 to recruit, train, and retain a highly qualified and
6 sustainable workforce; and

7 WHEREAS, The "They Deserve More" coalition is engaged in a
8 statewide effort to address the staffing crisis affecting
9 services to people with disabilities and their families in
10 Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, The only solution to this ever-worsening crisis is
12 to increase state funding to provide a living and competitive
13 wage for direct support professionals; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinoisans recognize and celebrate the
15 contributions of direct support professionals that help
16 strengthen our communities by fostering greater inclusion for
17 persons with disabilities; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare September
20 11-15, 2017 as "Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"
21 in the State of Illinois, and we recognize the vital role of
22 direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of children

1 and adults with disabilities and their families.