

By: Guillen

H.C.R. No. 4

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Direct support professionals are the primary
2 providers of publicly funded long-term support services for
3 millions of individuals with physical and mental disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, These highly trained caregivers build close,
5 trusted relationships with the people they serve, who rely on them
6 for assistance with their most intimate needs; their
7 responsibilities include helping clients to negotiate a broad range
8 of daily tasks, such as eating, bathing, dressing, taking
9 medications, overcoming mobility issues, and attending school,
10 work, religious, and recreational activities; and

11 WHEREAS, The essential care provided by direct support
12 professionals enables persons with disabilities to live
13 meaningful, productive lives while remaining connected to their
14 families and communities; for many, they offer a practical
15 alternative to more costly institutional services; and

16 WHEREAS, A majority of direct support professionals are
17 women, and many are the sole wage earners in their families; despite
18 working and paying taxes, a significant number of them are eligible
19 for the same federal and state public assistance on which their
20 clients depend; and

21 WHEREAS, Because of inadequate income and benefits, direct
22 support professionals are often forced to leave jobs, leading to a
23 shortage of workers that persists throughout the state; although
24 the demand for caregivers employed in homes and community-based

1 settings is continuing to grow, high turnover and vacancy rates
2 threaten to adversely affect the quality of support that
3 individuals with disabilities receive; and

4 WHEREAS, Direct support professionals enhance the lives of
5 thousands of Texans while performing a vital service to their
6 families, for whom day-to-day care may pose a challenge beyond
7 their capabilities; by observing Direct Support Professionals
8 Recognition Week, the State of Texas joins with communities across
9 the nation in extending profound thanks to those who accept this
10 demanding yet rewarding role, for their contributions are
11 indispensable to countless of their fellow citizens; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas,
14 2nd Called Session, hereby designate the week beginning September
15 8, 2013, as Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week and honor
16 direct support professionals as an integral part of the long-term
17 care system of Texas.