



**Work,
Community,
Independence**

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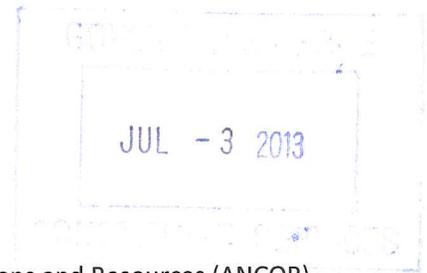
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The Honorable Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133



Dear Governor Patrick:

On behalf of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), and WCI – Work, Community, Independence in Waltham, Massachusetts, I write to request a proclamation from your office designating the week of September 8, 2013, as *Direct Support Professional Recognition Week* in Massachusetts.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are dedicated, well-trained professionals who provide hands-on daily supports, training and habilitation services to persons with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. This workforce is responsible for the health, safety and emotional well-being of the individuals they support.

DSPs are the bridge to meaningful lives of independence and community inclusion for millions, providing the supports and services that seniors and people with disabilities depend on. The need for the quality supports provided by the direct support workforce continues to grow at an alarming rate; however, low wages and high turnover among DSPs are contributing to a national workforce shortage.

At a time when many individuals struggle finding jobs, we invite you to raise awareness of the outstanding work done within the direct support workforce, as well as career opportunities.

Enclosed with this letter is a Resolution recently adopted by the ANCOR Board of Directors designating the week beginning September 9, 2013, as *National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*. A similar resolution has been passed by the United States Senate for the past five years, and will be introduced again this year by Senator Susan Collins of Maine.

ANCOR is a nonprofit trade association representing and advocating on behalf of the more than 800 private providers of services and supports for nearly 500,000 Americans with disabilities. WCI - Work, Community, Independence is a private non-profit agency providing homes, employment and day supports to people with a wide range of intellectual and developmental disabilities. WCI encourages over 175 Individuals "...to live, work, be a part of the community and achieve their optimal lifestyle." WCI provides flexible options to people it supports as each Individuals needs are different.

As you consider this request for a proclamation to honor the thousands of deserving DSPs in Massachusetts, I urge you to visit www.youneedtoknowme.org to learn more about the impact DSPs make in the daily lives of millions of Americans with disabilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nancy Silver Hargreaves

Nancy Silver Hargreaves
President & CEO

WCI empowers and supports people with disabilities to achieve rich and meaningful lives at home, at work and in their communities. We serve the communities of Waltham, Watertown, Belmont, Malden and Arlington.

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