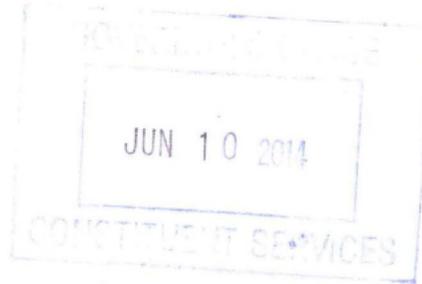


June 3, 2014

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts
Office of the Governor, Room 360
Boston, Massachusetts 02133



Dear Governor Deval Patrick:

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) has selected Amanda Brockman as a recipient of its 2014 Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year Award for the state of Massachusetts. This prestigious award is given annually to an outstanding individual in each state to recognize the work of more than a half million direct support professionals across our nation.

Amanda Brockman is being recognized as a leader among his/her peers for work supporting people with disabilities, helping them to live meaningful and productive lives as part of their communities. I hope you will join me in recognizing Amanda Brockman for this significant achievement, and for the incredible difference this DSP makes in the lives of others every day. Amanda Brockman was nominated by WCI - Work, Community, Independence. Enclosed is a copy of ANCOR's commemorative publication that includes your state's recipient. Information on how to contact the recipient through the nominating provider/agency is noted below.

In addition to recognizing this outstanding DSP, ANCOR requests that you honor all DSPs in your state with a proclamation from your office designating the week of September 7 - 13, 2014 as *Direct Support Professional Recognition Week* in Massachusetts. You may have already received a request to take this action from our Massachusetts members, in which case we would like to reinforce that request. Last year over 30 governors recognized the week, and the U.S. Senate has passed a resolution annually since 2008. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) will sponsor the resolution again this year, with Senator Collins (R-ME) as lead co-sponsor. Enclosed is a copy of the 2013 US Senate Resolution.

Direct Support Professionals are the bridge to community living for people with disabilities, offering supports and services that promote independence and inclusion for individuals with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities, and for aging Americans and veterans. The need for DSPs is growing. By 2020, an estimated 1.2 million DSPs will be needed to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Despite their hard work and the growing demand, DSPs are among the lowest paid workers in the country and typically need another part time job to make ends meet, and often rely on public assistance.

Your Direct Support Professional Recognition Week proclamation is an important way to help educate citizens about the impact DSPs have on the daily lives of millions of Americans with disabilities, and how they are making a positive difference in the communities in your state. As you

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consider this request for a proclamation to honor the thousands of deserving Direct Support Professionals in your state, I urge you to visit www.youneedtoknowme.org to learn more about the dedicated, compassionate and innovative DSP workforce. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Renee Pietrangelo

CEO

Enclosures

Recipient Contact Information

Recipient Name: Amanda Brockman

Home Address: 

Agency Contact Information

CEO: Nancy Silver Hargreaves

Agency: WCI - Work, Community, Independence

Phone Number: 781-389-5992

Email Address: nshargreaves@wearewci.org

Address: 135 Beaver Street

Waltham, Massachusetts 2452

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 28, 2013

DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8, 2013, AS "NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK"

Dear Colleague:

We write to seek your support for a bipartisan resolution designating the week beginning September 8, 2013, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week." The resolution recognizes Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) as the primary providers of publicly-funded long-term supports and services for millions of persons with disabilities.

DSPs help with meals, medications, bathing, dressing, and mobility needs of those they serve. DSPs' work requires them to develop close personal relationships with their clients, keeping them connected to their families and communities, and in doing so, improving their clients' quality of life.

For the past five years, the Senate has recognized Direct Support Professionals Week. In 2012, the following states issued proclamations designating a National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week: Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia.

We ask you to join us again this year as cosponsors of this bipartisan resolution to recognize DSPs for their vital work in our communities. Please contact Priscilla Ross at Priscilla_Ross@cardin.senate.gov or Priscilla Hanley at Priscilla_Hanley@aging.senate.gov to cosponsor the resolution or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator