



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

**Executive Office of Health & Human Services**

**Department of Developmental Services**

**Northeast Region**

**P.O. Box A - Hathorne, MA 01937**

**TEL 978-774-5000 • FAX 978-739-0410**

**Charles D. Baker**  
GOVERNOR  
**Karyn E. Polito**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**Marylou Sudders**  
SECRETARY  
**Jane F. Ryder**  
COMMISSIONER  
**Kelly D. Lawless**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

September 16, 2021

In recognition of Direct Support Professionals Week:

On behalf of the nearly 10,000 children and adults served by the Northeast Region, Department of Developmental Disabilities, I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to each and every direct support professional for your dedication and hard work.

Without you, the individuals served in the Northeast Region would not be enjoying the quality of life, the levels of health and safety, the connections and bridges to family, friends and the community. They would not be experiencing the joy and fulfillment that comes from personal achievement and success. These individuals deserve the very best and the direct support professionals in the Northeast Region provide just that.

Whenever I talk to those in leadership positions within DDS or the provider community one message rings clear. That the direct support workforces it truly the backbone of our service system. Those leaders have all worked in Direct Support roles at some point during their careers and they understand the critical importance you play in making the service system function 24 hours a day/365 days a year. Many remember their days in direct support roles as some of the most fulfilling and personally meaningful jobs they have held.

When we make a difference in the life of a person with a disability it changes our life and it is a humbling experience. Direct support is an honorable profession and one that is highly valued and respected. It is because of your hard work that family members can rest easy at night knowing their sons and daughters are well cared for and supported.

I understand your choice to do this work is driven by your compassion for others because this work is not glamorous nor highly paid. The changes you influence in the lives of those you support do not always come easily or quickly but with consistency and patience, they do come. You can look back with pride on the growth those you support have achieved.

As you think about the things in your life that provide you with meaning and purpose, please know that your work in direct support is critical. Your kindness and values are desperately needed in the field of human services.

Thank you for all you do!

Kelly