



September 12, 2018

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Please join me in celebrating the 2018 Direct Support Professional Recognition Week.



This is a week-long recognition of the dedication and accomplishments of Direct Support Professionals and their vital contribution to communities across the country. If you use social media, feel free to use the hash tag **#DSPRW2018** to help spread the word.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the necessary supports that enable them to live, work, and enjoy life in their community.

A recent report by the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities noted that the direct support workforce is one of the highest in demand in the U.S. Their most recent estimates are that nearly 1.3 million full- and part-time DSP positions support 1.4 million individuals with I/DD across the country. That report, and the National Core Indicators 2016 Staff Stability Survey, show that there is high turnover and other challenges to retaining staff.

DSPs work in a number of settings. In Oregon, a mix of Personal Support Workers (PSWs) and DSPs employed by provider agencies fill these critical roles.

The work they do is at the core of our values and central to the lives of the individuals we support. DSPs and PSWs work hard to make a difference in the lives of people with I/DD. We appreciate the value they add each day.

Let's take a moment to show our appreciation and gratitude.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

*Previous Director's Messages are available at*  
[http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-  
DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx)

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