

## Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



Sept. 15, 2016

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

I'm pleased to announce that Governor Brown signed a Proclamation naming the week of September 11–17 as:

### **Oregon Direct Support Professional Recognition Week**

This Proclamation recognizes the important work of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). DSPs are critical to our ability to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live safe and engaged lives in their local communities. They are vital to the success of each individual they support and to the service system as a whole.

About 14,000 DSPs provide support to Oregonians with I/DD so they can fully participate in community life. They help people with I/DD maintain their independence by supporting them at home, work and in community activities. DSPs perform vital tasks that require a high level of skill.

To support this workforce, ODDS is requesting a Policy Option Package (POP) in the 2017-19 Agency Request Budget (ARB) that will help provider agencies with their efforts to hire and retain DSPs. The POP also includes funding to implement nationally recognized DSP training curriculum statewide, address Oregon's minimum wage increases, and address recent regulations from U.S. Department of Labor.

Please join me in honoring and recognizing the critical work of DSPs. The Governor's Proclamation honoring Sept. 11-17 as Oregon Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is attached to print and post.

Sincerely,  
Lilia

Lilia Teninty

Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services