



*WHEREAS, in Colorado more than 70,000 people receive long-term services and supports in their homes, host homes, group homes, assisted living residences, and nursing homes; and*

*WHEREAS, direct care workers are paid professionals who provide care and assistance with activities of daily living to support older adults and individuals with varying abilities' needs for safety and wellness, connection, independence, and a meaningful life; and*

*WHEREAS, dedicated direct care workers have been responsible for providing physical, emotional, and behavioral health services to older adults and people with varying abilities during the extraordinarily challenging COVID-19 pandemic; and*

*WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has greatly benefited over the years from the personal commitments that have been made by direct care workers, especially during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic; and*

*WHEREAS, the State of Colorado made the single largest investment in direct care workers by establishing a base wage of \$15 an hour for those taking care of individuals on Medicaid; and*

*WHEREAS, most of Colorado's direct care workers are women, 44 percent identify as non-white, and despite the increase in the base wage, 37 percent of direct care workers in Colorado are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$55,000 annually for a family of four); and*

*WHEREAS, the direct care workforce is in high demand all across Colorado to care for the needs of people with varying abilities and ages and a growing aging population; and*

*WHEREAS, workforce initiatives to support direct care workers are crucial to the wellbeing of older Coloradans and those with varying abilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the Colorado Direct Care Workforce Collaborative is dedicated to advancing the public's general awareness of the direct care workforce and advocating for improving compensation and benefits, training and career advancement, and publicly recognizing the significant value of the direct care workforce in all health care sectors;*

*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the period of time between April 2 and April 8, 2023 as*

***DIRECT CARE WORKER APPRECIATION WEEK***

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this second day of April, 2023*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

*Jared Polis  
Governor*