



**Danny Donohue**  
President

**Denise Berkley**  
Secretary

**Mary E. Sullivan**  
Executive Vice President

**Bill Walsh**  
Treasurer



September 4, 2017

Dear Direct Support Professional,

Direct Support Professionals Week is Sept. 10-16.

Officially, it's a time to recognize the vital work and dedication of professionals like you who care for individuals with disabilities. Personally, it's an opportunity for me to say thank you for working tirelessly each day to provide skilled and compassionate care, often under very challenging circumstances.

**I realize it can be easy to feel underappreciated or that your work is taken for granted, especially when you continue to face understaffing and overtime.** While we have taken steps in this past contract to address extreme overtime and short staffing, we will continue to fight to ensure you, as a direct care professional, receive the support and resources you need to provide the vital care you deliver each and every day.

I want you to know that you and your colleagues are some of the most caring and dedicated professionals I have ever met. You are more than just caretakers; you are like family to those in your care. You make a tremendous difference in the lives of people with disabilities and bring great comfort to their families who know their loved ones are being cared for with kindness and compassion.

While this week is a perfect opportunity for CSEA to officially say thank you for all you do, I want you to know that your work is appreciated all year round and that CSEA will continue to fight to make sure you receive the respect and appreciation you deserve every day!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny".

DANNY DONOHUE

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