

**2010 -- S 2504**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28TH THROUGH MARCH 7TH, 2010, AS  
"SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Metts, DeVall, Sheehan, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 25, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives and Senate have recognized the  
2 importance of school social work through the inclusion of school social work programs in the  
3 current authorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the  
4 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

5           WHEREAS, School social workers serve as vital members of a school's educational  
6 team, playing a central role in creating partnerships among the home, school, and community to  
7 ensure student academic success; and

8           WHEREAS, School social workers are especially skilled in providing services to students  
9 who face serious challenges to school success, including poverty, disability, discrimination,  
10 abuse, addiction, bullying, divorce of parents, loss of a loved one, and other barriers to learning;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, There is a growing need for local educational agencies to offer the mental  
13 health services that school social workers provide when working with families, teachers,  
14 principals, community agencies, and other entities to address students' emotional, physical, and  
15 environmental needs so that students may achieve behavioral and academic success; and

16           WHEREAS, Research indicates that school mental health programs improve educational  
17 outcomes by decreasing absences, decreasing discipline referrals, and improving academic  
18 achievement; and

19           WHEREAS, School mental health programs are critical to early identification of mental

1 health problems and providing appropriate services when needed; and

2 WHEREAS, The national average ratio of students to school social workers  
3 recommended by the School Social Work Association of America is 400 to 1; and

4 WHEREAS, One hundred and ninety-three school social workers in Rhode Island serve a  
5 public and private school population of greater than 176,000 youths; and

6 WHEREAS, The celebration of “School Social Work Week” highlights the vital role  
7 school social workers play in the lives of students in Rhode Island; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
9 hereby designates February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 7<sup>th</sup> of 2010 to be “School Social Work Week” in  
10 the State of Rhode Island. We furthermore honor and recognize the contributions of school social  
11 workers to the successes of students in schools across the state; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby encourages the people of Rhode Island to observe  
13 “School Social Work Week” with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness  
14 of the vital role of school social workers, in schools and in the community as a whole, in helping  
15 students prepare for their futures as productive citizens; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Rick Harris, LICSW, Executive Director of  
18 the National Association of Social Workers.

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