

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1003

Introduced by: Representatives Duba, Beal, Borglum, Dennert, Diedrich, Gosch, Greenfield (Lana), Healy, McCleerey, Peterson (Kent), Pischke, Ring, Saba, Schoenfish, Smith (Jamie), Sullivan, and Willadsen and Senators Schoenbeck, Cronin, Heinert, Langer, Nesiba, Rusch, and Wiik

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Commending and recognizing the numerous contributions made by South Dakota's social workers and recognizing March 2019 as National Social Work Month.

WHEREAS, the social work profession is dedicated to enhancing well-being and helping meet the basic needs of all people, especially those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Social Work Month theme, Elevate Social Work, embodies the need to recognize the extraordinary contributions of the profession to our society; and

WHEREAS, the social work profession is expected to grow faster than average over the next seven years; and

WHEREAS, social workers elevate and empower people, giving them the ability to solve problems, cope with personal roadblocks, and get individuals the resources they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS, the social work profession is deeply integrated into our society with social workers active in government, schools, universities, social service agencies, communities, corporations, the military, and in health care and mental health care settings; and

WHEREAS, social workers are the largest group of providers of mental health services in the United States, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the largest employers of social workers holding advanced degrees; and



WHEREAS, social workers travel across the nation and world to help people in crisis, helping them overcome issues including death and grief, epidemics, environmental pollution, and natural disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, and floods; and

WHEREAS, social workers have been in the forefront on social justice for decades, pushing for equal rights for all; and

WHEREAS, for more than a century, the social work profession has been on the cutting edge of helping create changes to make our society a better place to live, including voting rights, improved workplace safety, a minimum wage, and social safety net programs that ameliorate poverty and hunger; and

WHEREAS, social workers stand ready to help our society overcome current pressing issues, including the need for improved availability of health care and mental health services:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the Legislature recognizes March 2019 as National Social Work Month and calls upon all South Dakotans to join with the National Association of Social Workers, the South Dakota chapter, and the State of South Dakota in celebration and support of the social work profession.