

No. R-107. House concurrent resolution designating the month of March 2017 as Professional Social Workers Month.

(H.C.R.82)

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Briglin of Thetford, Christensen of Weathersfield, Colburn of Burlington, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Dunn of Essex, Gage of Rutland City, Gamache of Swanton, Haas of Rochester, Houghton of Essex, Jickling of Brookfield, Keefe of Manchester, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lippert of Hinesburg, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Rosenquist of Georgia, Troiano of Stannard, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senator Ingram

Whereas, professional social workers have the education and experience to guide individuals, families, and communities through complex issues and choices, and

Whereas, these highly trained and compassionate individuals enable people to help themselves and to build on existing strengths to improve their lives, and

Whereas, professional social workers work in hospitals; mental health centers; public, private, and nonprofit agencies; veterans and military facilities; and corporations, and

Whereas, they strive to achieve social justice and to improve the quality of life for everyone, and

Whereas, the National Association of Social Workers has over 132,000 members who follow a professional code of ethics, and nationally, professional social workers provide more mental health support than all other licensed professionals combined, and

Whereas, in Vermont, there are 880 active master's level social workers of whom 290 are in solo practice, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for professional social workers is expected to grow in the coming years, and

Whereas, social work is a profession with a social purpose and a broad range of career possibilities and, due to retirements as well as an increased need, Vermont is likely to face a shortage of professional social workers within a decade, and

Whereas, Vermont's professional social workers deserve recognition for their commitment and dedication to individuals, families, and communities through service delivery, research, education, and legislative advocacy, and

Whereas, today, March 23, 2017, members of the Vermont chapter of the National Association of Social Workers are visiting the State House to increase legislative awareness of the importance of social workers for Vermont's families and individuals, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 2017 as Professional Social Workers Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.