

No. R-104. House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2019 as National Social Work Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.86)

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Ancel of Calais

Whereas, the social work profession is dedicated to enhancing well-being and to assisting all persons to meet their basic needs, especially individuals who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty, and

Whereas, this year's Social Work Month theme, "Elevate Social Work," reflects the need to recognize the extraordinary societal contributions of this profession, and

Whereas, during the next seven years, the number of social workers is expected to grow significantly, with more than 682,000 people expected to be employed as social workers by 2026, and

Whereas, social workers support and empower people, helping them to acquire the ability to solve problems, cope with personal roadblocks, and obtain the resources they need to succeed, and

Whereas, these talented professionals are deeply immersed in our society, being active in government, local communities, schools, social service agencies, universities, health and mental health organizations, the U.S. military, corporations, and the private sector, and

Whereas, social workers are the largest group of mental health service providers in the United States, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the biggest employers of social workers with advanced degrees, and

Whereas, social workers help individuals process through issues such as death, grief, trauma, epidemics, environmental pollution, and natural and human-caused disasters, and

Whereas, for decades, social workers have been in the forefront of social justice issues, advocating for equal rights for women, African Americans, Latinx, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and various ethnic, cultural, religious, and social groups, and

Whereas, for more than a century, the social work profession has been helping create changes to make our society a better place to live, and

Whereas, social workers continue to bring individuals, communities, social service agencies, and governments together to help society solve some of the most pressing issues of the day, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 2019 as National Social Work 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.