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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance the well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society; and

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WHEREAS, Social workers embody this year's Social Work Month Theme, "Social Workers Stand Up!", by serving, advocating for, and empowering millions of Americans each day; and

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WHEREAS, World Social Work Day is observed on March 21, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Social workers embody the theme of this year's World Social Work Day, "Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability", by working with individuals, organizations, and local and federal governments to improve communities and protect the environment; and

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WHEREAS, Social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, with almost 650,000 members of the profession and over 20,000 in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Social workers work in all areas of our society to improve happiness, health, and prosperity, including in government, schools, universities, social service agencies,

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1 communities, the military, and mental health and health care
2 facilities; they also own and operate numerous private practice
3 small businesses throughout the State of Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Social workers have pushed for decades to ensure
5 equal rights for all, including women, African Americans,
6 Latinos, people who are disabled, people who are LGBTQ, and
7 various ethnic, cultural, and religious groups; and

8 WHEREAS, Social workers have supported and continue to
9 advocate for legislation and policies that reduce racial
10 discord, including renewal of the Voting Rights Act, the
11 Violence Against Women Act, the Civil Rights Act, the
12 Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, unemployment insurance,
13 workplace safety, and Social Security benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, Social workers are the largest group of mental
15 health care providers in the United States, and work daily to
16 help people overcome substance abuse disorders and mental
17 illnesses such as depression and anxiety; and

18 WHEREAS, Social workers are deployed across the United
19 States and the world, helping people overcome earthquakes,
20 floods, wars, and other disasters and return to peace and
21 prosperity; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the month
3 of March of 2017 as Social Work Month in the State of Illinois;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the National Association of Social
7 Workers-Illinois Chapter with our sincere appreciation for
8 their efforts.