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SENATE RESOLUTION

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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

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WHEREAS, This year's Social Work Month theme, "Social Workers Are Essential", embodies the need to recognize the extraordinary contributions of the profession to our society; and

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WHEREAS, The social work profession is expected to grow faster than average over the next seven years, with more than 682,000 people nationwide expected to be employed as social workers by 2026; and

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

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WHEREAS, Over 20,000 licensed social workers are present throughout our State, deeply woven into our society; social workers are active in state government, schools, universities, social service agencies, and communities; they own and operate numerous private practice small businesses and work in

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1 corporations, the military, and healthcare and mental health  
2 settings; and

3 WHEREAS, Social workers are the largest group of providers  
4 of mental health services in the United States as well as in  
5 Illinois, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is one  
6 of the largest employers of social workers holding advanced  
7 degrees; and

8 WHEREAS, Social workers travel across the State and the  
9 nation to aide people in crisis, helping them overcome issues  
10 such as death and grief, gun violence, epidemics,  
11 environmental pollution, and natural disasters such as  
12 wildfires, tornados, and floods; and

13 WHEREAS, Social workers have been in the forefront on  
14 social justice for decades, pushing for equal rights for  
15 women, African Americans, Latinos, people who are disabled,  
16 people who are LGBTQ, and various ethnic, cultural, and  
17 religious groups; and

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

1           WHEREAS, Social workers stand ready to help our State  
2 overcome current pressing issues, including equal rights for  
3 all, the need for improved availability of health care and  
4 mental health services, a reformed criminal justice system, a  
5 fairer tax code, an educational system that achieves true  
6 equity, and a cleaner environment; therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare the month of  
9 March 2021 as Social Work Month in the State of Illinois; and  
10 be it further

11           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the National Association of Social  
13 Workers-Illinois Chapter with our sincere appreciation for  
14 their efforts.