State of Vermont
House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 10

House resolution designating March as Professional Social Work Month

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Andrews of Rutland City, Donahue of Northfield, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Donnell of Vernon and Orr of Charlotte

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 provide more mental health support services than all other licensed providers combined, and

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

Whereas, the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has over 525 members, is one of 56 chapters of a national organization of 150,000 members, and its members follow a professional code of ethics, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for professional social workers is expected to grow rapidly, especially for the provisions of services related to elders, home health care, substance abuse treatment, and in schools, 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, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body designates March as Professional Social Work Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rilla Murray, executive director of the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Attested to:

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Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House

Donald G. Milne
Clerk, House of Representatives