

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1006

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Commending and recognizing the numerous contributions made by South Dakota's social workers and recognizing March 2016 as Social Work Month.

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

WHEREAS, social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States with more than 600,000 members of the profession and 700 members of the profession in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, social workers work in all areas of our society to improve health, happiness, and prosperity, including in governmental and social service agencies, schools, universities, communities, the military, as well as mental health, hospital, and long term care facilities; and

WHEREAS social workers embody daily this year's theme for Social Work Month, "Forging Solutions out of Challenges," by helping individuals, communities, and the larger society tackle and solve issues that confront them; and

WHEREAS, social workers have helped this nation live up to its ideals by successfully promoting equal rights for all; and

WHEREAS, social workers have helped people in this nation overcome racial strife and economic and health care uncertainty by successfully advocating for initiatives such as Medicaid, unemployment insurance, workplace safety, Social Security benefits, civil rights, and affordable and accessible health care; and

WHEREAS, social workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States and work daily to help people overcome depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and other disorders so they can lead more fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs employs more than 12,000 professional social workers who help bolster our nation's security by providing support to active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, thousands of child, family, and school social workers across the country provide assistance to protect children and improve the social and psychological functioning of children and their families; and

WHEREAS, social workers help children find loving homes and create new families through adoption; and

WHEREAS, school social workers work with families and schools to foster future generations by ensuring students reach their full academic and personal potential; and

WHEREAS, social workers work with older adults and their families to improve their quality of life, the ability to live independently as long as possible, and get access to quality health care and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, social workers have helped the United States and other nations overcome earthquakes, floods, wars, and other disasters by helping survivors get services such as food, shelter, and health care as well as mental health services to address stress and anxiety:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature commends and recognizes the numerous contributions made by South Dakota's social workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature designates March 2016 as National Social Work Month and calls upon all South Dakotans to join with the National Association of Social Workers, the South Dakota Chapter, and the State of South Dakota in celebration and support of the social work profession.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 4, 2016
February 8, 2016

Dean Wink
Speaker of the House

Arlene Kvislen
Chief Clerk of the House

Matt Michels
President of the Senate

Kay Johnson
Secretary of the Senate