2025 -- H 6031

S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N

CELEBRATING MARCH OF 2025, AS "NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Fogarty, Handy, Tanzi, Potter, and Messier

Date Introduced: March 06, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1   WHEREAS, Social Workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to

2 help empower individuals, families, communities, and our nation to overcome issues that prevent

3 them from reaching their full potential; and

4   WHEREAS, Social Workers have worked for more than a century to improve human

5 well-being and enhance the basic needs of all people; and

6   WHEREAS, Social Workers follow a Code of Ethics that call on them to fight social

7 injustice and respect the dignity and worth of all people; and

8   WHEREAS, Social Workers positively touch the lives of the 1.09 million Rhode

9 Islanders each day and in a variety of places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child

10 welfare agencies, community centers, and in federal, state and local government; and

11   WHEREAS, The 2025 Social Work Month theme is "Social Worker: Compassion +

12 Action". Throughout 2025, social workers will be called to turn their compassion into action to

13 help our nation address a variety of societal challenges, including the prospect there could be

14 mass deportations of migrants and continued attacks on the people who are LGBTQIA2S+,

15 reproductive rights, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. Social workers are also in the

16 forefront of helping our nation address a mental health and substance use disorder crisis and

17 chronic inequality that has led to homelessness; and

18   WHEREAS, Social Workers are the largest professional group with mental health

19 licenses in Rhode Island, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental

1   illnesses such as depression and anxiety; and

2   WHEREAS, Social Workers are on the frontlines of the nation's opioid addiction crisis,

3   helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders; and

4   WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped people cope with death and grief and helped

5   people directly affected by the housing crisis in Rhode Island; and

6   WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by advocating

7   for equal rights for all, including people of color, people who are Indigenous, people who are

8   LGBTQIA2S+, or people who follow various faiths; and

9   WHEREAS, The Social Work profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the

10   United States, with more than 728,000 social workers today, more than 6,000 of them are

11   practicing in Rhode Island, and more than 53,000 more social workers are expected to enter the

12   profession over the next decade; and

13   WHEREAS, Social Workers have continued to push for changes that have made our

14   society a better place to live, including a livable wage, improved workplace safety, and social

15   safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness; and

16   WHEREAS, Social Workers endeavor to work throughout our society to meet people

17   where they are and help empower people and our society to reach the goals they wish to attain;

18   now, therefore be it

19   RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby

20   celebrates March of 2025 as "National Social Work Month" and with gratitude and admiration,

21   recognizes the numerous contributions made by Rhode Island's Social Workers. We moreover

22   call upon all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers Rhode Island Chapter in

23   celebration and support of the Social Work profession; and be it further

24   RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to

25   transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Rebekah Gewirtz, MPA, Executive Director,

26   National Association of Social Workers Rhode Island (NASW-RI).

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