

2016 -- S 2907

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 13, 2016, TO BE "ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Gallo, Satchell, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: April 13, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being
2 and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and
3 empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. Social work is a
4 profession for those who have a passion to empower individuals, families, groups, and the
5 communities they serve in order to create progressive change in clinical and macro settings; and

6 WHEREAS, Social workers have helped people in this nation overcome racial strife and
7 economic and health care uncertainty by successfully advocating for initiatives such as Medicaid,
8 unemployment insurance, workplace safety, Social Security benefits, the Civil Rights Act, the
9 Voting Rights Act, and the Affordable Care Act; and

10 WHEREAS, Social workers work in all areas of our society to improve happiness, health
11 and prosperity, including in government, schools, universities, social service agencies,
12 communities, the military and mental health and health care facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, Social workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the
14 United States and work daily to help people overcome depression, anxiety, substance abuse and
15 other disorders so they can lead more fulfilling lives. In Rhode Island, social workers represent
16 the largest professional group with mental health licenses, with 2,297 individuals; and

17 WHEREAS, Social work education prepares students for work as qualified professionals.
18 Social work education offers these future professionals a foundation of core values including:
19 service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships,

1 integrity and competence. Social work students are taught aspects of cultural competence,
2 diversity, ethics and policy in order to confront and eliminate social injustices; and

3 WHEREAS, According the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of social
4 workers is expected to increase by 12 percent during the 2014-2024 decade, which is much faster
5 than the average for all other occupations. Concern about crime, juvenile delinquency, and
6 services for individuals with physical, psychological, and cognitive disabilities, and individuals
7 and groups in crisis are impelling the necessity for more social workers; and

8 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island College School of Social Work, Providence College
9 Department of Social Work, Salve Regina University Department of Social Work, and the
10 Community College of Rhode Island Social Work Education Program are helping to respond to
11 the pressing call for future social workers through comprehensive education and training
12 programs; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby proclaims April 13, 2016, to be "Social Work Education Legislative Day" in the State of
15 Rhode Island. We encourage educators, students, and citizens of this state to participate in this
16 day, acknowledging the wonderful education offered by the Rhode Island College School of
17 Social Work, Providence College Department of Social Work, Salve Regina University
18 Department of Social Work, and the Community College of Rhode Island Social Work Education
19 Program; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes and honors the great benefits and
21 invaluable service professionally-trained social workers provide to the citizens of this state; and
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Chapter of the National
25 Association of Social Workers, Rhode Island College School of Social Work, Providence College
26 Department of Social Work, Salve Regina University Department of Social Work, and the
27 Community College of Rhode Island Social Work Education Program.

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