

No. R-362. House concurrent resolution designating March 2018 as National Social Work Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.290)

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Bock of Chester, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buckholz of Hartford, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Colburn of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Dunn of Essex, Fields of Bennington, Gage of Rutland City, Gonzalez of Winooski, Haas of Rochester, Hebert of Vernon, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Jessup of Middlesex, Jickling of Randolph, Keefe of Manchester, Lefebvre of Newark, Lippert of Hinesburg, Mattos of Milton, McCoy of Poultney, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Murphy of Fairfax, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Sabilia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Sullivan of Dorset, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Webb of Shelburne, Weed of Enosburgh, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, the social work profession is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of and meeting the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in our society, and

Whereas, social workers, in performing their professional responsibilities, embody this year's Social Work Month theme, "Social Workers: Leaders. Advocates. Champions," and

Whereas, social workers have been present throughout our society, including in government, schools, universities, social service agencies, communities, the military, health care and mental health organizations, corporations, and the private sector, and

Whereas, social workers are the largest group of mental health service providers in the United States, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the largest employers of social workers holding advanced degrees, and

Whereas, social workers are leaders in times of crisis, helping people overcome death, grief, and trauma, and assisting individuals and communities recover from natural and human-originated disasters, and

Whereas, social workers are advocates for equal rights for all persons, including women, African-Americans, Latinx, indigenous people, various ethnic, cultural, and religious groups, immigrants, persons with a disability, the LGBTQI community, working people, children, families, and elders, and

Whereas, social workers have been champions for some of the most profound, positive changes in our society over the past century, including voting rights, improved workplace safety, minimum wage, and social safety net programs that help prevent poverty and hunger, and

Whereas, social workers continue to engage and bring together individuals, communities, social service agencies, and government to help society solve some of the most pressing issues of the day, including immigration reform, equal rights for all, affordable and high-quality health care and mental health care for all, and protecting the environment, and

Whereas, March is observed annually as National Social Work Month, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 2018 as National Social Work Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.