

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH OF 2023, AS “NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH” IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ajello,
Fogarty, Chippendale, Kennedy, Edwards, Cortvriend, and McGaw

Date Introduced: March 21, 2023

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 the 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 2023 Social Work Month theme, “Social Work Breaks Barriers”
12 embodies how social workers help empower individuals, families, communities and our society to
13 overcome hurdles that prevent them from achieving better well-being; and

14 WHEREAS, Social Workers are the largest professional group with mental health
15 licenses in Rhode Island, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental
16 illnesses such as depression and anxiety; and

17 WHEREAS, Social Workers are on the frontlines of the nation’s opioid addiction crisis,
18 helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders; and

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

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

2 WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by advocating
3 for equal rights for all, including people of color, people who are Indigenous, people who are
4 LGBTQIA2S+, or people who follow various faiths; and

5 WHEREAS, The Social Work profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the
6 United States, with about 708,000 social workers today, 2,700 of them practicing in Rhode
7 Island, and more than 60,000 more social workers are expected to enter the profession over the
8 next decade; and

9 WHEREAS, Social Workers have continued to push for changes that have made our
10 society a better place to live, including a livable wage, improved workplace safety, and social
11 safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness; and

12 WHEREAS, Social Workers endeavor to work throughout our society to meet people
13 where they are and help empower people and our society to reach the goals they wish to attain;
14 now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
16 celebrates March of 2023 as “National Social Work Month” and with gratitude and admiration,
17 recognizes the numerous contributions made by Rhode Island’s Social Workers. We moreover
18 call upon all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers Rhode Island Chapter in
19 celebration and support of the Social Work profession; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Meghan Crowley, (Intern) Legislative
22 Education Coordinator, National Association of Social Workers Rhode Island (NASW-RI).

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