

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 36

Introduced by Bolz, 29; Hilkemann, 4; Walz, 15.

WHEREAS, the primary mission of social workers is to enhance well-being and ensure that the basic needs of all people are met, especially the most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, with expected employment of social workers to exceed 790,000 nationally by 2026; and

WHEREAS, in all areas of our society, social workers strive to improve happiness, health, and prosperity, including government, education, social service agencies, communities, the military, and mental health and health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, "Elevate Social Work" is the theme of this year's National Social Work Month. Social workers empower people, giving them the ability to solve problems and overcome life's hurdles so they can live to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, social workers have helped this nation live up to its ideals by successfully pushing for equal rights for all, including women, African Americans, Latinos, refugees, people who identify as LGBTQ, and various ethnic, cultural, and religious groups; 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, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and the Affordable Care Act; 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, and 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 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 work 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, social workers in schools work with families and schools to foster the happiness and success of future generations by ensuring students reach their full academic and personal potential; and

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

WHEREAS, social workers stand ready to help our society overcome current pressing issues, including equal rights for all, the need for improved availability of health care and mental health services, immigration reform, voting rights, and the environmental impact of global climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes March 2019 as Social Work Month in Nebraska and encourages all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers in celebrating and supporting the social work profession.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the National Association of Social Workers, Nebraska Chapter.