

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-26

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 7, 2023

To recognize the month of March 2023 as National Social Work Month and to honor and thank social workers in the District of Columbia for the essential services they provide to uplift the social, emotional, and behavioral wellbeing of residents of the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Social Workers have worked for more than a century to improve human well-being and enhance the basic needs of all people;

WHEREAS, Social Workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to empower individuals, families, communities, and our nation to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential;

WHEREAS, Social Workers positively touch the lives of thousands of District residents each day in a variety of ways, including in schools, hospitals, child welfare agencies and programs, violence prevention, community and recreation centers, local government, and community outreach to meet people where they are;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety, cope with death and grief especially in light of the District's gun violence epidemic, and combat the nation's opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders;

WHEREAS, Social Workers follow a Code of Ethics that calls on them to fight social injustice and respect the dignity and worth of all people;

WHEREAS, the 2023 Social Work Month theme, "Social Work Breaks Barriers" embodies how social workers help empower people, communities, and our society to overcome hurdles that prevent them from achieving better well-being;

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WHEREAS, there are more than 11,000 licensed social work professionals in the District of Columbia who serve every day with compassion, persistence, and professionalism;

WHEREAS, the District still faces barriers to employment and retention in social work roles and must prioritize strategies to increase the scope of social work services in our communities, with an acute need for Black and brown social workers with lived experiences that match the communities they serve.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “National Social Work Month Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and thanks District of Columbia social workers for their commitment to serving District residents to improve their well-being, celebrates the social work profession in the District, and declares March 2023 as National Social Work Month.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.