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SCR-40 Social Work Month. (2023-2024)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40

CHAPTER 47

Relative to social workers.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 09, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 40, Menjivar. Social Work Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2023 as Social Work Month.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, March 2023 is recognized nationally as Social Work Month, and this year's theme is "Social Work Breaks Barriers," which embodies the contributions social workers have made to this nation for more than a century, and how the services that they provide are essential as our nation addresses economic inequality, systemic racism, the need for improved health and mental health care, COVID-19, and other issues; and

WHEREAS, The social work profession has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people, and it has risen to meet the most pressing challenges of our lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, Social workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, and work daily to help people, whether in person or remotely, overcome substance use disorders and mental illness, such as depression; and

WHEREAS, Social workers have always helped people overcome issues such as death and grief, and have helped people and communities recover from increasing natural disasters such as fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes brought on by climate change; and

WHEREAS, Social workers have helped this nation live up to its values by successfully advocating for equal rights for all, no matter their race, sexual identity, gender, gender expression, culture, religion, or disability; and

WHEREAS, Social workers work in all facets of our society to meet people no matter their circumstances and to empower them to live to their fullest potential, with particular attention to the needs of, and social justice for, those who are poor, oppressed, and living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, Social workers have continued to push for changes that have made for a better society, including a liveable wage, improved workplace safety, and social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, The social work profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, with more than 715,000 social workers today, over 86,000 of whom are in California; and approximately 8,000 graduate students in the social work pipeline in 24

accredited California State University, University of California, and private programs throughout the state; and
WHEREAS, Professional social workers serve in diverse settings, including schools, courtrooms, health clinics, senior centers, homeless shelters, nursing homes, the military, disaster relief, prisons, corporations, and in political office; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That March 2023 is proclaimed Social Work Month in the State of California, and the Legislature commends the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for its role in advancing professional social work and promoting the well-being of the people of California, and also encourages all Californians to take part in March "Breaking Barriers" events throughout California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.