

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 54

Reps. Rheingans, Brabec, Edwards, Coffia, Dievendorf, O'Neal, Young, Tsernoglou, Rogers, MacDonell, Mentzer, Steckloff, Byrnes, Paiz, Wegela, Tyrone Carter, Brenda Carter, Hill, Arbit, Scott, Miller, Liberati, Shannon, Morse, Grant, Martus, Conlin, Skaggs, Snyder, Hoskins, Price, Churches, Aiyash, Whitsett, Breen, Fitzgerald, Glanville and Haadsma offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare March 2023 as National Social Work  
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, The social work profession exists to protect the  
4 rights and humanity of everyone, with a particular dedication to  
5 serving those most marginalized; and

6           Whereas, Social workers enter the profession because they have  
7 a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities,  
8 and our nation overcome issues that prevent them from reaching

1 their full potential; and

2       Whereas, Social workers follow a code of ethics that call on  
3 them to fight social injustice and respect the dignity and worth of  
4 all people; and

5       Whereas, This year's Social Work Month theme "Social Work  
6 Breaks Barriers," embodies the spirit of the profession's challenge  
7 to structures that cause hardships for everyday people, and honors  
8 the labor of social workers in progressing forward movements for  
9 racial, gender, and socioeconomic justice; and

10       Whereas, Social workers, throughout history, have worked  
11 within organizations promoting justice and alongside politicians,  
12 advocates, and other leaders alike to help communities overcome  
13 natural disaster, economic distress, and political divisiveness;  
14 and

15       Whereas, School social workers have worked relentlessly with  
16 vulnerable populations including children during the pandemic; and

17       Whereas, Social workers contribute greatly to the nation's  
18 healthcare system, and played a crucial role in local, state, and  
19 national responses to COVID-19, assisting individuals with issues  
20 pertaining to physical health, emotional health, and general well-  
21 being; and

22       Whereas, Social workers are the largest group of mental health  
23 care providers in the United States, working daily to help  
24 thousands of Americans overcome mental illnesses such as depression  
25 and anxiety; and

26       Whereas, Social workers are on the frontlines of the nation's  
27 opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need  
28 and prevail over substance use disorders; and

29       Whereas, Social workers help people cope with death and grief

1 and helped people and communities recover from natural disasters  
2 that are increasingly fueled by our warming climate, including  
3 hurricanes, drought and flooding; and

4       Whereas, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its  
5 values by advocating for equal rights for all, including Black,  
6 Indigenous, and other people of color, people who are LGBTQIA2S+,  
7 or people who follow various faiths; and

8       Whereas, Social work is one of the fastest growing professions  
9 in the United States, with over 708,000 current social workers in  
10 the U.S., and more than 60,00 expected to enter the profession over  
11 the next decade; and

12       Whereas, Social workers are prepared to continue their efforts  
13 in aiding the nation towards greater equity; now, therefore, be it

14       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
15 this legislative body declare March 2023 as National Social Work  
16 Month in the state of Michigan. We recognize the numerous  
17 contributions made by America's social workers.