A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2022 as "National Social Work Month" in Pennsylvania.
2 WHEREAS, For decades, the social work profession has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all individuals, especially the most vulnerable; and
3 WHEREAS, This year's "National Social Work Month" theme, "The Time is Right for Social Work," underscores the contributions that social workers have made to this nation for more than a century; and
4 WHEREAS, The services provided by the social work profession are needed more than ever as our nation addresses economic inequality, systemic racism, the need for improved physical and mental health care, COVID-19 and other issues; and
5 WHEREAS, People become social workers because they have a strong desire to help others and make our society a better place to live for all; and
6 WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work is one of the fastest growing professions in the United
States; and

WHEREAS, Social workers have always been present in times of crisis, helping individuals overcome issues such as death and grief and helping individuals and communities recover from natural disasters such as fires, hurricanes and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, Social workers have helped the United States uphold its values by successfully advocating for equal rights for all individuals, no matter the race, sexual identity, gender, gender expression, culture or religion; and

WHEREAS, There are almost 720,000 professional social workers in our nation, but that number is expected to rise to more than 800,000 by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Social workers have helped drive significant, positive changes in our nation; and

WHEREAS, Social workers, such as social reformer Jane Addams, former Labor Secretary Frances Perkins and civil rights leaders Dorothy Height, Whitney Young and Ida B. Wells, have pushed for voting rights, equal rights, Social Security, unemployment insurance and other programs; and

WHEREAS, Social workers work in all parts of our society to empower individuals to live to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, School social workers have worked with families and schools throughout the pandemic to ensure that students reach their full academic and personal potential; and

WHEREAS, Social workers continue to work on the front lines throughout the pandemic, helping clients receive the health care they need and helping loved ones overcome grief and loss; and

WHEREAS, For generations, social workers have advocated for positive changes that have made society a better place to live, including urging policymakers to adopt the minimum wage, improve
workplace safety and enact social safety net programs that help
ameliorate hunger, homelessness and poverty; and

WHEREAS, Social workers are one of the largest groups of
mental health care providers in the United States, working daily
to help individuals, whether in person or remotely, overcome
substance use disorders and mental illnesses, such as depression
and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, Social workers continue to stand ready to assist our
nation to overcome present and future challenges, including
pushing for racial equity, ending gun violence, improving health
care and mental health care for all and urging lawmakers to
adopt immigration reforms; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of March 2022
as "National Social Work Month" in Pennsylvania and call upon
all residents of this Commonwealth to join the National
Association of Social Workers in celebration and support of the
social work profession.