

By: Bernal

H.R. No. 872

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The observance of Social Work Month in March 2023
2 provides a welcome opportunity to raise awareness of the important
3 contributions made by members of this profession; and

4 WHEREAS, Acknowledging the long history of this vocation, the
5 National Association of Social Workers has adopted the theme
6 "Social Work Breaks Barriers" for 2023; early pioneers in the field
7 include Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Star, who opened Hull House in
8 Chicago in 1889 for the benefit of the city's large immigrant
9 population; other transformational figures have been George Edmund
10 Haynes, who cofounded the National Urban League, and Ida B. Wells,
11 the heroic women's rights and anti-lynching activist; during the
12 Great Depression, Frances Perkins, the first female secretary of
13 labor, was instrumental in the advent of the 40-hour workweek,
14 minimum wage, and Social Security; Whitney M. Young Jr., NASW
15 president in the Civil Rights era, collaborated with President
16 Lyndon B. Johnson and other leaders to end racial employment
17 discrimination; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, social work is among the fastest-growing
19 careers in the United States, with more than 700,000 professionals
20 employed in a wide variety of settings, from schools, hospitals,
21 and corporations to the criminal justice system and government
22 agencies; each day, they help people at both the individual level
23 and the systems level; while some assist with immediate needs such
24 as food, shelter, and medical care, others are involved in

1 advocating for laws and policies to effect long-term solutions;
2 they have pushed for the adoption of livable wages, workplace
3 safety measures, and other reforms; and

4 WHEREAS, Social workers play a crucial role in battling the
5 opioid crisis, and they are among the leading providers of mental
6 health care; they serve in the wake of natural disasters and in the
7 midst of family tragedies; each day, their code of ethics prompts
8 them to fight injustice and champion equal rights for all people;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, For well over a century, social workers have
11 dedicated themselves to improving the well-being of their fellow
12 Americans, and their tireless endeavors have empowered individuals
13 and strengthened communities all across the nation; now, therefore,
14 be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize March 2023 as Social Work Month.