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R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

WHEREAS, Today, social work is among the fastest-growing careers in the United States, with more than 700,000 professionals employed in a wide variety of settings, from schools, hospitals, and corporations to the criminal justice system and government agencies; each day, they help people at both the individual level and the systems level; while some assist with immediate needs such as food, shelter, and medical care, others are involved in advocating for laws and policies to effect long-term solutions; they have pushed for the adoption of livable wages, workplace safety measures, and other reforms; and

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

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

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