

## **SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2023 PROCLAMATION: SOCIAL WORK BREAKS BARRIERS**

WHEREAS, Social Workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities, and our nation overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have worked for more than a century to improve the human well-being and enhance the basic needs of all people;

WHEREAS, Social Workers follow a Code of Ethics that call on them to fight social injustice and respect the dignity and worth of all people;

WHEREAS, Social Workers positively touch the lives of millions of Americans each day and in a variety of places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child welfare agencies, community centers, and in federal, state and local government;

WHEREAS, the 2023 Social Work Month theme, “Social Work Breaks Barriers” embodies how social workers help empower individuals, families, communities and our society to overcome hurdles that prevent them from achieving better well-being;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are on the frontlines of the nation’s opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have help people cope with death and grief and helped people and communities recover from natural disasters that are increasingly fueled by our warming climate, including hurricanes, drought and flooding;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by advocating for equal rights for all, including people of color, people who are Indigenous, people who LBGQTQIA2S+, or people who follow various faiths;

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, with about 708,000 social workers today and more than 60,000 more social workers expected to enter the profession over the next decade;

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

HEREAS, Social Workers endeavor to work throughout our society to meet people where they are and help empower people and our society to reach the goals they wish to attain;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America's Social Workers, I  
Marc H. Gorelick, MD proclaim the month of March 2023 as National Social Work Month and call  
upon all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers and  
Children's Minnesota in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.