

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

MARCH 4, 2020

Proclaim March as Social Work Month

National Social Work Month was first organized in March of 1963 by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) as a way to highlight the important contributions social workers make in society and encourage public support for the profession. The American social work profession was established in the late 19th century to ensure that immigrants and other vulnerable communities gained skills to escape economic and social poverty. Social work pioneer Jane Addams worked to stop the use of children as industrial laborers, helped to establish settlement houses for immigrants in Chicago, and was the second woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. She inspired other women to assist her in launching crucial social programs, such as, the Immigrants' Protective League and the Juvenile Protective Association. Early on social workers played a crucial role in enacting protective legislation, child labor regulations, and mandatory minimum education laws. During this time, Columbia University also began offering courses in social work.

Social work is one of the fastest growing professions in the country. There are

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more than 700,000 social workers serving youth, families, veterans, and older adults throughout the United States. They are multifaceted and use a holistic approach to examine all social factors of a person's life to better determine underlying challenges that may cause medical issues and emotional distress. With a strong understanding of culture and community, social workers can formulate an effective plan to help an individual overcome these challenges. Social workers are critical members of healthcare teams, they are community organizers, they advocate on behalf of families, and serve in various levels of government.

Los Angeles County is committed to supporting and enhancing the working conditions for social workers. The Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Department Public Health (DPH), and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) promote careers in social work. Every year, DMH and DCFS offer social work graduate students an opportunity to apply for educational stipends in exchange for a commitment to work in a hard-to-fill area of the County after graduation. These stipends programs are designed to offer new social workers an opportunity to specialize in an area of practice and enter the public child welfare and mental health fields. During this month, Los Angeles County will observe the contributions this profession has made to achieve health and economic justice for our communities.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim March 2020 as Social Work Month in Los Angeles County.

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Proclaim March as Social Work Month - Categories Page

CATEGORIES: (Please check ☒ those that apply)

- ☐ 1. Child Welfare
- ☐ 2. Community and Youth Empowerment
- ☐ 3. County Services
- ☐ 4. Economic Justice
- ☐ 5. Economic and Workforce Development
- ☐ 6. Education
- ☐ 7. Environment
- ☐ 8. Fiscal
- ☐ 9. Governance
- ☐ 10. Health
- ☐ 11. Homelessness
- ☐ 12. Immigration
- ☐ 13. Public Safety
- ☒ 14. Social Justice and Human Rights
- ☐ 15. Technology and Data
- ☐ 16. Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy
- ☐ 17. Legislation
- ☐ 18. Parks and Open Space
- ☐ 19. Planning/Land Use
- ☐ 20. Transportation
- ☐ 21. Veterans