



# **SOCIAL WORKERS** ARE ESSENTIAL

## **SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2021 PROCLAMATION “SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL”**

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession for decades has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people—especially the most vulnerable among us;

WHEREAS, this year’s Social Work Month theme, **“Social Workers Are Essential,”** embodies the heroic contributions of the Social Work profession to our nation, including the work Social Workers have done to heal our nation during these times of pandemic, racial unrest, economic uncertainty and political divisiveness;

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

WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by successfully advocating for equal rights for all people, no matter their race, sexual identity, gender, gender expression, culture or religion;

WHEREAS the Social Work Profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, with nearly 800,000 people expected to be employed as Social Workers by 2028;

WHEREAS Social Workers work in all parts of our society to empower people to live to their fullest potential;

WHEREAS, School Social Workers have worked with families and school throughout the pandemic to ensure students reach their full academic and personal potential;

WHEREAS, Social Workers play a crucial role in our nation’s health care system and have played a key role in this nation’s response to COVID-19 and helping individuals, families and communities cope with the epidemic;

WHEREAS, Social Workers for generations have advocated for positive changes that have made our 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;

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

WHEREAS, Social Workers will continue to stand ready to assist our nation in overcoming 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;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America’s Social Workers, I \_\_\_\_\_ proclaim the month of March 2021 as National Social Work Month and call upon all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers and \_\_\_\_\_ [your organization] in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.