

Senator Kuipers offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 22.**

A resolution recognizing March 1-7, 2009, as School Social Worker Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The Michigan Association of School Social Workers is a professional organization serving more than 900 members; and

Whereas, School social workers are vital members of a school's educational team, playing a central role in creating partnerships among home, school, and community to ensure student academic success and promote effective transitions for students from school to productive adult lives; and

Whereas, School social workers specialize in providing services to all students, especially those who face enormous challenges from poverty, discrimination, abuse and neglect, addiction, divorce of parents, loss of a loved one, developmental delays, cognitive and learning disabilities, emotional impairment, and autistic spectrum disorder, as well as physical and other health problems; and

Whereas, There is a growing need for school districts to provide the services offered by school social workers to address school violence, bullying, peer pressure, and student behavior problems which reduce the opportunity for all students to achieve their full potential for academic success and personal development; and

Whereas, School social workers are in a unique position to address pressing social and environmental problems, such as homelessness, student and family crises, and the issues of truancy, unplanned pregnancy, and school drop-outs; and

Whereas, One in ten children suffers from a serious emotional or mental disturbance, but over half of their primary-care providers never ask parents if they have concerns about the mental health of their child. Parents of one in four children diagnosed with a serious mental health problem report difficulty getting needed mental health services for their children. School mental health services, including the diagnostic, therapeutic, referral, and case management services provided by school social workers, are a readily-accessible and effective way to help families obtain the mental health services their children need to improve their emotional well-being and educational outcomes; and

Whereas, School social workers are uniquely trained, licensed, and certified professional mental health service providers. They possess specialized clinical skills, extensive experience, and ongoing professional development which equips them to understand child development and the psychopathology of mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety, autism spectrum disorder, eating disorders, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, and other emotional and adjustment challenges that our children face; and

Whereas, School social workers develop and implement treatment plans, behavior intervention plans, and prevention and crisis intervention services that deal with school violence, suicide, and other traumatic events that have significant impacts on students, teachers, and the entire school; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body recognize March 1-7, 2009, as School Social Worker Week; and be it further

Resolved, That we congratulate the Michigan Association of School Social Workers and commend the organization for the valuable role it plays in providing for the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of the young people of the great state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Association of School Social Workers as a token of our esteem.