

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 200

Reps. Edwards, Rheingans, Young, Brenda Carter, Brabec, Coffia, Dievendorf, Haadsma and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 3-9, 2024, as School Social Work
2 Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, School social workers serve as vital members of the
4 education team, playing a central role in creating a positive
5 environment in schools; and

6 Whereas, Social workers in schools are exceptionally skilled
7 in providing services to students who face serious challenges to
8 school success including disability, poverty, discrimination,
9 abuse, neglect, mental illness, homelessness, bullying, familial
10 stressors, and other barriers to learning; and

11 Whereas, School-based mental health programs are critical to

1 the early identification and intervention of mental health problems
2 by providing the appropriate services; and

3 Whereas, School social workers, who are licensed mental health
4 professionals in the United States, provide the necessary
5 assessment, interventions, counseling, family outreach, community
6 referrals, and also maintain knowledge of school culture and
7 climate, which are all necessary for responsible school safety
8 planning; and

9 Whereas, Research indicates that school-based mental health
10 programs led by school social workers improve educational outcomes
11 by decreasing absences, dropout rates, and discipline referrals,
12 while also improving academic achievement; and

13 Whereas, Social workers in schools play a pivotal role in
14 creating partnerships between the home, school, and community to
15 ensure academic success; and

16 Whereas, School districts and local educational agencies
17 should continue to work with school social workers to address
18 students' social, emotional, physical, mental health, and
19 environmental needs so that students can succeed; and

20 Whereas, The celebration of School Social Work Week on March
21 3-9, 2024, highlights the important role school social workers play
22 in the lives of students in Michigan; now, therefore, be it

23 Resolved, That the members of this legislative body declare
24 March 3-9, 2024, as School Social Work Week in the state of
25 Michigan; and be it further

26 Resolved, That we honor and recognize the contributions of
27 school social workers to the successes of students; and be it
28 further

29 Resolved, That we encourage the people of Michigan to observe

- 1 School Social Work Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities
- 2 to promote awareness about the vital role of school social workers,
- 3 both in schools and communities as a whole, in helping students
- 4 prepare for their futures as productive citizens.