

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

Rep. Coffia offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 5-11, 2023, as National School
2 Social Work Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, School social workers are exceptionally skilled in
4 providing services to students who face serious challenges to
5 school success, including disability, poverty, discrimination,
6 abuse, neglect, mental illness, homelessness, bullying, familial
7 stressors, and other barriers to learning; and

8 Whereas, School-based mental health programs are critical to
9 early identification of and early intervention for mental health
10 problems and school mental health programs are critical to the
11 early identification of mental health problems and in the provision
12 of appropriate services; and

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

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

11 Whereas, School social workers serve as vital members of a
12 school's education team, playing a central role in creating
13 partnerships between the home, school, and community to ensure
14 student academic success; and

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

20 Whereas, The celebration of ``School Social Work Week`` during
21 the week beginning March 5, 2023, highlights the vital role school
22 social workers play in the lives of students in our state; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
25 this legislative body declare March 5-11, 2023, as National School
26 Social Work Week in the state of Michigan. We support the
27 designation of School Social Work Week, honor and recognize the
28 contributions of school social workers to the successes of students
29 in schools across Michigan, and encourage the people of Michigan to

- 1 observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities
- 2 that promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers
- 3 in schools and the community as a whole in helping students prepare
- 4 for their futures as productive citizens.