

HCR 4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Declares March as Social Work Month in Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The social work profession is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of others and meeting the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in our society. Social workers follow a code of ethics that compels them to fight social injustice and to respect the dignity and worth of all people.

The social work profession is an evidence-based and innovative best practices social science discipline with rigorous, nationally accredited education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Social workers must complete their education, engage in an extended number of hours of practical post-graduate training and pass an exam to receive approval for licensure by the State Board of Licensed Social Workers.

Social workers must complete continuing education requirements to maintain their licensure and the profession adheres to strict standards of safety, quality and equity in delivering social services to the public. The practice of social work consists of the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques and requires knowledge of human development and behavior, including knowledge of social, economic, and cultural institutions and of the interaction of all of these factors.

Social workers are present throughout our society, including government, schools, universities, social service agencies, communities, the military, and health care and mental health care organizations. Social workers are the largest group of providers of mental and behavioral health services in the United States, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the largest employers of social workers holding advanced degrees. Social workers engage in critically informed, nondiscriminatory, collaborative practice that addresses and challenges oppression and reflects respect, knowledge, and skills related to race, color, ethnicity, culture, social and economic class, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, family structure, language, national origin, age, disability, and religion.

Social workers continue to engage and bring together individuals, communities, agencies, and government to help society solve some of the most pressing issues of the day, including immigration reform, equal rights, affordable and accessible health care and mental health care for all, improving social determinants of health, systematic equity, institutional racism, structural racism, and environmental justice.

House Concurrent Resolution 4 declares March as Social Work Month in Oregon.