

Submitter: Yuri Silver
On Behalf Of: profession of social work
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HCR4

2023 March 8,

To members of OR legislature,

Re: recognizing Social Work Month in March

My name is Yuri B. Silver, and I have worked in the field of mental health for decades as a licensed clinical social worker. I have been a hospital-based social worker throughout my career, covering a wide range of areas, including outpatient mental health service for children and youth, neuro-trauma, inpatient psychiatric service in a locked unit. Social workers work with the most vulnerable members of our community. We see the young, old, medically ill, psychiatrically ill, unsheltered, trauma survivors, and so on. I am proud to serve the community, advocating for those barely able to speak for themselves and making small differences in their lives. Yet, our profession is under-recognized and under-valued, in my opinion. During the height of the pandemic crisis, social workers worked tirelessly along with physicians and nurses, while barely mentioned.

I am writing this statement to endorse this bill, hoping that it will raise awareness of our increasingly vital role in all segments of our community. Social workers make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,

Yuri B. Silver, LCSW
Social work care manger
Salem Hospital
Psychiatric Medicine Center
503-814-7446