



WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession for decades has been dedicated to improving well being and enhancing the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable among us; and,

WHEREAS, this year's Social Work Month theme, "**Social Workers Are Essential**," embodies the selfless contributions of the Social Work profession to our nation during these times of unprecedented change and uncertainty; working with families, schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities and public health organizations to ensure the safety and welfare of children, the elderly and others impacted by Covid-19; and,

WHEREAS, Social Workers have always been present in times of crisis, helping people overcome issues such as death and grief and helping people and communities recover from natural disasters such as fires, hurricanes and earthquakes; and,

WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by successfully advocating for equal rights for all people, no matter their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, or genetic information; and,

WHEREAS, Social Workers work in all parts of our society to empower people to live to their fullest potential; and,

WHEREAS, Social Workers play a crucial role in our nation's health care system and have played a key role in this nation's response to COVID-19 by helping individuals, families and communities cope with the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, Social Workers are one of the largest groups of mental health care providers in the United States, and work daily to help people—whether in person or remotely—overcome substance use disorders and mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety and will continue to stand ready to assist our nation in overcoming present and future challenges with compassion, empathy, commitment and dedication.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of the numerous contributions made by Gaston County's Social Workers, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of March 2021 as

National Social Work Month

and calls upon all citizens to join in the celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley, Vice-Chairman

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley