

**A Proclamation submitted by
Legislator Barbara Miller-Williams**

WHEREAS, Social Work as a profession has always been rooted in helping others and in the desire to assist individuals and society as a whole with addressing social issues; and

WHEREAS, the Social Work profession has made significant advances in the techniques and skills used to address these social issues and New York State has now implemented a licensure component to the work being done by professionals in the field;

WHEREAS, Erie County is home to a number of Schools of Social Work at the Bachelor level and is also home to the only regional Master's level program in the State University of New York system, many in the Social Work profession locally have been educated at one of these institutions; and

WHEREAS, Social Worker's continue to be change agents and have made significant contributions to the research and legislation that govern the work being done through local non-profit organizations, many have also been instrumental in shaping the way that social services are delivered through the Erie County Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, the month of March is designated as National Social Work Month, local Social Work organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers Western New York Division and the National Association of Black Social Workers, Buffalo Chapter are recognized for their commitment to supporting the Social Work profession and the work being done by their members to advocate for vulnerable, at-risk populations; and

WHEREAS, Social Work professionals in Erie County strive to balance the advocacy work done with people, programs, and policy with their own routine of Self Care, their efforts are to be commended and recognized.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED, Erie County Legislature goes on record to recognize the hard work and dedication of Social Worker's and to proclaim the Month of March 2015 as Social Work Month in Erie County.