

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Matthew Anderson (732) 695-3371

April 4, 2018

**DOWNEY PRESENTS RESOLUTION AT NASW-NJ LEGISLATIVE
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

March designated as Professional Social Work Month

TRENTON - Assemblywoman Joann Downey presented the National Association of Social Workers – New Jersey Chapter (NASW-NJ) with an Assembly and Senate Joint Resolution recognizing March as Professional Social Work Month in New Jersey during its Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD) Wednesday, April 4.

“Having earned my master’s degree in social work, I understand that social workers play a crucial role in improving the well-being of the people of the State of New Jersey and have certainly earned recognition,” said Assemblywoman Downey.

“Recognizing March as Professional Social Work Month is a small way that we as legislators can recognize the important work each of these individuals do every day and begin to repay our debt of gratitude.

“To see each of you here today, impassioned and determined to make a difference, I am hopeful for the future of this great state. I know the residents of New Jersey will be well served and I thank you all for everything you do.

“Thank you to NASW-NJ President Dr. Tawanda Hubbard and Executive Director Jennifer Thompson for allowing me to speak here today and to celebrate and formally recognize Professional Social Work Month.”

Nearly 250 Baccalaureate and Master’s Level social work students from Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, Ramapo College, Centenary University and Kean University were present at the NASW-NJ LEAD program.

“Like many of the students in this room, I felt a calling to be of service to my community,” said Thompson. “I loved working with people and helping others — and knew early on that doing so as a social worker was where I belonged. It was at an event just like this, when I was a student, that I fell in love with government and policy work. My hope is that students here will be similarly impacted.”

Founded in 1955, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with more than 120,000 members. The New Jersey Chapter is the 5th largest in the nation, with 6,500 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and

to advance sound social policies. Learn more at www.naswnj.org

###