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SOCIAL WORKERS: OVERWORKED AND UNDERPAID!

Dear Colleague:

I wanted to call your attention to an article on cnn.com highlighting the top 15 "stressful jobs that pay badly." The number 1 job listed -- social work. This article highlights one of the key problems in recruiting and retaining qualified individuals who will "step in when others step aside."

My bill, HR 795, the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young Social Work Reinvestment Act, aims to solve this problem by establishing a commission to study the policies needed to recruit and retain qualified social workers in a time when they are needed the most. Social workers focus their practice on those who are most vulnerable in society. With the economic downturn, their caseloads are only increasing, while salaries and positions are being cut.

Please join me in cosponsoring HR 795, and help us make a historic investment in our country's future.

For more information, please see the "social worker" excerpt from cnn.com below:

Social worker

Median pay: \$43,200

% who say their job is stressful: 72%

Social workers step in when everyone else steps aside to help people and families in vulnerable situations. They provide patients with education and counseling, advise care givers and make referrals for other services. And with social workers in short supply and programs underfunded, few must juggle the work of many, while reaping little reward.

Just ask Heather Griffith, a social worker who works with children in intensive foster care in Boston: "You're getting paid \$12 an hour and kids are screaming at you, telling you that you are just in it for the money and you're just like, *really?*"

http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2009/pf/0910/gallery.stressful_jobs/index.html

Regards,


Edolphus "Ed" Towns
Member of Congress