2022 NASW-CA
L.E.A.D. Lobby Days for Social Work Professionals

NASW-CA works to support a safe and welcoming environment for all attendees. Please visit the event registration page for more details about our Code of Conduct.
2022 L.E.A.D. Lobby Days Speaker

• Executive Director of the California Chapter of NASW.

• Previous Director of Strategic Initiatives with the California Alliance of Child and Family Services.

• Former national trainer in domestic violence homicide prevention and cultural responsiveness with the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence.

• Specialty practice and policy focuses on health equity, anti-violence, and gerontological issue areas.

• Received her MSW from Cal State East Bay.

Deborah Son, MSW
L.E.A.D. Lobby Days

Objectives

1. Learn about priority legislation that affects social workers and their clients

2. Meet Legislators and other important political contacts

3. Network with social workers and “stand up for others” on important social policy issues

4. Create energy around our issues
L.E.A.D. Lobby Days Issues

**AB 2091 (Bonta)**
Reproductive Health and Privacy

**AB 2167 (Kalra)**
Crimes: Alternatives to Incarceration

**SB 1002 (Portantino)**
Direct Access to LCSWs Under Worker’s Compensation
How Are Topics Determined?

- Current or Emerging Issues
- Positions Based On “Social Work Speaks”
- NASW-CA Legislative Committee
2022 L.E.A.D. Lobby Days Speaker

- President of the Board, NASW-CA.
- Chair of the Planning Council for the City of Artesia.
- Retired university professor, city council member, Mayor, and local government consultant.
- Continues to teach macro social work courses at CSULA.
- Ph.D. in Social Work from USC and MSW from CSULB.

Victor Manalo, Ph.D., MSW
2022 L.E.A.D. Lobby Days
Speaker

- Director of Government Relations and Political Affairs, NASW-CA
- Former Outreach Coordinator, California Budget & Policy Center
- Chief-of-Staff to former Assemblymember Antonio Villaraigosa
- Senior Legislative Assistant to former Majority Floor Leader Tom Hannigan
- Former Consultant with the Speaker’s Office of Majority Services under then Speaker Willie Brown
- Former Organizer at UCB for the California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG)

Rebecca Gonzales
NASW-CA’s Legislative Agenda

• Each year the Chapter supports or opposes over 150 legislative bills and advocates for numerous budget items.
• Based on your feedback, here are some of our priorities:
  ➢ Title Protection
  ➢ Workforce Development
  ➢ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
  ➢ Health Equity
  ➢ Child Welfare and Foster Youth
  ➢ Police and Criminal Justice Reform
Speaker
• Member Engagement Manager for NASW-CA.
• Macro social worker who has advocated on behalf of youth reproductive health, school-based mental health, and access to healthcare for undocumented communities.
• Excited to engage with fellow social workers who are passionate about policy and legislative advocacy.
  • Anyone eager to get more involved with advocacy, please contact me at ribarra.naswca@socialworkers.org

Raquel Ibarra, MSW

naswca.org | (916) 442-4565 | contact@naswca.org
Lobby Visits & How to Lobby

Rebecca Gonzales

Director of Government Relations & Political Affairs, NASW-CA
Goals of Lobby Days
Legislative Appointments

1. Provide Participants with a real & educational Legislative experience

2. Explain why issues are important to social workers and our clients

3. Influence Social Welfare Policy
How a Bill Becomes a Law

Bill is introduced

Committee Hearings

If passed (sent to other house)

Floor Action

Committee Hearings

If passed with amendments

Floor Action

If passed without amendments

Returned to original house

Most bills become law January 1 of the next year

If original house concurs

Bill goes to Governor

If not vetoed
Legislators represent YOU!

You are not expected to be experts.

Legislators want to hear your personal stories.

It is ok if you don’t know the answer to a question.

HAVE FUN!
What to Expect

- You will be meeting with a Legislator and/or their staff.

- If you are meeting only with staff, that is okay!

- Meeting may be as short as 15 minutes and do not usually exceed 30 minutes.

- The meeting may not go as planned but RELAX and go with it.

- Most Legislator’s and their staff are nice people. Try to connect on your issues and mutual interests.
Do’s & Don’ts

DO’s

• Research your Legislator’s background: Biography, voting scorecard, interests, district, are they an author or co-author of our bills?
• Plan what you want to say and practice by timing yourself. Be as concise as possible.
• If you are a constituent – SAY SO!

DON’Ts

• Don’t assume the Legislator has any prior knowledge but be ready to pivot if they do.
• Stay away from acronyms and social work lingo.
• If asked a question and you don’t have the answer, promise to get back to them. NEVER MAKE UP AN ANSWER!
• Don’t assume how a legislator will feel about our issues. Give them a chance!
During Your Appointment

To Start:
• Team Leader introduces self with professional affiliation
• Team member introductions
• Spend about 3 minutes presenting on issue(s)
• Allow time for questions and be flexible
  • Confirm follow-up, if any

To Wrap-Up:
• “Seal the Deal” – Ask for their position on our issues
• Thank Legislator/Staff for their time and engagement
• Send this link in the chat for the “Leave Behind” information:
  • https://www.naswca.org/page/ca-legislative-lobby-days-event

naswca.org | (916) 442-4565 | contact@naswca.org
Before Your Appointment

● Practice right before your appointment.

● Be punctual and ready to go at least 10 minutes before your meeting.

● Dress professionally, at least from the waist up!
After Your Appointment

- Debrief with team at a designated time.
- Discuss follow-up and make assignments if necessary.
- Team leader should fill out the “Seal the Deal Form” with assistance from the team.
Important Reminders

• Turn off or silence cell phones during legislative appointments.
• Turn your cameras on and keep your eyes up on the screen.
• Remember, you are representing NASW!

PLEASE DO NOT SKIP YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT!
2022 L.E.A.D. Lobby Days Speaker

- Policy Director at Initiate Justice since December 2017.
- While a student at UCB, Greg participated in a service-learning project called Teach in Prison to tutor GED proficiency at San Quentin State Prison.
- Greg seeks to use the privilege of his education to dismantle mass incarceration.
- B.A. in Legal Studies from U.C. Berkeley.

Greg Fidell
AB 2167 (Kalra): Alternatives to Incarceration

Greg Fidell (he/him), Policy Director - Initiate Justice
What does AB 2167 (Kalra) do?

- AB 2167 (Kalra) requires a court to consider alternatives to incarceration at sentencing.
  - What does this mean? Judges are encouraged to consider alternatives (diversion, restorative justice, collaborative courts, and other community-based programs) when sentencing someone to jail or prison.
Why is this bill needed?

- Starting in the mid-1970s, rates of incarceration in California began to rise rapidly in an unprecedented manner.
  - CA’s overreliance on incarceration has failed to improve public safety while disproportionately harming vulnerable and marginalized communities.
- There is almost NO evidence that long sentences deter the crimes they are intended to deter.
  - According to a survey by Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice and Californians for Safety and Justice, most crime victims in California support additional reforms to our criminal justice system. According to the survey, 75 percent of surveyed victims favor reducing sentence lengths for people in prison who are assessed as a low risk to public safety.
Talking Points for AB 2167 (Kalra)

- California can safely reduce the number of people behind bars by modifying the Penal Code to explicitly encourage more restraint in the use of incarceration.
- Every California county with sufficient data shows significant racial disparities in its imprisonment rate.

Other states limit incarceration, including: Alabama, Arkansas, Minnesota, Tennessee, New York, and Federal law similarly requires sentences to be no greater than necessary.

![California Prison Incarceration Rates - 15 Largest Counties](chart.png)

**Source:** Analysis of data provided by COOK Office of Research. Population data is ACS 2019. This figure has been updated from its original release on December 16, 2021. In the original figure, the incarceration rates for the Asian or Pacific Islander population and vice versa. These incarceration rates have been updated to reflect the accurate rates for these populations.
Like everything else about the criminal justice system, sentencing is racist, expensive, and ineffective. By encouraging alternatives to incarceration, CA can produce better public safety outcomes for all. We must pass AB 2167 (Kalra).

For more background information, the Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code recommended this change in it’s 2021 report:


Questions?

Stay in touch:

@InitiateJustice on socials

greg@initiatejustice.org
2022 L.E.A.D. Lobby Days Speaker

• Legislative Director at Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.
• Led efforts to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care including improving health center safety and security, expanding access to birth control via telehealth, improving patient confidentiality and securing state budget funds for sexual and reproductive health care providers and organizations.
• B.A. in Political Science from the U.C. San Diego.

Molly Robson
AB 2091 (Mia Bonta)
Medical Privacy: Reproductive Health Care

Molly Robson | Legislative Director | Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Challenge to Mississippi law banning abortions after 15 weeks except in medical emergency or in cases of severe fetal abnormality

Issue before the Court was “whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional.”

SCOTUS Decision issued June 24, 2022

Upholds Mississippi ban and invalidates the constitutional right to abortion.

“The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives...

We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled.”

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization
AB 2091

Goal: Protect the medical privacy of people who seek abortion care in California, especially those targeted by hostile laws in other states.

- AB 2091 protects patient’s medical information. By ensuring out of stat subpoenas, which seek information related to a patient who received reproductive health care in California, are not granted.
Messaging Guidance

- The landscape of abortion rights nationally and in California
- Why NASW/You care about medical privacy, abortion access, protecting patient information
- What AB 2091 does and why it’s important, especially this year
Talking Points

- Abortion bans deny people timely access to care, harm people who are already facing systemic barriers in the health system, and force people to flee their home states to get the care they need and deserve.

- California is dedicated to be a reproductive freedom state and there have been 15 bills introduced this year that protect abortion access in California.

- Confidentiality is of the upmost importance to our work as social workers.

- A patient’s medical records should never be used to punish someone for obtaining an abortion – a right explicitly protected under our state laws.

- A.B. 2091 establishes safeguards in the law to protect the medical records of abortion patients to ensure this information is not used as evidence in an out-of-state case to penalize a patient who seeks care in our state and would similarly protect those who provide abortions or assist patients to access abortion care in California.
Kira Monterrey, LCSW, MPA

2022 L.E.A.D. Lobby Days Speaker

- Owner of Healthy Minds Counseling Center and a lead clinician for Ascellus Behavioral Health.
- Served as the Mental Health Commissioner for her district in Contra Costa County and spent numerous years working for the VA Healthcare System.
- Kira has focused her advocacy efforts in promoting the medical and non-medical benefits for veterans and their family members, benefits for homeless veterans, promoting suicide awareness, improving access to medical care for injured workers, promoting mental health awareness in large organizations, and promoting mental health awareness and increasing access to services in her local community.
Key Points on the Merits of SB 1002 (Portantino)

LCSWs in the Workers’ Compensation System

Kira Monterrey, LCSW, MPA
Ascellus

National Association of Social Workers – CA Chapter
Professional Lobby Day
August 10, 2022
The Need for SB 1002 (Portantino)

• Workers’ compensation treatment opportunities for mental and behavioral health care are severely limited for medical staff, firefighters, EMTs, police officers, and other essential workers who struggle with anxiety, depression, substance abuse and thoughts of suicide.

• Injured workers must often wait for extensive time periods to received mental health treatment due to a scarcity of available psychologists or psychiatric providers. This often results in the injured worker’s delayed return to work, which ultimately drives up employers’ premiums and increases overall costs to the workers’ compensation system.
The Need for SB 1002 (Portantino)

- California’s Workers’ Compensation Networks Manage the Medical Treatment Needs for the Approximately 600,000 claims filed annually by injured workers.

- Currently, California has 16,900 Licensed Psychologists, 5,934 Licensed Psychiatrists, and 29,636 Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

- SB 1002 would address the shortage of qualified mental health clinicians in our state’s WC System by adding LCSWs to treat the most common mental health conditions experienced by injured workers, including PTSD, anxiety, and depression.

- The LCSW can assist the worker in recognizing when there is a need to seek more comprehensive services and treatment from a psychologist or psychiatrist.
The Need for SB 1002 (Portantino)

• According to the Steinberg Institute, 23 out of 58 counties in the state have less than 1 psychiatrist per 10,000 residents and 6 counties do not have any.

• A recent study by the UCSF School of Nursing states that these numbers are expected to decline over the course of the next decade, falling by 34% and resulting in a “severe shortage of psychiatrists by 2028.”
Key Provisions of SB 1002 (Portantino)

• SB 1002 adds Licensed Clinical Social Workers to the Provider Directories, alongside the list of approved Psychologists and Psychiatrists in the Workers’ Compensation Network System. The Primary Treating Physician (PTP) refers to the Provider Directories for all referrals.

• Currently, LCSWs are included in the WC Networks as Ancillary Services. The PTP refers injured workers to the mental health specialists listed in the Provider Directories, not the list of Ancillary providers, which includes interpreters, PTs, transporters, DMEC.

• Thus, LCSWs are not visible to PTPs so they can’t refer to an LCSW.
Specifically, SB 1002 Does the Following:

- Authorizes an employer’s workers’ compensation insurer or self-insured employer to provide employees with access to the services of a LCSW.

- Authorizes an employer, workers’ compensation insurer, or self-insured employer to give employees access to LCSWs.

- Allows Medical Provider Networks (MPNs), Workers’ Compensation Healthcare Organizations (HCO), Joint Powers Authorities (JPA), and Self-Insured Self-Administered Employers to add LCSWs as providers in their networks.
Specifically, SB 1002 Does the Following:

- Defines “Licensed Clinical Social Worker” to mean a LCSW with a master’s degree in clinical social work, or a degree deemed equivalent, and who either has two years of clinical experience in a recognized health setting or has met the standards of the Association of Social Work Boards.

- Clarifies that the bill does not authorize LCSWs to determine the degree of disability of an injured worker within the workers’ compensation system.
SB 1002 (Portantino) – the Bottom Line:

• Including LCSWs in the Provider Directories utilized by Treating Physicians (PTPs) in MPNs, HCOs, JPAs and Self-Insured Self-Administered Employers, the Treating Physician will be able to identify up to 29,636 LCSWs who can provide timely treatment to meet the mental health care needs of our injured workers under their care.

• Previously, a Treating Physician couldn’t select LCSWs as mental health providers to which the PTP can refer an injured worker in need of mental health services because LCSWs were not listed in the Provider Directories.
If You Are Specifically Asked About Marriage & Family Therapists:

- Marriage & Family Therapists (MFTs) are not included in SB 1002 because MFTs do not deal primarily with workplace-related issues. If MFTs were included, it would require a comprehensive disability evaluation with a Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) before the referral is made, defeating the purpose of the bill.

- In addition, MPNs and other workers’ comp providers would OPPOSE the bill because it would undermine decades-old statutory limitations on work-related psychiatric injury claims in workers’ compensation laws.
SB 1002 (Portantino) – List of Supporters:

- American Association of Payers, Administrators and Networks (AAPAN)
- CA State Board of Behavioral Sciences
- California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce
- California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO)
- California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
- California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
- California Metals Coalition
- California Professional Firefighters
- Coalition of Small & Disabled Veteran Businesses
- Enlyte (Mitchell, Genex and Coventry) Workers’ Compensation Networks
SB 1002 (Portantino) – List of Supporters:

- Flasher Barricade Association
- Medex Health Care, Inc. (HCO/MPN)
- National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
- National Association of Women Business Owners – California Chapter
- National Federation of Independent Business - CA
- Risk & Insurance Management Society - CA Chapter
- Sierra Business Council
- Small Business California
- Steinberg Institute

THERE IS NO OPPOSITION TO SB 1002 (Portantino)!
Evaluations will be sent via email after the event.

Help us improve our programming by sharing your thoughts.

We appreciate your time and feedback!
Thank You for Attending our inaugural L.E.A.D. Lobby Days!
Team Leader Meeting Agenda

- Introductions - job & lobbying experience
- Review your Legislator’s background
- Choose team leader
- Identify speakers - strategize appointment
- Include personal stories
- All appointments include a discussion of all 3 bills
- **Practice!!**
- Make sure you know your Zoom link for the meeting
- Available in my Zoom Room for questions: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3043421244