HB 1091 Continuous Eligibility under Medicaid and CHIP. Expands continuous eligibility for minors to anyone less than 19 that is eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. Current statute limits continuous eligibility to children three (3) years old and under.

**NASW-IN Supports HB 1091 because:** It will increase access to continuous medical insurance coverage for minors and support access to care on a consistent basis. HB 1091 passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services.

HB 1290 Earned Income Tax Credit. Increases Indiana’s earned income tax credit from 10% to 12% and couples Indiana’s EITC with the federal EITC. Estimates show that the average state EITC amount will increase from an estimated $228 under current law for tax year 2023 to $288.

**NASW-IN Supports HB 1290 because:** Tax credits provide greater stability for lower and middle-income families by providing them a refundable credit which can be used to cover daily expenses. HB 1290 Passed out of the House and has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy.

SB 334 Simplified Application for SNAP Benefits. Will allow seniors (60+) and those with disabilities to apply for SNAP using a simplified application process, extending eligibility, and reducing the number of verifications for certification/recertification. Requires that data matching be utilized, so that eligible individuals receiving Medicaid benefits who are also eligible for SNAP benefits are informed of their SNAP eligibility.

**NASW-IN Supports SB 334 because:** It will decrease paperwork and recertification for SNAP which will make it easier for seniors and those with disabilities to enroll in and maintain their SNAP benefits. These changes can help encourage more eligible seniors to apply for SNAP and help in reducing food insecurity. SB 334 Passed out of the Senate and has been assigned to the House Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs.

SB 12 Material harmful to minors. Makes changes to statute that will allow parents or guardians to submit a complaint that a book in the school library is inappropriate and removes protections that the material is used for educational purposes. These changes open schools and school personnel to lawsuits from parents who disagree with material available in the library. In addition, the bill does not clearly define “material harmful to minors.”

**NASW-IN Opposes SB 12 because:** It will allow a local prosecutor to charge a K-12 school professional for providing harmful materials to minors and make the individual criminally liable. It will restrict materials available in school libraries and restrict a parent’s rights to determine what materials their child can access. SB 12 has passed the Senate and will be assigned to a House committee.

SB 480 Gender transition procedures for minors. Prohibits doctors from providing any form of gender affirming care to anyone under the age of 18. The bill was amended in committee to allow for mental health services.

**NASW-IN Opposes SB 480 because:** It denies minors access to age-appropriate, evidence-based gender affirming care including puberty blockers and other hormones which have been proven to be safe and beneficial to minors. It also denies a parent’s right to determine what is the best care for their child and how to best support their child, and denies doctors the ability to provide the best care to their patients. Studies have shown that providing access to gender affirming care is life-saving care. SB 480 has passed the Senate and will be assigned to a House committee.
HB 1608 Human sexuality instruction. Prohibits schools from providing instruction to a student in kindergarten through 3rd grade on human sexuality. Requires a parent to request in writing at the beginning of the school year if their child will use a different name/pronoun/title. It also requires a school to notify the parent of a student that requests to change their name/pronoun/title and does not require school employees to use the name/pronoun/title that was requested.

NASW-IN Opposes HB 1608 because:

- It requires that teachers and other school staff notify a parent of any changes the child requests which could create an unsafe situation at home for the child.
- Limits changes to a child’s name/pronouns/title to the beginning of the year, which is not realistic.
- Does not require school personnel to use the name/pronoun/title that the parent requested.

HB 1608 has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development.

NASW-Indiana’s positions on these and other bills are supported by NASW Code of Ethics. Specific areas of the NASW Code of Ethics include:

- Ethical Principals which call on social workers to help people in need, challenge social injustice, and respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.
- 1.01 Commitment to Clients and promoting the well-being of clients.
- 1.02 Self-Determination and promoting the right of clients to self-determination and assist in their efforts to identify and clarify their goals.
- 1.05 Cultural Competence – asks us to learn and demonstrate understanding of the nature of diversity and oppression and support diversity.
- 1.07 Privacy and Confidentiality and protecting information obtained in the course of professional service unless there is a compelling professional reason.
- 4.02 Discrimination – we do not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate with any form of discrimination.
- 6.04 (a) social workers should engage in social and political action to ensure that all people have equal access to resources, employment, services and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs...
- 6.04 (b) social workers should act to expand choice and opportunity for all people
- 6.04 (c) promote conditions that encourage respect for cultural and social diversity and promote policies and practice that demonstrate respect for differences...
- 6.04 (d) Social workers should act to prevent and eliminate domination of exploitation of, and discrimination against any person, group or class on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, 1.sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political believe, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical ability.

Current as of March 4, 2023