

NASW-MA Legislative Agenda for 2017-18

Revised 2/2018

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- **SB62-HB1190 LGBTQ Conversion Therapy Ban:** Ban sexual orientation and gender identity conversion therapy by licensed professionals for youth under age 18. (Sen. Mark Montigny; Rep. Kay Khan)
- **SB683-HB643 Social Work Loan Forgiveness:** Would establish \$1.2 million education loan repayment pilot program for social workers in areas of need, to forgive loans for social workers in underserved communities or jobs. (Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Sen. Jamie Eldridge)
- **SB549-HB578 TeleMed Parity:** Assures equal reimbursement for independent mental health practitioners who conduct therapy sessions via phone/skype across all insurers. (Sen. Jason Lewis, Rep. John Scibak)
- **SB582-HB2193 Clawback:** Prohibits insurance companies from going back further than 6 months to recoup money for mental health services approved and provided. (Sen. Michael Rodrigues, Rep. James O'Day)

PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

- **SB1305-HB3269 Safe Communities:** Prohibits participation in any Muslim registry; ensures that police do not support immigration enforcement efforts (acting as ICE agents). (Sen. Jamie Eldridge; Rep. Juana Matias)
- **SB1225-HB1194 End of Life Options:** Allows terminally ill people with less than 6 months to live to end their lives with medical support. (Sen. Barbara L'Italien, Rep. Louis Kafka)
- **SB832-HB773 Rape Survivors Rights:** Gives women the right to end custody and visitation when a child is conceived through rape and prohibits the perpetrator to seek custody of said child. (Sen. Sal DiDomenico; Reps. Carmine Gentile, Michelle DuBois)
- **SB1306-HB2248 Solitary Confinement:** Limits use of solitary confinement and ensures step down from solitary to release. *(This bill was filed as an amendment to the SB2170 Criminal Justice Omnibus bill. Original sponsors: Sen. Jamie Eldridge; Rep. Ruth Balsler)*

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- **SB1048-HB2172 Paid Family/Medical Leave Act:** Establishes a family & medical leave insurance program where employers pay into a disability insurance fund. (Sen. Karen Spilka; Rep. Ken Gordon)
- **SB1004-HB2365 Fight for \$15:** Raises the minimum wage \$1 per year over the course of three years, where it will be \$15 by 2021. (Sen. Cindy Friedman, Rep. Dan Donahue)
- **SB34-HB85 Lift the Family Welfare Cap:** \$100/month welfare benefit is currently denied to children born while or after their parents first receive TAFDC benefits. (Sen. Sal DiDomenico; Rep. Marjorie Decker)
- **SB2170 An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform:** Ends mandatory minimums for non-violent drug convictions; raise felony-larceny threshold from \$250 to \$1500; lower probation and parole fees; CORI reform; improve in-jail education & job training; increase re-entry services, medical release of terminally ill. (Rep. Mary Keefe; Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz)

ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR ALL**(continued on next page)**

- **SB612-HB101 SNAP Gap:** Creates a single application for benefits including food, health and other safety-net programs to make it easier for individuals to access these services. (Sen. Sal DiDomenico; Rep. Jay Livingstone)
- **SB591-HB2175 PATCH:** Ensures confidentiality for patients who are not the insurance holder, important for domestic violence victims and young adults covered by their parents. (Sen. Karen Spilka; Rep. Kate Hogan)

- **SB552-HB484 Continuity of Mental Health Care:** Clients can continue with the same mental health provider even if their insurance changes. (Sen. Barbara L'Italien, Reps. Ruth Balser and Tricia Farley-Bouvier)
- **SB1103 Addiction Treatment:** Would require commercial insurance to expand coverage from 14 to 30 days of treatment at a cost of only 5 cents per insured member per month. (Sen. John Keenan)
- **SB610-HB596 Single Payer Healthcare:** Would create a study of single payer healthcare to see if it would benefit the commonwealth. (Sen. Julian Cyr, Rep. Benson)

Supported Bills List: *While these are not our priority, we do support and follow these bills.*

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- **SB614 Antitrust Immunity for Private Practitioners:** Allows LICSWs to negotiate with insurers around rates, determination of medical necessity, and other issues.
- **SB346-HB2892 LGBTQ Awareness Training for Aging Services Providers:** Creates a curriculum for aging services providers to avoid discrimination when treating clients who identify as part of the LGBTQ community. (Sen. Jehlen, Rep. Malia)

PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

- **SB544-HB482 Prohibit Gender Discrimination in Disability Policies:** Ending the current policy of women paying more for disability, accident or sickness insurance policies. (Sen. Jason Lewis, Rep. Ruth Balser)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- **SB342-HB337 Nursing Home Personal Needs Allowance:** Raise the monthly allowance for nursing home residents to \$100/month. (Sen. Pat Jehlen, Rep. Jen Benson)

ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR ALL

- **SB33-HB607 Healthcare for DCF Youth:** Ensure continuous healthcare coverage until age 26 for youth who have aged-out of DCF. (Sen. Sal DiDomenico; Rep. Danielle Gregoire)
- **SB2113-HB3704 Healthy Youth:** Requires school districts to create a comprehensive, age-appropriate, and LGBT-inclusive sex education plan. (Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Rep. Jim O'Day)
- **HB3649 Parental Consent for Abortion:** Repeal the current law requiring a parent or a judge's consent for an abortion if under age 18. This would remove all state limitation on abortion rights. (Rep. Mike Connolly)
- **SB354 Nursing Home Bed Hold:** Ensure residents return to the same nursing home, room, and bed after an inpatient stay or other leave of absence. (Sen. Mark Montigny)
- **SB1169-HB2474 Expand Dental Care:** Establish a mid-level dental provider, between a hygienist and a DDS. (Rep. Smitty Pignatelli)