

2018 Legislative Agenda

The National Association of Social Workers North Carolina (NASW-NC) promotes, develops and protects the practice of social workers and seeks to enhance the effective functioning and well-being of individuals, families and communities through its work and advocacy. The NASW-NC legislative agenda is designed to support and advance the role of the social work profession and advance sound social policies in adherence to the NASW Code of Ethics throughout the legislative session.

This list should be viewed as a working document and is not meant to be exclusive. As legislative bills are introduced, they are reviewed and their impact on the profession is assessed. Various levels of engagement on given issues range from “monitoring” to “active lobbying.” For more information about any of these items and/or to assist in the advancement of these issues, please contact the NASW–NC Chapter Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation, Kay Castillo at advocacy.naswnc@socialworkers.org.

Support and Advance the Profession of Social Work

- Advocate for the expansion and hiring of professionally degreed social workers into the State of North Carolina Social Work Classification Series to meet the increasing need of services and supports. Require licensure or certification if necessary.
- Increase funding for school social workers to bring the state closer to the recommended national ratio of 1:250. Recommend funding for a permanent position within the Department of Public Instruction to oversee school social work data and training.
- Advocate with state and legislative leaders to ensure Licensed Clinical Social Workers can connect to the state’s Health Information Exchange Authority by the legislatively mandated dates of June 2019 and June 2020.
- Advocate for the social worker’s role in Medicaid Transformation through case management, clinical practice, and integrated care settings.

Social Justice Advocacy on Behalf of Vulnerable Populations

- Advocate for accessible and affordable behavioral health care and healthcare for all North Carolinians.
- Advocate to improve the lives of citizens impacted by the opioid crisis by supporting legislation that increases opportunities for people in recovery from substance use disorder to live full lives, i.e. *Fair Chance Hiring* policy.
- Ensure access to needed and appropriate services by increasing funding for prevention, screening, and early intervention and community-based recovery support programs and services.

Oppose Public Policy that Prevents Client Self-Determination

- Oppose any and all efforts to restrict people's access to abortion and reproductive health care, restrict providers' ability to fully practice within the scope of their profession, and restrict young people's access to factual and medically accurate comprehensive sexuality education.