

2019 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 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.
- Increase funding for school social workers to bring the state closer to the recommended national ratio of 1:250. Fund a permanent position within the Department of Public Instruction to oversee school social work data and training.
- Advocate to extend behavioral health providers’ connection to the state’s Health Information Exchange Authority until at least June 2021.
- Advocate for the social worker’s role in Medicaid Transformation through care management, clinical practice, and integrated care settings. Advocate for Consumer and Family Advisory Committees to be required under each plan utilized by the state to provide Medicaid services.
- Amend the North Carolina Social Worker Certification and Licensure Act to ensure compliance and continued use of the national social work clinical licensure exam and additional necessary updates.

Social Justice Advocacy on Behalf of Vulnerable Populations

- Advocate for accessible and affordable behavioral health care and healthcare for all North Carolinians.
- Ensure access to needed and appropriate services by increasing funding for prevention, screening, early intervention, and community-based recovery support programs for those living with mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Support comprehensive criminal justice reform and individuals who are justice involved.
- Advocate to implement funding to support Raise the Age legislation passed in 2017. This includes funding for community programs, Department of Public Safety staff positions, court staff, and operating costs.
- Advocate for the protection of the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ minors in North Carolina by banning sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) for individuals under the age of 18.
- 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.