

# Legislative Advocacy Committee

## 2024 Advocacy Agenda

The agenda is divided by the action that the NASW Ohio Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) will take- lead, collaborate, follow, or track. The issues that fall under the 'Lead' category will be the first priority for LAC and will primarily focus on issues that NASW Ohio is spearheading. The issues that fall under the 'Collaborate' category are those that we will share responsibility for with other organizations/associations. The issues that fall under the 'Follow' category are those being led by another organizations/associations that we will support. The "Track" category are for bills or emerging issues that are relevant to social work, but that NASW Ohio has not necessarily taken a position on.

### Lead

- **Secure state funding for paid social work internships to strengthen the behavioral health workforce.**
  - Funding could be allocated to support the improvement and advancement of the existing Great Minds Fellowship Program or be distributed to students through other means.
- **Advocate for the passage of the Social Work Licensure Compact, SB 90.**

### Collaborate

- **Secure Medicaid reimbursement rate increases for behavioral health services in the 2026-2027 state budget to support advancement in social work salaries.**
  - LAC will collaborate with other behavioral health professional associations and aligned advocacy organizations.
- **Advocate for the passage of legislation which would protect behavioral health providers from unfair insurance practices.** Specifically, legislation limiting unnecessary fees for electronic fund transfer (EFT) payment transactions and restricting the time period in which insurance companies can retroactively deny claims, also called "clawbacks."
  - LAC will collaborate with the Ohio Psychological Association and other healthcare professional associations.

### Follow

- **Oppose the passage of the following bills:**
  - **HB 8**, which would impact K-12 students and school personnel by creating regulations on "sexuality content," excessive parental notification requirements regarding student health and wellbeing which would limit confidentiality and overburden school personnel, and discriminatory forced outing requirements harming transgender and gender diverse youth.
  - **SB 83**, which would restrict DEI in higher education, create strict policies around the teaching of "controversial topics," and create other harmful regulations surrounding the hiring and regulating of university professors.
  - **HB 183**, which would ban transgender students and staff in primary and secondary schools as well as institutions of higher education from utilizing the bathroom that aligns with their gender.
- **Support the passage of the following bills:**
  - **HB 164**, which would establish a foster-to-college scholarship program

### Track

To see what bills LAC is tracking, go to [www.naswoh.org/billtracking](http://www.naswoh.org/billtracking).