



July 7, 2021

Response to Governor Greg Abbott's Special Session Topic List

The National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter (NASW/TX) is ready to advocate for social workers and the clients we serve during the Special Legislative Session that begins on July 8th, 2021. Governor Greg Abbott's Special Legislative Session [topic list](#) raises concerns for social workers. On one hand we applaud Gov. Abbott's inclusion of Article X funding for legislators, their staff, and the many hard-working Texans who keep the Capitol running. We also appreciate his inclusion of appropriations funding specifically to protect children in Texas in foster care. We believe this funding should be fully restored. We remain cautiously optimistic that the topic of family violence, dating violence and child abuse prevention in education is included and believe that all children should get instruction in that area.

However, NASW/TX remains deeply concerned about other items that Governor Abbott included in the topic list that do not align with social work values. NASW/TX has been vocal against legislation that would limit voting access, especially for Texans with disabilities, people of color, and the elderly. We are concerned that some proposed voting legislation could impact Texans in those communities from accessing the polls at the same rate as other Texans. Social workers stand in support of LGBTQIA+ Texans, including transgender youth who have been continually targeted in the 87th legislative session. We stand with transgender youth and ask for the legislature not to pass legislation that would harm their inclusion in sports. NASW/TX is concerned about any item on the agenda that limits access to women's reproductive health. We also remain concerned about the increased focus on banning "critical race theory". We stand with our partners who advocate for teachers to teach about race and the impact of racial justice and the need for equity throughout history.

We stand ready to work with partners on these issues and engaging social workers across the state to collectively advocate for their values. [Join our advocacy efforts!](#)

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