

Petition Templates

Social Work Center for Workforce Studies

Petition Summary and Background	The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has predicted that employment of social workers will increase by 25 percent in the next decade, particularly in the areas of veterans services, mental health, substance abuse, and geriatrics. As social work professionals, students and faculty, there is a need for Texas to prepare to meet the needs of its growing population. Texas needs a center or unit that will track workforce trends and how to address them.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to prepare to meet the needs of Texas. Support your community by enacting legislation to <u>establish a social work resource unit</u> that tracks important workplace and demographic shifts.

Social Work Compensation

Petition Summary and Background	State salaries for positions that employ a majority of social workers, such as Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services, are among the lowest in state government for people with a bachelors or masters degree. Teachers, also a low-paid professional group, make between \$5,000-\$8,000 more per year on average. As social work professionals, students and faculty, we see a need to provide a fair wage for equitable work for professional social workers.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to fund entry-level salaries of CPS and APS workers at a level commensurate with teachers. Support the social work profession by <u>enacting legislation</u> to provide fair compensation to well-trained, hard working state employees.

Loan Repayment

Petition Summary and Background	As social work professionals, students and faculty, there is a need to provide assistance with student loan repayment as a way to reinvest in the profession of Social Work. Student debt is a burden to new professionals in the workforce and loan forgiveness/repayment provides opportunities to relocate to underserved areas without the financial constraints of loan repayment.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to provide opportunities for loan forgiveness/repayment for social workers. Support the social work profession by <u>enacting legislation to provide loan repayment for social workers in Texas.</u>