

2017 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.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.
- Implement legislation as supported by the Department of Insurance’s Network Adequacy Working Group to set standards for insurance panels and access to services.

Social Justice Advocacy on Behalf of Vulnerable Populations

- Advocate for raising the age of juvenile court from 16 to 18 years of age to keep children out of the adult court system.
- Support an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 per hour which would remove many citizens and families from reliance on public assistance and provide a living wage.
- Advocate for accessible and affordable behavioral health care and healthcare for all North Carolinians.
- Advocate for the repeal of House Bill 2 enacted in the 2016 Special Legislative Session and pass comprehensive non-discrimination protections in North Carolina.

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.