



Reinvesting in Social Work

Dear Colleague,

February 14, 2008 was a momentous date for the profession of social work. Representative Ed Towns introduced H.R. 5447, the *Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act* in the United States House of Representatives. In less than one month, over 3,000 letters from NASW members have been sent to Congress urging Representatives to support the legislation. I am writing today, to thank those of you who took immediate action and advocated for this groundbreaking workforce legislation and to appeal to those of you who have not yet contacted your Representative.

This legislation is a critical attempt to preserve the future of the profession. H.R. 5447 focuses on social work workforce issues such as fair market compensation, insurmountable education debt, and safety concerns. As social workers, we know that these concerns are grave and are creating serious challenges for us and also forcing many social workers to leave the profession. We must make this point clear to policy makers and the general public.

H.R. 5447 is a commitment to ensure that professional social workers can continue to serve millions of clients for years to come. This moment is critical, as competing funding priorities, a poor economy, and false perceptions about the profession are creating an environment that is not favorable to social workers. Members of Congress have expressed that they are sympathetic to our cause, but are not willing to sign on unless they hear from voters. Your voice is vital to the success of this legislation and as a member of the largest social work organization in the country, Congress will pay attention.

Click this link now <http://capwiz.com/socialworkers/issues/bills/?bill=11030061> to send a preformed letter to your Representative. Enter your zip code, edit the letter if you like, and click "send". It's that easy, yet incredibly important. I hope we can count on you.

Should you have questions or concerns, contact Elizabeth Franklin at (202) 408-8600 ext. 537 or efranklin@naswdc.org

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH
NASW Executive Director