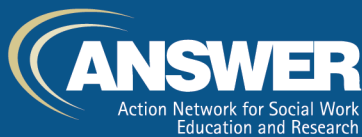




**ANSWER COALITION:**  
Social Work Reinvestment  
112th Congress Update





# FEDERAL SUCCESSES:

## Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act

- The Action Network for Social Work Education and Research (ANSWER Coalition) helped to draft the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act (SWRA) which was introduced in the 110<sup>th</sup>, 111<sup>th</sup>, and 112<sup>th</sup> Congress by Representative Edolphus Towns and Senator Barbara Mikulski.
- The ANSWER Coalition worked with the following groups in support of the legislation: Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Association of Oncology Social Work, Clinical Social Work Association, Council on Social Work Education, Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work, Latino Social Work Organization, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Association of Black Social Workers, National Association of Social Workers, National Council of Negro Women, National Urban League, Social Welfare Action Alliance, Society for Social Work and Research, Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care and Young Women's Christian Association.
- On February 27, 2008, an event was held in the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill recognizing the introduction of SWRA in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress; Rep. Towns, Rep. Shays, and Dr. Height were the featured speakers.
- The House of Representatives held the first ever Congressional hearing on the profession, "Caring for the Vulnerable: The State of Social Work in America." [edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2008/07/](http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2008/07/); Witnesses included former NASW President Gary Bailey who gave an overview of the profession and former NASW-New Hampshire President, Dr. Rene Bergeron who gave remarks on social work research. Additional speakers included Michael Bird who spoke about diversity in the

profession, Dr. Robin Mama who discussed social work education, Rev. Sarah Wells who talked about her experience with faith based social services, and Adina Fuller who discussed direct service social work.

- The website **SocialWorkReinvestment.org** was launched to highlight federal and state investments in professional social work.
- NASW and CSWE hired outside lobbying firms to promote the profession and social work education in federal legislation.
- NASW launched the Public Education Campaign with the featured film, "On Any Given Day."

**[naswfoundation.org/imageCampaign/default.asp](http://naswfoundation.org/imageCampaign/default.asp)**

- NASW launched various social media outlets, including several which highlight the Social Work Reinvestment Initiative  
**[SocialWorkBlog.org/advocacy/category/social-work-reinvestment-act](http://SocialWorkBlog.org/advocacy/category/social-work-reinvestment-act)**
- Numerous grassroots documents were created to inform social workers and other stakeholders about SWRA including a fact sheet, biography sheets on Dr. Height and Whitney Young, action postcards, and a petition. Over 100,000 pieces of grassroots communication have been sent from social workers to Members of Congress.
- NASW National Communications Network worked with the Entertainment Industries Council on social work image in media and entertainment.
- The ANSWER Coalition, along with NASW, BPD, and the Clinical Social Work Association, created videos in support of SWRA.
- Dr. Height personally contacted Members of Congress and the Executive Branch in support of SWRA.
- CSWE kicked off its Public Policy initiative in 2008 to advance its policy goals and enhance policies influencing social work education.
- NADD meetings and listservs addressed opportunities for effective legislation action.
- Various schools of social work included Social Work Reinvestment information in their newsletters or alumni updates.

- Students focused on social work reinvestment during the virtual 2010 Student Social Work Congress.
- The social worker Members of Congress spoke about how their education, training, and experience as social workers assisted their work in Congress at the 2010 Social Work Congress.
- NASW submitted testimony on May 5, 2009 to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies on “The Profession of Social Work: Essential to a Healthy Society” and on May 18, 2010 to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies regarding appropriations report language.
- SWRA was included as a “bill to watch” in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) 2009 report “Opportunities for All Pathways Out of Poverty.”
- Congressman Towns spoke about SWRA at the Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecture at the 2009 Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education.
- Members of Congress worked to include the Social Work Reinvestment Commission in the President’s economic stimulus package in 2009.
- Several Members of Congress supported appropriations report language in FY2009 and FY2010 which included the Social Work Reinvestment Commission and social work research.
- Congressman Towns wrote a letter to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius urging her to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission in 2010.
- NASW sent a letter to President Obama urging him to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission in the Department of Health and Human Services in 2010.
- Members of Congress wrote a letter to President Obama encouraging him to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission via Executive Order in August 2010.

- SWRA is featured in the social work policy textbook, “Social Workers: Using Legislation for Creating Change” and in “Social Work Matters: The Power of Linking Policy and Practice.”
- Members of the ANSWER Coalition met with key Members of Congress and staff regarding SWRA throughout the 110<sup>th</sup>, 111<sup>th</sup>, and 112<sup>th</sup> Congresses; letters were sent to each Senator and Representative encouraging their support of SWRA.
- Congressman Towns proposed that the Social Work Reinvestment Commission be included as an amendment to the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” These include:
  - ~ Sec. 3508. Demonstration program to integrate quality improvement and patient safety training into clinical education of health professionals.
  - ~ Sec. 5101. National health care workforce commission.
  - ~ Sec. 5102. State health care workforce development grants.
  - ~ Sec. 5203. Health and behavioral health workforce loan repayment programs.
  - ~ Sec. 5305. Geriatric education and training; career awards; comprehensive geriatric education.
  - ~ Sec. 5306. Mental and behavioral health education and training grants
- All 56 NASW Chapters worked in support of SWRA, contacting and visiting their Members of Congress in-district.
- NASW and BPD collaborated on social work curriculum to accompany the documentary film “Finding Uncle Whitney: The Search for Leadership in America” based on the leadership skills of Whitney Young. Presentations were given at BPD and CSWE conferences.
- NASW worked with numerous schools of social work and policy classes including the Capitol Hill Policy Practice Forum for social work students to focus projects on SWRA.
- Social Work Month is continually recognized in the Congressional Record by the social work Members of Congress.

- SWRA was placed on the House suspension calendar in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Congressman Towns recognized the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) in the Congressional Record in 2010.
- NASW posthumously presented Dr. Height with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2010 Social Work Congress.
- NASW developed an online student Social Work Reinvestment toolkit.
- NASW held a successful advocacy day with all Chapter Executive Directors and Presidents, as well as an online virtual lobby day with the full membership.

## Congressional Social Work Caucus (CSWC)

- The Congressional Social Work Caucus (CSWC) was created in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress by social worker and Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY), who serves as Chair. The CSWC represents the interests of over 650,000 professional social workers nationwide and serves as a congressionally- approved bipartisan group of Members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening social work services in the United States.
- **Objectives of the CSWC:**
  - ~ Initiate and support legislation to address unique challenges and opportunities for social workers.
  - ~ Monitor and evaluate programs and legislation to assist and support individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan who are coping with economic, social, and health problems, particularly those with limited resources.
  - ~ Provide congressional staffers with educational tools and resources directed toward improving the social work profession and the people served by social workers.
  - ~ Assist in education and awareness efforts regarding the breadth and scope of the profession.

- **The CSWC will accomplish its goals and objectives through:**
  - ~ Regular hill briefings
  - ~ Media statements
  - ~ Convening experts on specific issues
  - ~ Fostering interdisciplinary cooperation with relevant disciplines
  - ~ Working with various stakeholders in local government and communities
  - ~ Expand congressional and legislative internship opportunities for social workers
- **The CSWC has held the following briefings and events:**
  - ~ Official launch event at the Library of Congress March 15, 2010
  - ~ Congressional Briefing on the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act November 17, 2010
  - ~ Congressional Briefing on the Impact of Health Care Reform on the Social Work Profession February 16, 2011
  - ~ Congressional Briefing on Prevention, Treatment, and Services Research Funding in the National Institutes of Mental Health Budget May 25, 2011
  - ~ Symposium on the Future of New York City's Children and Youth on September 16, 2011
  - ~ Anniversary celebration on World Social Work Day, March 20, 2012.

## Political Action & the Executive Branch

- NASW worked closely with the Obama Administration and the Coalition for Women's Appointments to nominate women social workers to the Executive Branch; Successful nominations included Kathy Greenlee (Assistant Secretary for Aging, Administration on Aging), Carmen Nazario (Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families), Ann Widger (White House Office of Public Liaison).
- The ANSWER Coalition created a transition document for the Obama Administration entitled, "Social Work Reinvestment: A National Agenda



for the Profession of Social Work” and NASW created, “Turning Priorities Into Action: How the Social Work Profession Will Help.”

- Members of the ANSWER Coalition met with representatives from the Executive Branch including several Department of Health and Human Service entities (Administration for Children and Families, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Indian Health Service, National Institutes of Health, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and the Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department of Labor, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

## Additional Federal Legislation

- **The Child Welfare Workforce Improvement Act (S. 2837)** was introduced by Senator Lincoln. It would create a national commission to study child welfare workforce issues, take steps to remove barriers to training in IV-B and IV-E; promote regulations to create data about the child welfare workforce and create a demonstration a child welfare workforce demonstration grant program.
- **The Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act (S. 583)** would amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the Medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.
- **The College Cost Reduction Act (Pub. L. 110-84)** was enacted and will forgive percent of the remaining educational debt balance after 120 monthly payments have been made. Social workers have to work in public service during the 120 payments and at the time of the loan cancellation.
- **The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Pub. L. 110-351)** expands IV-E funds to provide short term training for current or prospective relative guardians; private state-licensed or state-approved child welfare agencies providing services to children

receiving IV-E assistance and judges, attorneys, guardian ad litem, and other court appointed special advocates.

- **The Higher Education Reauthorization and Opportunity Act (Pub. L. 110-315)** was signed into law and provides loan forgiveness up to \$2,000 per year for five years for a maximum of \$10,000 to child welfare workers who have a degree in social work or a related field with a focus on serving children and families, and who are employed full time in public or private child welfare settings, as well as mental health professionals with a Master's degree in social work who serve children, adolescents, or veterans.
- **The Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act (HR 3405)** would direct the Secretary of Education to award competitive, renewable, five-year grants to partnerships between low-income local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools offering graduate programs in school counseling, social work, or psychology to increase the number of program graduates employed by low-income LEAs.
- **The National Office for Social Work Research Act (S. 41)** has been reintroduced with support from Congress and the social work community. It would amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the National Center for Social Work Research as an agency of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct, support, and disseminate targeted research on social work methods and outcomes related to problems of significant social concern. It continually brings awareness to the need for additional social work research to solve pressing challenges within our nation's most vulnerable communities.
- **The Strengthen Social Work Workforce Act (S. 42)** would amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that social work students or social work schools are eligible for support under certain programs that would assist individuals in pursuing health careers or for grants for training projects in geriatrics, and to establish a social work training program

- The Social Work Month and World Social Work Day Resolution (H. Res. 260/S. Res. 117) express support for the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day.
- NASW launched the **loan forgiveness** information page: [SocialWorkers.org/loanforgiveness/default.asp](http://SocialWorkers.org/loanforgiveness/default.asp)

## State Successes

- Oregon worked in support of the successful passage of Joint Memorial 13 urging the Oregon Congressional delegation to support the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act and in partnership with the state licensing board, achieved title protection for social workers.
- Idaho is assisting the State of Idaho with a comprehensive statewide workforce analysis of the social work profession. Key findings will be posted on the Idaho Department of Labor website.
- California passed legislation to allow California social workers to take the National Exam for licensure. This allows California social workers to take part in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment program, which pays back student loans for social workers who work in un-served and underserved areas.
- South Dakota got legislative approval for the first MSW program in the state. The program is in its second year and will graduate the first class of 23 students this summer.
- Nevada protected social work education by helping to reverse state budget decisions that would have eliminate MSW and BSW programs.
- Connecticut worked on new regulations which were adopted and take effect in 2014 for the practice of school social work that require an internship or prior school social work experience and completion of a graduate course in school social work practice. Connecticut also worked towards the 2010 passage of a new licensure level (LMSW) for newly graduated MSWs who are to practice clinical social work.

The chapter worked on a public hearing in 2011 regarding the need to decrease the ratio of social worker to patients in nursing homes.

- Georgia worked on a bill to assure the authority of LCSWs to diagnose in Georgia.
- Massachusetts developed a six minute video highlighting social work and created a 30 minute interactive curriculum to present to middle schools, high schools, and community colleges around the state. Since the program launched in November of 2011, the MA Chapter presenters have spoken at over twenty five middle schools and high schools and two community colleges. The program has reached a total audience of over 800 students. As part of the school presentation, a brochure was created to provide students more information and was translated into Spanish and Portuguese.
- Michigan is actively involved with mental health parity legislation and critical changes occurring in the state community mental health system. The Chapter has also started a coalition to work on the revision of Medicaid codes in order for social work services to be reimbursable at the community level.
- Missouri has achieved "initial" protection for the profession based on the degrees of social work and all licensing tiers for the state.
- NASW held a Lunchtime Series Teleconference, "Social Work Reinvestment Initiative: Building on Successes at the State Level" and "The Political Power of Social Work."
- Arizona utilized new social media tools to educate the public about social work.
- Arkansas created a Public Education campaign video.
- California successfully sponsored legislation to allow California social workers to take the National Exam for licensure, which allows California social workers to be eligible for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment program.
- Connecticut passed a new level of licensure for MSW graduates and over-rode a governor's veto of the bill.

- Florida achieved title protection.
- Illinois testified at one of the Governor’s Health Reform Implementation Councils regarding increased access to health care, reducing treatment disparities, controlling costs, and improving the affordability, quality, and effectiveness of health care.
- Indiana gained title protection for social workers.
- Kansas passed social worker safety legislation.
- Louisiana has invested in improving the image of social workers with 6 billboards and news and ads in health care publication.
- Massachusetts created a Public Education campaign video.
- New Mexico prevented a change in social work supervision requirements for social workers at state hospitals.
- New York doubled loan forgiveness from \$1 million to \$2 million.
- Ohio convened a statewide Workplace Safety Taskforce to advocate for safe environments for all social workers.
- Oregon conducted state workforce study and held social work reinvestment summits with stakeholders across the state.
- Pennsylvania established title protection and placed numerous public education campaign ads on billboards, buses and other public venues.
- Rhode Island has utilized extensive and multiple contacts with students, employers, and legislators to forward the goals of SWRI.
- South Dakota established an MSW program.
- Tennessee passed multi-level licensure.
- Texas submitted numerous pieces of written and oral testimony on health and human service and education issues, meeting with state legislators to communicate reinvestment message, as well as coordinating the state lobby day and educating numerous social workers, social work students, and stakeholders on workforce issues and legislative training.
- West Virginia passed social worker safety legislation.
- Wisconsin held a meeting with the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau to recommend that Family Care agencies (serving the elderly and

disabled outside of nursing homes) be required to hire certified and licensed professionals for their case management positions and licensed mental health professionals for their supervisory positions.

- Presentations on the Social Work Reinvestment Initiative were given at meetings of the Council on Social Work Education, the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, and at numerous NASW Chapters and state level events.

## SWRA Articles & Publications

- CSWE Press Release: "CSWE Works Toward Social Change at Its 55th Annual Program Meeting and Welcomes the Social Work Reinvestment Act Sponsor"
- "CSWE Advocacy Handbook"
- Diverse Issues in Higher Education April 29, 2010: "Height's Legacy Stirs Push for Social Work Act Passage"
- *E.P.I. Education Policy Innovation: Bridge the Gap by Staying Connected. A Newsletter for the HBCU and MSI Community.* Fall 2010. "Help Wanted: We Need More Social Workers Like the Late Dr. Dorothy I. Height"
- CSWE Transition Document to the Obama Administration: "Memorandum To The Next Presidential Administration: A Vision for Social Work Education"
- NASW Transition Document to the Obama Administration: "Turning Priorities Into Action: How the Social Work Profession Will Help"
- ANSWER Coalition Transition Document to the Obama Administration: "Social Work Reinvestment: A National Agenda for the Profession of Social Work"
- Workforce Management November 5, 2007: "Clinton Bill Calls for Better Pay: Training in Child Care"

- **NASW News:**
  - ~ January 2012: ANSWER Members Discuss Congressional Actions
  - ~ January 2012: CSWE Presentations Focus on Enhancing Social Work Careers
  - ~ September 2011: Oregon Legislators Back Reinvestment Act
  - ~ July 2011: Symposium Seeks to Boost Workforce
  - ~ July: Briefing Weighs NIMH Budget
  - ~ June 2011: ANSWER Meets on SWRA
  - ~ April 2011: Social Work Caucus Forms in Congress
  - ~ April 2011: Briefing Focuses on Health Care Reform
  - ~ November 2010: ANSWER Coalition Outlines Goals, Greets New Chair
  - ~ October 2010: SWRA Sponsors Ask Obama to Create Commission
  - ~ October 2010: Recruitment Videos Tout Social Work's Value
  - ~ September 2010: We Need to Recruit: Imperative Show Profession's Value
  - ~ June 2010: "Remembering Dr. Dorothy I. Height, March 24, 1912-April 20, 2010: A One-of-a-Kind American Heroine"
  - ~ May 2010: "Dorothy Height, 1912-2010"
  - ~ November 2009: "Towns Pushes SWRA as Part of Health Reform"
  - ~ October 2009: "Support Urged for Social Work Reinvestment Act"
  - ~ September 2009: "From the Director: Social Workers Must Be at the Table"
  - ~ September 2009: "States Make Progress in Promoting Safety: Chapters Work to Support Legislation, Policies, and Procedures"
  - ~ September 2009: "Reinvestment Act Gets Changes, Additions"
  - ~ May 2009: "Reinvestment Act in Senate: SWRA is now in both chambers of Congress"
  - ~ May 2009: "Bill to Increase Student Support: Proposal reintroduced in Senate and the House"

- ~ May 2009: "Whitney Young Project Unveiled at BPD Conference"
- ~ May 2009: "South Dakota to Offer MSW Program for the First Time"
- ~ March 2009: "Reinvestment Act Reintroduced in House"
- ~ February 2009: "From the President: Time to Reassert Our Critical Role"
- ~ February 2009: "States Struggle With Varying Regulations: Licensure Protects Public, Raises Issues for Social Workers"
- ~ February 2009: "NASW Promotes Agenda"
- ~ February 2009: "Young Project Aims to Teach Leadership"
- ~ February 2009: "Social Work Month to Focus on Recruitment"
- ~ February 2009: "NASW Meets with NAACP"
- ~ January 2009: "NASW Hopeful New Congress Will Address Social Work Goals"
- ~ November 2008: "Proposal Addresses Shortage of School Social Workers"
- ~ October 2008: "NASW Represented at DNC: Policy Makers Urged to Reinvest in Profession"
- ~ October 2008: "Slaying Renews Safety Concerns"
- ~ October 2008: "Higher Education Act Passes: Law Includes Loan Forgiveness for Social Workers"
- ~ September 2008: "Testimony Reveals Profession's Direction"
- ~ September 2008: "Milestone for Medicare Payments"
- ~ July 2008: "Support Grows for Reinvestment Act"
- ~ July 2008: "Chapters Work to Promote the Profession"
- ~ June 2008: "Reinvestment Gains Senate Support"
- ~ June 2008: "Trends in Social Work Workforce Explained"
- ~ May 2008: "Word of Reinvestment Push Spreads"
- ~ May 2008: "Strategies Propel Other SWRI Goals"
- ~ April 2008: "Reinvestment Act Introduced in Congress"
- ~ April 2008: "Chapters Do Their Part"
- ~ April 2008: "NASW Sets Legislative Agenda for 2008"



- ~ March 2008: "From the Director: Celebrating Reinvestment"
- ~ March 2008: "PACE Eyes Candidates' Reinvestment Support"
- ~ January 2008: "Reinvestment Promoted to Educators"
- ~ November 2007: "New Video Promotes the Profession"
- ~ November 2007: "Chapters Developing Reinvestment Initiative Plans"
- ~ October 2007: "Reinvestment-Related Bills Advance"
- ~ September 2007: "Worker Safety Bill Promoted"
- ~ September 2007: "SWRI Advances"
- ~ July 2007: "From the Director: Advocacy: Profession's Cornerstone"
- ~ July 2007: "Experts Promote Reinvestment Push"
- ~ July 2007: "Federal Social Worker Protection Bill Backed"
- ~ June 2007: "Leaders Focus on Reinvestment Plans"
- ~ June 2007: "Lobby Day Brings Social Workers to the Hill"
- ~ May 2007: "From the Director: Social Work Must Be At the Table"
- ~ May 2007: "Initiative Gaining Momentum: NASW Meeting with Nurses to Review Strategies"
- ~ May 2007: "Congress Recognizes Profession in March"
- ~ April 2007: "Experts Review Past to Shape Future: Pioneers Event Helps Lay Foundation for Reinvestment Initiative"
- ~ March 2007: "From the Director: A Time to Invest in Our Future"
- ~ February 2007: "Retrospective Informs Reinvestment: Pioneers Speak About History of National Social Work Policies"
- ~ January 2007: "Reinvestment Push to Start at State Level"
- ~ January 2007: Loan Relief Urged: Social Workers' Burden Outlined"
- ~ September 2006: "Policy, Advocacy Eyed"
- ~ September 2006: "Reinvestment Initiative Announced"

# RESOURCES

## **SOCIAL WORK REINVESTMENT**

[SocialWorkReinvestment.org](http://SocialWorkReinvestment.org)

## **CONGRESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK CAUCUS**

[SocialWorkCaucus-towns.house.gov](http://SocialWorkCaucus-towns.house.gov)

**Twitter:**

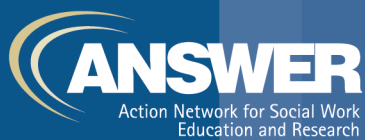
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**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/pages/Congressional-Social-Work-Caucus](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Congressional-Social-Work-Caucus)

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